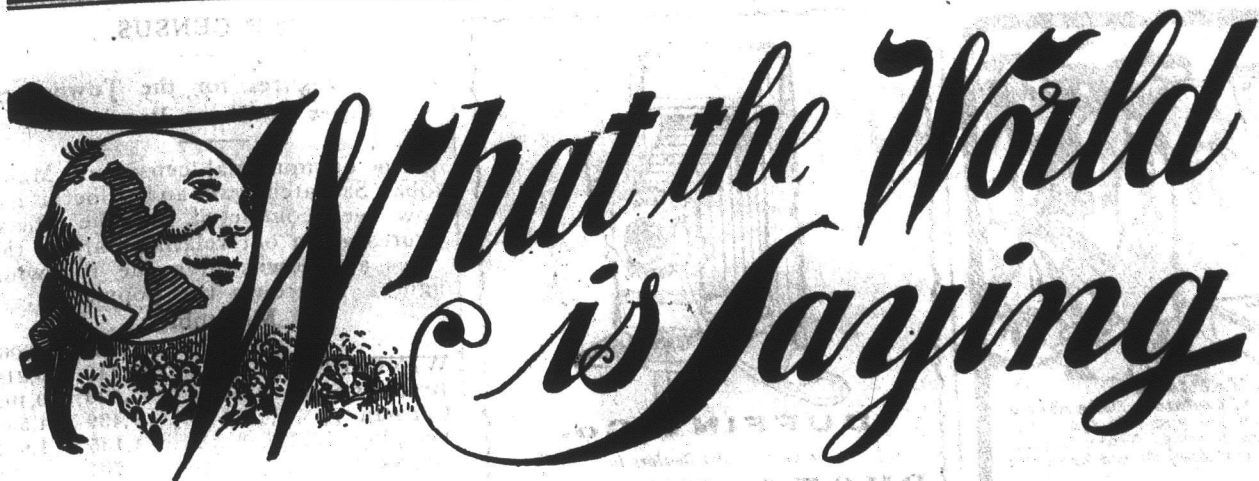




Montreal's Splendid Street Car System.

Montreal has long been noted for the excellence of its street car service. This has been due to the wisdom and foresight of those in active management of the company in leaving nothing undone in the way of providing the best possible equipment. For some months past the officers and engineers of the Montreal Street Railway Company have been in consultation over the question of improvements. After careful consideration it was decided that the increase in traffic justified the purchase of a 1,000 K. W. Westinghouse railway generator, as well as three 500 K. W. Westinghouse motor generators sets, for the new cars, which promise to be the easiest of any in Canada, twenty quadruple equipments of Westin-house air brakes with motor driven compressors. The fact of the Montreal Street Railway adopting the Westinghouse apparatus and intrusting the making of this costly equipment to the Canadian Westinghouse is clear evidence that Canada is now able to compete with the world in everything electrical.

The Passing of the French-Canadian.

Le Nationaliste recently published an article headed "Those Who Are Going To Die," to the effect that in a quarter of a century French Canadians will have ceased to be a political factor in the government of Canada. Public documents showed that since 1901 there have been 580,222 immigrants brought into the country, and by 1911 this will have increased to 2,300,000. This will necessitate 78 new English speaking members in the House of Commons. This will increase their numbers to 290 or 300, while there will still be only 65 French speaking. By the time Canada has a population of 25,000,000 in 1913, the representation will be 400 to 20 or 30. The paper declaims against filling up the West with English speaking immigrants at the expense of the taxpayers of Quebec, who have furnished about a third of the taxes, receiving in return only one per cent. of immigration.

Sir Frederick Treves and the Secret of Success.

The great English physician has been giving a series of heart to heart talks to students of the medical profession. These talks have a value outside the profession of medicine. We quote a paragraph:—

The lives of men who have become eminent in the medical profession emphatically demonstrate that unearned money counts for nothing in the struggle to excel, and of this fact the interesting autobiography of Sir James Paget provides a graphic illustration. If it is hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, it is still harder for a man so burdened to enter with advantage upon the career of medicine. In like manner, neither influence nor an initial social position is to be reckoned as conducive to real success. No influence in the world will make a worthless man worthy nor an incompetent man capable. It is a broken reed which reveals the feebleness of the unready, while to the strong man it is no fit substitute for his own stout staff. To any young man who feels that he is hampered in his start in life by the lack of what is called a social standing I would commend these words of Hans Andersen: "To be born in a duck's nest in a farmyard is of no consequence to a bird if it is hatched from a swan's egg." Once more, it is a common plea of the faint-hearted that success depends mainly upon luck, and that their rival has attained a position by a bestowal of good fortune which has been denied to them. I am no believer in luck, and the man who is content to wait for a stroke of good fortune will probably wait until he has a stroke of paralysis. Luck in any serious profession means nothing more than this: that the man to whom it comes is ready for an opportunity when it presents itself.

Edison's New Role.

Thomas A. Edison, the electrical wizard, has come to the help of the working man. He has come to the conclusion that whole houses moulded in a single casting out of solid concrete will provide cosy homes for working men at a cost of from one-sixth to one-fourth of what the average mechanic pays to-day. He intends to make the experiment next year at Warren Cove, N. J. Describing the plan in detail, Edison said: I purpose, after obtaining the designs, to have metallic moulds made to correspond with them. The mould for each house will be made in detachable parts. There will be separate plates and small moulds that can be screwed together easily to form one mould for an entire house. That a fine finish may be obtained the inside surfaces of the parts will be nickel plated. After a mould for a whole house is set up, it will be a very simple matter to pump concrete into every nook and cranny. The pumping process will not require more than a few hours. After four days that at most will be necessary for the hardening of the concrete the parts of the mould will be unscrewed and taken off, and a solid concrete house will remain.

The Evils of a Large City.

There is a popular notion abroad that a city gains in wealth and prosperity in the exact ratio of its increase in population. But economists are not with the public in this matter. Goldwin Smith, in the Weekly Sun, says:—

Not the least of the evils and dangers of the age are the desertion of the country for the city and the excessive growth of urban population. In England the effect upon national health and vigor, as revealed in recruiting for the army, is very serious and is greatly deplored. Mr. Bryce said the other day that 200,000 was about the limit of desirable population for a city. The population of Toronto must now well beyond that mark. Yet the council is setting on foot a canvassing apparatus to draw more people into the city. The notion that a city gains in wealth and prosperity by an inordinate increase of its population is unfounded. It is particularly unfounded in the case of a city like Toronto, of which the attractions are residential, and the streets unfitted for heavy traffic. There is an increase of the evils of city life and of the slums. Toronto is about large enough, and she had better turn her attention to her sanitation and adornment than to the artificial increase of her population.

The Awakening of the Sleeping Giant.

That China is yielding to the western influences and beginning to make extensive public works is evidenced by a despatch in the U. S. consular reports, which say that the contract for the Canton waterworks has just been awarded to a German firm. The concession for the supply of water, and for electric lighting in the city of Newchwang, has been secured by an Englishman, and British capitalists will be offered the investments. According to a correspondent of London Commercial Intelligence, negotiations are now going on for the electric lighting of the native city of Shanghai, and the contract for this is likely to be secured by a German firm. The greatest development of all is taking place in connection with railways, and the Chinese themselves are forming companies and raising capital for building the line. It would seem a good opportunity for railway contractors to secure some good business. So long as there is nothing in the shape of a concession or exclusive control, the Chinese are willing to co-operate with contractors for the building of the various lines. The flotation of companies to work mineral deposits in China seems to have commenced in real earnest, but in the present attitude of the Chinese Government there appears to be no security for foreign capital. Even when the concessions are absolutely secured, the composition of the boards of directors is not such as will command confidence.

When the Flying Machine Comes.

Beyond the possibilities of a peradventure it is coming. Its coming will revolutionize the fundamental principles of society; privacy will be unknown. A writer in the Chicago Record-Herald says:—

Political boundaries will become mere shadowy delimitations. But the first and foremost consideration will be the increasing risk to human life and property, and from a realization of that fact will follow a general demand for the regulation of aerial traffic. The safety of human life and property being the first consideration, it will follow that aerodromes must conform to legal regulations in many respects. Of course, the strength and stability of the machine must be established beyond question; this certainly as to public carriers, and probably also as to individual machines. As the owners of automobiles strenuously resisted the application of laws regulating their speed and prescribing the numbering and lighting system, and limiting the emission of noxious vapors and smoke, so will the future aeronaut protest against local laws that limit his freedom; but also without success. So it will happen that, at least in populous centres, the aerodromes will be required to start from and alight at certain prescribed points, probably on the outskirts of the cities. It cannot be contemplated with equanimity that a score of persons below should be put in jeopardy of their lives through the possible carelessness of an aeronaut above them in the management of his machine. Apart from the danger to life below of a falling machine would be the dropping of oil and refuse.

Is Polygamy Practised in the West?

A staff correspondent of the Globe, in dealing with the Mormon settlement in Alberta, says one of the leaders, John I. Taylor, is the happy possessor of five wives, though only one of them lives on this side of the border, that being the condition exacted by Sir John Macdonald when the Mormons first negotiated for settlement in Alberta. It is believed that, with very few exceptions, this condition has been loyally accepted. It would be idle to deny, however, that rumours to the contrary are abundant in the neighborhood. There is considerable feeling in some quarters against the curious sect, and some responsible men have not hesitated to charge them with the practice of polygamy in Canada. The subject is a delicate and difficult one, and may possibly be worthy of attention from the Government of the Province. If the charges now so rife were investigated and disproved, supposing they can be disproved, the feeling against the Mormons in some quarters would disappear or diminish. Others who doubt that polygamy is practised ask if it is not, at any rate, still taught in Canada. As to this, it is quite certain that if a Gentile undertakes to attack the theory of polygamy apart from its practice, the average Mormon feels called upon to defend it. Any other attitude would seem to cast discredit upon the founders of the church, upon many of its present leaders, and upon the numerous descendants of Brigham Young, who was in a very real sense the father of his people, and several of whose sons and grandsons are dwelling in Southern Alberta.

Inspection of Canadian Canned Meat.

In view of the revelations following the inspection of the Chicago slaughter houses, it is of interest to know that Canadian packing houses are practically free from the evils discovered by the author of the "Jungle":—

The Dominion Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Sydney Fisher, ordered an investigation to be made, some time ago, upon the sanitary condition of the canned meat industries and the slaughter houses of Canada. He also arranged with the Minister of Inland Revenue to have analysis made of the canned meats as offered for sale throughout the Dominion. An extract from the report of Thos. McFarlane, Chief Analyst, is to hand. Samples of canned meats during June and July were obtained from the various inspection districts of Canada, to the number of 322. The goods were packed in Canada and the United States, and were on sale in this country. A satisfactory result was obtained. On opening the tins it was noted as to whether the meats appeared to be fresh and destitute of any disagreeable odor, and they were tested as to whether any preservatives had been used in packing them. Only four samples out of the total collection were found to give evidence of decomposition, a proportion amounting only to 1.4 per cent. The preservatives sought for were salicylic benzoic, sulphurous, and boric acids, but only the last-named was detected in a comparatively small number of samples, and in quantity not exceeding the limit fixed by the English Parliamentary commission of 0.5 per cent., and probably added in the shape of borax. There were 51 such samples among the 322 collected, or 15.8 per cent. This proportion is less than in the collection of 1903, when the proportion of samples containing borax amounted to 21.2 per cent.