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ST. JOHN STAR.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPT. 19, 1908.

NOVA SCOTIA MINERS.

The long expected trouble has at last occurred in the ranks of the miners association of Nova Scotia. A number of the lodges, representing nearly one-half of the total membership of the P. W. A., will desert the central organization and become affiliated with the United Mine Workers of America. Before this matter is settled there will be a long drawn out contest in the courts over the division of the grand council funds, for the vote of this body is recorded against giving any of the funds to the disaffected lodges upon their secession. For upwards of a year the movement towards union with the U. M. A. has been in progress, and a few months ago a plebiscite on the question was taken. The P. W. A., an old organization, has been conducted chiefly by older and more moderately inclined men, but their policy has not thoroughly satisfied the aggressiveness of the younger miners who believe that wages and working conditions could be improved if such improvement were properly sought. These men also believe that by affiliation with the U. M. A. they would be in a much stronger position to enforce their demands. This would indeed be true if the whole of Nova Scotia miners should come under the United States standard, but when less than one-half are ready to do so the outlook appears to be toward confusion. Mine owners in Nova Scotia have in the past got along very well with the P. W. A. There have been occasional disagreements but on the whole both parties in the instances have endeavored to meet each other's views and have not insisted on any dictatorial arrangements. What the attitude of the seceding lodges will be remains to be seen. Mine owners view the situation with some little anxiety, but they are hopeful that the moderation which has in the past prevailed will continue and they are certainly not looking for trouble. If the lot of the miners can be improved without seriously affecting industrial progress in Nova Scotia the present dispute may be looked upon as unimportant, but it is to be regretted that United States influence is making itself felt in these provinces.

THE EXHIBITION.

The St. John exhibition will be brought to a close this evening. The attendance has not been quite equal to that of the fair held in 1906. No doubt the failure of the horse racing portion of the programme had some effect, as did also the circumstance that the Chatham exhibition occurred on the same dates. Yet in spite of these drawbacks the directors will feel gratified with the patronage which has been bestowed. The success or otherwise of the venture from the financial point of view will not be known for some little time. The weather has been beyond expectations. Not only has the week been without rain, but the days have had the brightness and warmth of July rather than of September. Now that the fair is about ended it is no harm to say that previous to the opening a good many persons in St. John entertained the opinion that it would not be quite up to the standard of former years. This may have been because of the fact that the city newspapers did not devote to it as much attention in advance as they have sometimes done. But on the opening day it was found that the display was well up to the mark, that in some departments the exhibits were, in numbers and variety, far ahead of previous years, and that the management had given particular attention to the comfort of visitors. The exhibition has been a distinct success. Of itself it has been deserving of praise, and the impulse it has given to trade in general can only be properly appreciated by St. John merchants.

The young men of St. John who give allegiance to the liberal party, made an excellent start at organization last evening. The first meeting looking towards the formation of a permanent association was full of enthusiasm, and it is apparent that the older leaders will not however be left to carry alone the burdens of the campaign.

Major General Luard committed suicide because he had been accused of murdering his wife. The police of London have been unable to discover any evidence concerning that murder which does not point to General Luard as the guilty one. Perhaps he did kill her. Anyway, it may be just as well that he died.

Newfoundland politics are like a Chinese puzzle. The conditions are more complicated than were found in the Province of Saskatchewan at the first general provincial election. In Newfoundland no man may say with certainty just what party or policy any candidate represents. The major-

ity of the leaders, including, perhaps, the premier himself, are again the government.

Fifty thousand dollars the Protestant churches of St. John have promised to give this year, and every year, to missions. This represents five dollars from each male member. Looking at it that way it does not seem very much, but the total is a gratifying amount. St. John can well afford to do this much at least.

Charlottesville is again suffering from forest fires. Continued fine weather is very enjoyable, but it has its drawbacks.

THE OLD OAKEN BUCKET.

(A New Version).
The following clever parody on "The Old Oaken Bucket" was written by Dr. Jas. C. Bayles, when he was president of the New York Board of Health, and at a meeting of the New York Academy of Music.

With what anguish of mind I remember my childhood,
Recalled in the light of a knowledge since gained.
The malarious farm, the wet fungus-grown wildwood,
The chills then contracted that since have remained;
The scum-covered duck-pond, the pigsty close by it,
The ditch where the sur-smelling house refuse fell,
The damp shaded dwelling, the foul barn-yard night life,
But worse than all else was that terrible well.
And the old oaken bucket, the mold-crusted bucket,
The moss-covered bucket that hung in the well.

Just think of it! Moss on the vessel that lifted
The water I drank in the days called to mind;
Ere I knew what professors and scientists gifted
In the waters of life by analysis find;

The rotting wood fibre, the oxide of iron,
The algae, the frog of unusual size,
The mud, the impure as the verses of Byron,
Are things I remember with tears in my eyes.

And to tell the sad truth—though I shudder to think it—
I considered that water uncommonly dear,
And often at noon, when I went there to drink it,
I enjoyed it as much as I now enjoy beer.

How ardent I seized it with hands that were grimy,
And quick to the mud-covered bottom it fell,
Then reeking with nitrates and nitrites, and stinky
What matter organic it rose from the well.

Oh, had I but realized in time to avoid them
The dangers that lurked in that pestilent draught—
I'd have tested for organic germs and destroyed them
With potassic permanganate ere I had quaffed.

Or perchance I'd have boiled it, and afterward strained it
Through filters of charcoal and gravel combined;
Or, after distilling, condensed and re-distilled it
In portable form, with its dith left behind.

How little I knew of the enteric fever
Which lurked in the water I ventured to drink,
But since I've become a devoted believer
In the teachings of science, I shudder to think.

And now, far removed from the scenes I'm describing,
The story of warning to others I tell,
As memory reverts to my youthful imbibing
And I gaze at the thought of that horrible well.

And the old oaken bucket, the fungus-grown bucket—
In fact, the stop bucket that hung in the well.

SATURDAY SERMONETTE

DRAWN DOWN.

When I was a boy I saw a number of boys, well up in their teens, and a dog chasing a half grown kitten. It ran up a tree and I was in hopes that it would escape the persecution of the dog and the other animals. But one of the boys, encouraged by the others, climbed the tree and although the kitten ran from limb to limb, clinging desperately and moving pitiously, it was at last shaken from the limb down to the dog waiting for it. I remember—although it must at least have been ten years ago since I was a little boy—how indignant I was and how I fought those boys even though they were twice my age and size until I was as bloody as the dead kitten. I have always looked back with pleasure to that hopeless fight for it was my first (remembered) fight against cruelty and injustice. I hope I have done some fairly good fighting since then and now and then have won my battle, but none of my fights have given me so much pleasure as that one and I confess to a very warm feeling for that sturdy little boy of twelve who fought for a helpless kitten and went to his home (when fighting was looked upon as a deadly sin) with his torn clothes, blackened eyes and scratched bleeding face but with a glow in his heart that is remembered after all the years.

I remember too the face of my mother as she washed away the blood from my face and bandaged up my wounds while I told my story. I saw the tears and the pity in her eyes and another look I did not understand then but do now, a glint of pride as she said: "I hope my boy will always fight for the poor and oppressed."

I have, since that day of long ago, seen many more cruel things than boys and dogs pulling down from its refuge a frightened kitten.

I have seen boys pulled down by evil companions until all that was good in them became bad.

I have seen innocent young girls dragged down from purity to vice.

I have seen wives pulled down by the

hands of their husbands as they have tried to climb up to something better. Sometimes his drunkenness has pulled her down. Sometimes his coarseness and vulgarity pulled her down and there are few sights more pitiful than to see a girl pure and refined dragged down mentally and socially by a coarse husband. She thought she was in love with him when she married him, but as she was only "in love with love" as he had idealized him, she was soon disillusioned and dragged down from her "fool's paradise."

So many to pull down those who are trying to climb up. So few the hands to fight in defence of the climbers. So many to say I am small and weak and only a boy. What can I do against so many who are so much stronger. And we let the cruel pull down the weak because we are too cowardly to fight for them.

Much Hitherto Unexplored Territory Was Covered by Sven Hedrin in His Journey.

LONDON, Sept. 18.—A despatch from Simla gives more details of the explorations of Sven Hedrin into Tibet. The explorer suffered terrible hardships because of the weather encountered. At one time incessant snow obliterated everything. The temperature was 38.8 centigrade. The feet of the explorer were partly frozen and all the sheep taken with the caravan for food died. No sign of life was seen for sixty-four days.

On another occasion a furious gale, which carried sand and small stones, prevented the party from pitching their tents and those of Hedrin and two others were lost. For a while the caravan crossed much hitherto unexplored territory. They found in the neighborhood of Lenchang Lakok several goldfields, which it is understood are controlled by a regular staff of Tibetan officials. Hedrin was obliged to resort to strategy repeatedly in order to escape detection by the Tibetans, who are very suspicious and sometimes they narrowly evaded the official. The journey seems to have been fully as dangerous and daring as previous ones by the same explorer.

MONDAY'S GRAND OPERA.

Among the operas of Verdi, one which will undoubtedly survive is "Rigoletto," the story of which is one of the strongest of any of the modern operas. "Rigoletto" was the hunchbacked father of the Duke of Mantua and his willing assistant in all his licentious habits. He has gained the hatred of the courtiers by his religious observance at church. She has, however, not escaped the notice of the Duke, who has repeatedly observed her at her devotions and contrives to track her to her humble habitation, where, by bribing her servant, he gains access to her, representing himself by a poor student deeply impressed with her attractions. He succeeds in inspiring her love, never dreaming that it is the daughter of his hunchbacked father. The fact of the existence of a young and lovely woman in the shadow of Rigoletto becoming known to the courtiers, they plot to abduct her and deliver her to the Duke. Rigoletto goes to the palace to demand his daughter. They leave, Gilda putting on male attire and flying to Verona. Rigoletto, in order to gain revenge, hires a brave to assassinate the Duke. Madeleine, the sister of the brave, tries to dissuade him from murdering their guest, but he refuses unless some one should chance to appear before midnight.

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