HOW GREAT LIFE INSURANCE SCANDALS HAVE GROWN AND HOW TO CHECK THEM

$100,000,000 of Policy-Holders' Money Thrown Into Wall Street Speculation—Running Expenses More Than Cost of Navy—Diplomatic Service and Public Debt Interest—Mutual Life Alone Controls More Than Half the Banking Capital of the United States.

By James Creelman in N. Y. World.

It will be hard to read without a thrill the following declaration of John W. Ryckman, the plucky owner and editor of The Era Magazine, who for a year has been investigating and exposing the corrupt alliance of the great life insurance companies with the Wall-street gamblers in the teeth of an organized effort to drive him to the wall and silence him.

No man has done more to lay bare the inmost secrets of life insurance rascality, and the present official investigation is largely the result of his persistent and intelligent work.

Mr. Ryckman could neither be frightened, fooled nor bought off.

He is tall, deep-chested and clean-shaven. He has honest brown eyes and the brow, chin and jaws of a born fighter.

He was born in Wisconsin fifty years ago, studied law with Matt Carpenter, organized and managed industrial exhibitions, conducted business enterprises, worked as a newspaper man in England and America and finally, having become proprietor of The Era, struck the trail of life insurance corruption and followed it with desperate courage and industry.

"In his testimony before the legislative committee," said Mr. Ryckman, "George W. Perkins made a statement so astounding that even his shrewd inquisitor, Mr. Hughes, stood for a moment amazed and apparently unable to grasp its gravity. It was a comprehension of figures and of the real power of combined millions that was stunning in its effect and will bewilder the thinking men of the nation when they realize its tremendous significance in relation to every interest of the people. Mr. Perkins said in an offhand way and apparently in defence of the methods of insurance companies that in ten years from now, if it should not write another dollar of insurance, the New York Life Insurance Company would alone control more than $1,000,000,000.

"Now, think what this means. The Mutual Life and the Equitable are each approximately in the same position as their great corporate ally, and their accumulations in the next ten years will amount to as much, if not more; so that these three institutions are bound in an indissoluble alliance.

"Can you conceive a greater danger to the republic than that a sum greater than the whole money supply of all the 80,000,000 population in actual dollars should be controlled and handled without recourse by a small coterie of men under a system of organized audacity and cunning for which it would be difficult to cite a parallel in history?

"I have been deeply, intensely concerned in bringing the people to a full realization of this situation and the dangers that confront them in every channel of activity thru the workings of this gigantic combine, and it is very gratifying that at last the curtain must be drawn aside, the searchlight of public investigation thrown upon these financial buccaneers, the innermost secrets of their outrageous system exposed to public contempt and legal remedies applied that will extricate the beneficiaries of the people from the grasp of untrustworthy and faithless custodians.

"The man who takes out a life insurance policy for any sum has only one legitimate aim in view, and that is that should he die this sum may be paid to his wife and children or other heirs or dependants to keep them from want. In thus providing an opportunity for the head of the household to continue after his death protection over those who are bound to him by love and duty the institution of life insurance is a great beneficence. It aids and supports the husband and father in the performance of his most sacred obligation. In order that he may thus provide for those who are dependant upon him after his capacity to earn a livelihood has ceased, every man who carries a life insurance policy in the United States, except those unusually well to do, is obliged during his lifetime to make special efforts and sacrifices.

6,000,000 Policyholders.

"There are at present about 6,000,000 policyholders in this country in the mutual or 'old line' companies, and the average policy is a little more than $2500. The payment of the annual premium is an obligation more sacred and solemn than any other. A large majority of policy-holders includes the great middle class of the country, the men who work for wages or salaries or those whose incomes are derived from small independent enterprises.

"As the time approaches for the annual premium to become due the policyholder and his family must deny themselves pleasures and luxuries; they must even cut down ordinary expenses and provide only for barest necessities; for, above all things, the life insurance premium must be promptly met.

"Inasmuch as most life insurance companies are mutual societies, each policyholder, being a member, no matter what the amount of his policy, and on an equal footing with all other members, is entitled to as much benefit and consideration as the company's president. The officers and managers of the company under the mutual plan are no more than agents or servants of the policyholders, necessary in the administration of the affairs of the society. The policy-holders, thru their premiums, pay the officers their salaries to direct and supervise the honest and economic administration of the company's affairs.

"And this condition was generally thought to exist until a year ago I undertook in The Era Magazine single handed, and I must say with little public confidence at the time, to prove that the policy-holders had been deluded and deceived; that the proxies exacted of them when they took out their policies had given the presidents of these companies absolute individual control of all their trust funds and accumulations and had instilled in them, in this era of stock-gambling and graft, an idea of actual private mastery of these funds; that the temptations the unrestricted handling of countless millions is sure to engender had led these officers and trustees into devious speculations on their individual accounts which had built up colossal private fortunes for them, while dividends and results to the policy-holders were constantly diminishing; and finally, thru the recklessness that always comes from a feeling of security after long misconduct, had enabled them to create special channels of speculation, to defeat the laws, bribe legislatures, subsidize the press and carry on a most high-handed and menacing scheme of financial buccaneering.

"The affairs of these big companies—the Equitable, Mutual and New York Life—which control half the life insurance of the United States—have been carried on with the most lavish extravagance, and the expenditures have been so cunningly distributed and so ingeniously compared with enormous assets in the published statements of the companies that their full significance has been scarcely realized.

Only Policyholders Suffer.

"The fact cannot be too strongly emphasized that every dollar wasted in extravagant expense comes from the pockets of the policy-holder.

"Men have asked this question: 'If the big life insurance companies are practising such outrageous imposition upon the millions who support them, why has not the subject been given wide publicity before?'

"The answer is one of the most astonishing features of this whole subject; it is a part of the story of the immense power and resources of the great insurance combine,' of its potent and far-reaching influence.

"The fact that the 'Big Three' life insurance companies disbursed in 1904 the enormous sum of forty millions of dollars for management expenses is alone sufficient to convict these companies of recklessness.

"The entire expenses of the whole consular and diplomatic service of the United States amounted last year to less than two millions; the entire interest on the public debt of the United eight millions, and the cost of the entire American naval establishment in 1896 was only $27,147,732.

Last year the 'Big Three' spent in items which were included in the cost of conducting their business nearly $49,000,000. This was equal to almost half of the money paid out to policy-holders thru all channels, including the comparatively small dividends, the annuities and on account of the expiration of policies.

"To conduct a business which paid to the partners—the policy-holders—$102,000,000, in 1903 the 'Big Three' spent $49,000,000, nearly 50 per cent.

"Is this not a significant fact?

"Included in this amount is $767,000, which their reports itemize as 'legal expenses.'

"During the same time the combine made an outlay of $1,332,000, which is described in the reports under the head of 'printing, stationery and supplies.' In these two items I am confident Mr. Hughes will unfold some of the most startling and scandalous disclosures of the present investigation.

"It is principally in these two accounts that most of the corruption funds are ingeniously hidden.

"With their insurance contracts made incontestable, with their indisposition to fight out disputes in the courts and with no litigation of particular extent during the year, the 'Big Three' tell the public that for legal expenses they spent more than three-quarters of a million dollars.

"If the so-called legal expenses are correctly classified, it follows that the companies must have had a surprising amount of litigation, the proof of which cannot be established by the record of proceedings in the courts.

"Nothing can more strongly illustrate the awful extravagance of these misdirected institutions than a comparison of the steady growth of their management expenses with the relatively small increase in the volume of their new business. For instance, in 1904 the total premiums on new business of the Equitable were $12,825,527, while the management expenses were $14,846,258; the total premiums on new business of the Mutual were $14,676,652, while the management expenses were $16,656,182; the total premiums on new business of the New York Life were $16,133,823, and the management expenses $19,447,367.

Expenses More Than Income.

"Taking the Mutual Life for example, while that company increased its outlay for management expenses by more than one and a half million dollars over the previous year, its income from new business decreased by more than a million.

"But I want to get back for a moment to the potential elements of the subject. The assets of the life insurance companies of this country—that is, the actual property, real estate, bonds, stocks, etc., which they own—amount to-day in the aggregate to more than two billion dollars. The companies doing business in New York State had at the close of last year assets, in exact figures, equal in value to $2,226,423,202. That is the magnitude of the institution of life insurance here to-day.

"If all the adult men of America of every race and occupation should contribute $100 each toward a fund, that enormous sum would not equal the value of the property now owned by the American life insurance companies.

"But a still more significant and important fact is this—that more than half of this great wealth belongs to just three companies of the more than 42 that are engaged in business in this state, covering practically the entire life insurance business of the United States. These three companies that have become so widely known as the 'Big Three' are the Mutual Life, the Equitable and the New York Life.

"According to a seductive pamphlet sent out by the Mutual Life to policyholders, the entire surplus and dividend profits of 3595 national banks in the United States, by the last report, amounted to $350,000,000, or only $50,000,000 more than the assets represented by this one company. To carry the comparison further, it may be said that the Mutual Life's assets, according to this authority, amount to about half of the national banking capital of the United States.

"The assets of the Mutual are thus, on their own showing, large enough to absorb the entire national banking capital of 1803 national banks in 36 of the more important states of the Union. Precisely the same statements could be made regarding the assets of the two other members of the combine.

"The almost incredible accumulation of money by the 'Big Three,' the greatest in the history of the world, is the strongest financial power in America, and rightly managed would be a vast bulwark of credit to the people, a safeguard against any national adversity, a splendid monument to the benevolence of the policyholders; yet all the sacredness of these savings, the solemn nature of the trust, is lost sight of, and the mighty weight and influence of this money is concentrated at the speculative heart of the financial system—Wall-street.

"The item known as surplus, the undivided profits, belonging to and withheld from the policyholders, amounts in the three big companies to $182,000,000, and this large sum, instead of being given to the policyholders, to whom it belongs, is used, along with the other assets of the combine, in stock-jobbing, syndicate-juggling and private deals.

"You will recall that the Northern Securities Company was a conspicuous attempt to choke competition between railroad systems and incidentally to immediately enrich its promoters. It was a bold, flagrant, abominable offence against the very principle of our institutions. The supreme court decided that it was in violation of law. The company was organized Nov. 1, 1901, in New Jersey as a security-holding company to control the stocks of the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern Railway Companies. The stock authorized was $400,000,000.

"It was not denied that the Northern Securities Company was formed to make a quick profit of millions for the men who effected the combination.

"Where was the money to come from? From the public?

"It was the old scheme of the trust—combine several industries under one new organization, with capital vastly greater than the aggregate of the capitals of the component companies, and then sell this new stock to the public at a value placed higher than that warranted by the value of the concerns combined. The dealers pocket the difference and the innocent players pay for it. Such a deal was the Northern Securities.

How Millions Are Raised.

"Now for the part the 'Big Three' played in it, using the 'sacred hoard of the widows and orphans.' It was necessary practically to monopolize the railroad interests of the Northwest. To raise the necessary money the Northern Pacific and Great Northern issued $215,153,000 of collateral trust 4 per cent. gold bonds. In other words, they offered to borrow money, giving their bonds and paying 4 per cent. interest, and the bonds were secured by the entire stock of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railway.

"To perfect the plans for this notorious scheme the money for these bonds was needed at once. The three big life-insurance companies, with the money of their policyholders, bought nearly $20,000,000 of these bonds. They contributed in the promotion of this deal $20,000,000 of the policyholders' hard-earned money. They used it in the game.

"Now, the participation of each of the companies in this affair should be investigated and their losses of policyholders' money should be ascertained. It should also be known what the syndicate members made for themselves.

"This deal showed how useful the trust companies are to the insurance companies in these manipulations, and why they have controlled them and keep millions constantly on tap in their vaults, which in itself will be a most interesting phase of the present investigation.

"It is very important, I think, that the legislative committee should bring out clearly all the facts as to how millions of the trust funds of policyholders were used directly by the 'Big Three' combine, in league with certain railroads and rich Wall-street gamblers, in forming the iron-clad coal trust, which has so robbed the people, among them the very policyholders, who have been unconscious contributors of the funds which have made it possible for the coal barons to exact unjustly $50,000,000 annually from the public.

"The last and most barefaced enterprise of Wall-street was an attempt to combine under one company the great transatlantic steamship lines. The czar of finance undertook to form a Mercantile Marine Trust to control the ocean transportation of the world, but he was not successful. The scheme was to unite the White Star line, the Leyland line, the American and Red Star lines, the Atlantic-Transport line and the Dominion line. The steamship trust was to have a capital stock of $130,000,000 and bonds of $50,000,000. The combined capital stock of the six lines was $23,500,000. This was $96,500,000 less than the capitalization of the new company.

"Just how much of this $96,500,000 was water it would be difficult to say—probably most of it. But before any dividend at all could be paid on that stock the interest on the $50,000,000 of bonds had to be paid. The firm of J. P. Morgan & Co. organized a syndicate which agreed to raise $50,000,000 in cash to assist in the formation of the steamship trust. For every $10,000 in cash which the members of this syndicate provided they were to receive $10,000 in bonds, $500 in preferred stoc wkof the trust and $25,000 of the trust's common stock and it was stipulated that the Morgan crowd was to receive a considerable share of these securities as its compensation for promoting the enterprise.

"Now, in order that the scheme for a steamship trust should be successful, so that its stocks might be unloaded on the public, it was vital in the beginning that the subscription of fifty million dollars be completed. We find that the New York Life contributed to this syndicate the round sum of $3,000,000. George W. Perkins, as vice-president and chairman of its finance committee, acted in this matter for the New York Life. As the partner of J. P. Morgan he also acted for the banking firm. It is observable that in a great many of these transactions Perkins acted in this dual capacity for both interests.

Relatives in Soft Places.

"The heads of the 'Big Three,' in snappy and joyous leaflets and circulars they spread broadcast everywhere, openly advertise themselves as the chosen representatives of the policyholders. On the contrary, they are family affairs pure and simple, and the offices are held by virtue of the abominable proxy system. We all know how the Equitable was run. In the New York Life, filling the places of influence are men who are bound to each other by kinship. John A. McCall, president of the company, was comptroller of the Equitable when he was selected to fill the presidency of the New York Life. Before that he was insurance commissioner of New York State, and the position of comptroller in the Equitable was created purposely for him. President McCall's son, John C. McCall, is secretary of the New York Life. Darwin P. Kingsley, who is one of the vice-presidents of that company, is a son-in-law of John A. McCall and a cousin of George W. Perkins, first vice-president. Edward R. Perkins, one of the second vice-presidents, is brother of George W. Perkins.

"In the Mutual is further evidence that these great companies are all in the family, as the slang expression goes. Robert H. McCurdy, the preparatory president, now foreign representative and until recently wearing the title of general manager of the company, is a son of Richard H. McCurdy, the Mutual's president. Louis A. Thebaud, son-in-law of President McCurdy, is the manager of the metropolitan agency of the company, an immensely lucrative post.

"The McCurdy family and kinsmen take an aggregate of $350,000 annually in salaries out of the Mutual, and the McCurdys have become multi-millionaires. The question very pertinently arises, 'Are the great mutual insurance companies public trusts or private snaps?'

"It is notable that while the premium collections from policyholders have swollen enormously, the dividends have been rapidly dwindling. The falling off of dividends to policyholders has been coincident with the tightening of the alliance between the 'Big Three' and the big gamblers of Wall-street—by closer relations with banks and trust companies thru which they operate privately and work their various syndicates.

"And it is significant that in nearly all cases the trustees of the insurance companies are identical with the directors of the trust companies.

"Now let us see what banks and trust companies are most active in the business of loaning money on call in Wall-street. Mr. Hughes has already gotten some valuable information on this subject out of Messrs. Cromwell of the Mutual, and Randolph of the New York Life, with reference to the companies' identification with the Morton Trust Company and the Security Trust Company. But a report of the New York State Superintendent of Banking shows that at the close of business on Jan. 1, 1905, the trust company in New York City carrying the largest amount of money loaned on collateral was the Mercantile Trust Company. This is an Equitable institution. The amount was over $42,000,000, and all of this was in the Wall-street game.

"The Equitable Trust Company, also controlled by the Equitable, had on loan, on collateral at that time bolstering Wall-street's wildest schemes, $29,593,928.

"The United States Mortgage and Trust Company had loaned on collateral $12,901,416. This is a Mutual Life institution.

"The Guarantee Trust Company, a New York Life concern, had money out on these loans amounting to $17,923,098.

Big Gambling Grows.

"These four companies alone were helping along the Wall-street gambling game to the extent of more than $100,000,000, and what I hope to see Mr. Hughes bring out in this connection is the fact that the insurance companies loan vast amounts of policy-holders' money to these trust companies, which is practically loaning it to themselves or to their own trustees at 2 per cent., so that the trust companies can then loan it out to others at from 5 to 8 per cent., thus making for the trustees of the 'Big Three' thru their trust companies, from 3 to 5 per cent. by the transactions.

"The placing of policy-holders' trust funds on call in these trust companies, owned and controlled in their private interests by the trustees of the 'Big Three,' is most flagrantly illegal and indefensible.

"The National Bank of Commerce is one of the most active of the Wall-street banks. Of this bank's stock $3,653,500 is held by the Mutual Life and $4,500,000 by the Equitable, and on its board of directors trustees and directors of all three of the insurance combine meet. Valentine P. Snyder is president of the Bank of Commerce and is a director of the Equitable; Richard A. McCurdy, president of the Mutual, is one of the vice-presidents of this bank, and James H. Hyde, former vice-president of the Equitable, is another vice-president. The Bank of Commerce has been and is at all times actively interested in the syndicates of all of the 'Big Three.'

"In all transactions for years past in connection with watered stocks, dishonest flotations, railroad, mining and other schemes, many times too numerous to mention now, there has been abundant graft for the men who manage this giant 'Big Three' life nsurance combine. They have been in all the deals.

"So the leading officials of the 'Big Three' life insurance companies have come to possess vast wealth. By secret and in many instances illegal and despicable methods these men have become rich. They have accumulated private fortunes which could not be saved in a century from their salaries.

"It can be said positively that the expenditure of the 'Big Three' last year in debauching legislative bodies and in contributing to political organizations amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"Whenever a bill has appeared looking toward the cleaning up of the life-insurance situation the life-insurance lobby has glided forward, injected its deadly poison, and the bill has died. That is the fear we have to face now in whatever legislative remedies may be recommended by the legislative investigating committee.

"A most terrific onslaught will be made upon any measures looking to salutary insurance laws and the honest future control of these great trust funds, but it seems to me the people have now become so thoroly aroused that no amount of lobbying, no underhanded efforts at bribing or corrupting legislators can meet with anything but severe rebuke and defeat.

"What the state should insist on from the companies is the fullest publicity, requiring once a year a detailed sworn statement made by the principal officers and trustees of the minutest information of every expenditure and receipt of every transaction whatsoever.

"The law should designate who the trustees of these companies are to be and should determine their selection in such a way as to prevent any possibility of graft or of a diversion of any of the policy-holders' funds into wrong channels, and should apply more rigid safeguards for the conduct of these companies in future. The public should be able to see and to know at all times and in the clearest light what the actual expenses of carrying on the life insurance business are.

"In fine, the result of the investigation now going on should be such legislation as will prevent forever hereafter the deplorable condition that has so long existed without criticism or rebuke and place this splendid beneficence of the people on a plane high above the temptations of cupidity or avarice."

EXAMINE OURSELVES.

Winnipeg Tribune: The Toronto World goes straight to the point when it asks us to profit by the disclosures made in regard to the great insurance companies of New York.

How is it that these great companies, absolutely controlled by a few millionaires, who are interested in politics and all kinds of business enterprises, are robbed and bled in a thousand different ways—while Canadian companies, owned and controlled by a few millionaires who are interested in politics and all kinds of business enterprises, are supposed to be guided by a policy "as chaste as ice, as pure as snow"?

Cox is a politician who works colossal grafts thru his friends, the government at Ottawa.

Mr. Cox controls the Canada Life—the greatest insurance company in Canada.

Why does not Senator Cox use his great influence at Ottawa to get legislation passed that would prevent the possibility of Canadian companies swindling their policyholders, as the American companies have swindled theirs?

It is assumed that the Canada Life is conducted in a perfectly honest and business-like manner. But is there anything to prevent it and other companies contributing enormous sums of the people's money to political campaign funds and other corrupt funds—as the New York Life contributed?

Possibly there is something that prevents this sort of thing in Canada. If so—what is it?

The people are entitled to know. They have been made uneasy and suspicious by the revelations in New York.

They want to know what connection—if any—exists between an insurance company, say like the Canada Life, and the government—and whether there is anything to prevent an improper connection between them.

Goes to Pennsylvania.

W. H. F. Addison, M.D., one of the extern surgeons on the staff of the Toronto General Hospital, has been appointed lecturer on histology in the University of Pennsylvania, and will assume his duties at an early date. He is a graduate of Toronto University, arts 1902, medicine 1905. He was born in Whitby.

It's No Experiment

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BANK FAILURE A SWINDLE WORST EVER PERPETRATED

Liquidators of Ville Marie in Paying Last Dividend Present Startling Figures.

Montreal, Sept. 25.—The final statement from the liquidators of the Ville Marie Bank, which closed its doors on July 25, 1899, shows it to be one of the most colossal swindles ever perpetrated upon the Canadian public. The bank at the time of the collapse had deposits on the books amounting to $1,200,000, representing the saving of 7000 people. The last report before the failure showed the paid-up capital as $479,000. Investigation proved the paid-up capital to be only $250,000.

The books of the ban indicated, at the time of the suspension, a note circulation of $214,000, whereas the report now made public for the first time shows that the notes in circulation really aggregated $555,000, this being the amount of the notes redeemed.

Some time previous to the suspension the government called upon the bank to reduce its circulation to the extent of $300,000. These notes should have been burned, but thru fraud on the part of officials, they were issued again, the face value of the same going into the pockets of those who wrecked the institution.

The last dividend of 2 1-10 per cent. to the depositors is now being made, and with it closes up one of the worst pages in the history of Canadian banking.

TOO COLD TO GROW CROPS.

Surveyor Brings Discouraging Report From the North.

According to A. J. Halford of Windsor, who has returned from New Ontario, north of the height of land, it is doubtful if the big clay belt is going to prove as valuable for agricultural purposes as has been predicted.

"I came across a Frenchman up there," he said, "who had a little patch of potatoes in. They were looking pretty sick, and I asked him what was the matter. He said it was frost on Aug. 1. That was the only frost we had all summer, but it cut things. In my mind it is a question whether after the country is cleared the climate will be found to be sufficiently warm for crop growing. The trouble seems to be that there is no break all the way to James Bay, thus differing from Manitoba and the Territories. There is nothing to divert a cold wave until the height of land is reached. This side of the height of land is all right."

G. T. P. surveyors are working as far west as Frederick House River.

Surveyor A. E. Niven is back from Algoma ten days ahead of time. The party ran out of pork and the seven half-breeds went out on strike.

Mr. Niven says the country around the Matgoni River is flat and wet, but after draining perhaps half of it will be arable.

THERE'S NO AGREEMENT.

Frederic Nicholls of the Ontario Electrical Development Company says that the report from Niagara Falls, that the four big power companies have agreed to divide the field of operatons, is untrue.

"There has never been even the suspicion of such a thing," he says. "I can say for the Electrical Development Company that it will stand on its own merits. We are manufacturing power to sell, and a move of this kind would be inimical to our best interests."

DOUBLE-TRACKING M. C. R.

St. Thomas, Sept. 24.—(Special.)—Since the amalgamation of the Vanderbilt lines, the Michigan Central has had its business greatly increased, and within a year it is expected that the lines between Windsor and Buffalo will be double-tracked all the way. The Michigan Central has been handling over 5000 more cars per month this year than last, and next year it is expected there will be a greater rush than ever.

McMaster College Re-Opens.

McMaster University and the Law School at Osgoode Hall opened yesterday, the latter with about 60 students enrolled.

At McMaster, Dr. McKay assumes his new duties as chancellor, while the professorship in mathematics, left vacant by Dr. McKay's promotion, has been filled by Dr. Findlay, a graduate of McMaster in 1896, who took his post graduate work in Chicago University, after which he lectured in Columbia University.

A new lectureship in history has been filled by E. H. Oliver, B.A., Ph.D., 1902, graduate of Toronto University.

One of McMaster's former students, I. G. Mathews, B.A., has been appointed lecturer in Hebrew and Old Testament exegesis. E. M. Keirstead, M.A., D.D., from Acadia University, in Nova Scotia, is professor of systematic theology and apologetics.

Rev. H. P. Perry, B.A., D.D., will lecture on pastoral theology, and Rev. W. H. Cline, B.A., B.D., will lecture on homiletics and church polity.

Grist Mill for New Liskeard.

New Liskeard, Ont., Sept. 25.—(Special.)—R. M. Brown and J. G. Milne of Toronto are looking for a location for a grist mill, and they are also talking of putting in an electric plant and furnishing the town with power and light. Three propositions are before the council for electric power franchises—one from S. Pindell of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., another from E. T. Ord of New Liskeard, who has associated with him Messrs. Jennings, Woods and Wilson of Toronto, and the third is from R. G. Howie.

Another Batch of Immigrants.

The immigration department were busier yesterday than they have been so far this season. The officers of the department handled 250 men, the largest party that has yet come to Toronto. The Canadian Colonization and Farmers' Help Society of London, Eng., sent eighty of these here and provided for them till they reached Toronto. Situations on farms have already been secured for about 100 of these men.

Summer Colic is Here.

Doctors report a regular epidemic; they prescribe ten drops of Polson's Nerviline in sweetened water. This gives instant relief. Nerviline is highly recommended for summer complaint, cramps and sick headache and should be in everyl home.

John Davidson.

Game Warden Tinsley yesterday received word of the death of Monroe, Mich., of John Davidson, for the past fifty years a judge at dog shows in all parts of America, and a keen sportsman. He was here at Toronto Exhibition, and at that time told Mr. Tinsley he had shot more than 50,000 quail in the last half century.

Hundred Peace Protests.

Tokio, Sept. 24.—The emperor is giving personal attention to the memorials presented to the throne against the terms of the peace arranged with Russia. These memorials now number nearly a hundred.

More Cholera Cases.

Bromberg, Prussia, Sept. 25.—Two new cases of cholera have occurred in this district, and one case at Marienwerder, West Prussia.

CONNOISSEURS PREFER

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Private Sales Every Day

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TWO CARLOADS

Direct from the country, purchased by the well-known buyers B. Goldberg, Mildmay, and E. Runstedler, Walkerton, and a number of other consigning smaller lots.

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Bay mare, 7 years old, standard bred, registered, by Bryson, in foal to Arbutescan. Choice pair of blocks, 5 years old, weighing 2800 lbs. Persons having horses to dispose of may enter them at any time. Best sale ring in Canada. Eighth-mile speedway. Sale pavilion for a thousand buyers. Refreshment counter. Accommodation for a hundred horses. Street cars stop at Repository entrance.

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No spasms, tremors, convulsions, or epileptic attacks after the first day's treatment. Not like the bitter, disagreeable and harmful bromide compounds. This wonderful cure is pleasant to the taste, aids digestion, purifies the blood, removes pimples and rash, clears the complexion, strengthens the brain and intellect, and permanently cures Epileptic Fits.

Write to-day to The Canadian Chemical Laboratory, King St. W. Toronto, Canada, and get their **Free Cure Offer**

SPINAL MENINGITIS OUTBREAK.

Disease Again Epidemic in Ottawa Valley and of Severe Type.

Ottawa, Sept. 25.—Cerebro-spinal meningitis has again broken out in Torbolton and Huntley and has also appeared at South March and North March, Carleton County. There are three cases in Torbolton, children of William Bresnoham, under the care of Dr. Wilson of Kinburn and Dr. Groves of Carp. The latter has also six other cases under treatment now, four in March Township and two in Huntley. The type of the disease is worse than what prevailed during the August epidemic. Six of the nine cases were paralysis.

GIRL'S BODY FOUND.

Daughter of John Gill Fell Into Creek Near Prescott.

Prescott, Sept. 25.—(Special.)—The body of the eight-year-old daughter of John Gill was found in Bobair's Creek this morning. The little girl disappeared on Wednesday last, and it was feared that she had met with foul play. Evidently she fell into the water while attempting to cross the creek.

The Hunting Season.

Nimrod was a mighty hunter, but had he hunted in the "Highlands of Ontario" that are reached by the Grand Trunk Railway System he would have been a mightier one. Nimrod hunted for glory, but those who go up into the several districts in Ontario hunt for game and have no difficulty in finding it. The regions in which deer abound are the Muskoka Lakes, Lake of Bays, Maganetawan River, Georgian Bay, Lake Nipissing, the French River, Kawartha Lakes and on the line of the Canada Atlantic between Scotia Junction and the boundary of Algonquin Park. The open season is from Nov. 1 to Nov. 15.

For moose, the best region in Canada is found in Temagami, where the season opens Oct. 16 and continues until Nov. 15.

The open season for ducks in Ontario is from Sept. 1 to Dec. 15 and for partridge Sept. 15 to Dec. 15.

A beautiful illustrated book, "Haunts of Fish and Game," giving descriptions of the different hunting districts, game laws, maps, etc., sent free on application to J. D. McDonald, district passenger agent, Union Station, Toronto, Ont.

Ex-Minister Dies.

Paris, Sept. 25.—Godfrey Cavaignac, who was minister of war during the exciting period of the Dreyfus case, died suddenly to-day at St. Calais.

25c BIRD TONIC FREE

Sold at 25c. But this medicine free by sending us 2 bird keepers' addresses and 1 Bird Bread yellow wrapper. Bird Bread is 10c yellow pkts. (25c) of any grocer or druggist. If dealer has none send his address to us and cash or stamps for pkts. wanted.

BIRD BREAD (A valid imitation (Pats. 496,497) cures birds' ills and makes them sing. Free tin in 1 lb. Colman Bird Seed pkts., the standard bird food, sold everywhere. Expert help in bird troubles free for reply stamp. (Address exactly)

COTTAM BIRD SEED, 35 St. Louis, Ont.

LADIES! MADAME DUVONT'S FRENCH FEMALE PILLS

Are the most efficient remedy for Delayed Menstruation and Irregularities. Full sized two-dollar box sent in plain sealed package, on receipt of one dollar. DUVONT MEDICINE CO., TORONTO.

Account Books, Ruled Forms and special stationery of every description made to order.

Bookbinding in all its branches, special facilities for leather and cloth edition work.

Advertising Specialties, cardboard and celluloid signs, hangers, etc. Advertising novelties, stamping, embossing.

BLACKHALL & CO.

Cor. Simcoe and Adelaide-sts., 246 Toronto, Canada.

CANADA'S SHIPPING.

London, Sept. 25.—(C.A.P.)—According to the return of the admiralty board, Canada had 680,780 tons of shipping in 1904 as compared with 819,665 in 1880.

Haunts of Fish and Game.

The above caption is the title of a concise, interesting and instructive book issued by the Grand Trunk Railway System and contains valuable information regarding the hunting and fishing territory reached by their lines. It is handsomely illustrated with half-tones reproduced from direct photographs, gives the game laws in force in the different states and provinces, contains maps and all information desired by the hunter. The publication is sent free on application to J. D. McDonald, district passenger agent, Union Station, Toronto, Ont.

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