

THE HAMILTON TIMES

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1909.

THE CORONER'S PROBE.

The public interest in the Kinrade case undergoes no abatement as the inquest proceeds. The determination of the Coroner to take the public into his confidence and to permit the reporting of the evidence meets with general and hearty approval.

Much evidence was taken yesterday afternoon and evening, which, to the man on the street, does not seem to be important to the elucidation of the crime. It is too early, however, to conclude that many of the questions asked of witnesses are without bearing upon the case.

THE RAILWAY BAROMETER

The effects of the financial stringency and consequent restriction in business are reflected in the statements of the great railways of the country.

The receipts from passengers, mails and express, freight and live stock were less in the 1908 period, but those from "miscellaneous" were larger.

The average fare per passenger in 1907 was 44.354, and in 1908 it was 42.77d. The average rate per ton on freight was 63.443 in 1907 and 69.734 in 1908.

The average freight rate per ton mile was 69.100 of a cent, compared with 67.100 of a cent in the other period.

A CHANCE FOR WHITNEY.

A restriction of the sale of intoxicants by the expedient of licensing has resulted in the creation of a great monopoly which is enjoyed by a privileged few.

As it was planned, a population of say, 100,000 submit that all but fifty of them shall not exercise such a right, on condition that the fifty privileged ones who are allowed for the specified term of one year only shall each pay for the use of the community a license fee of so many dollars.

But just here difficulty begins. The fifty to be licensed are not chosen by merit. The great and eagerly sought after privilege goes by favor. It is even to be suspected that political party pull, perhaps even gross bribery, enters into the selection.

This matter is brought home to us in reading in the Toronto papers that some of those whose licenses were not renewed on May 1st estimate that their loss consequent on the refusal was very large.

Now one of the causes of these men's misleading is the bad system which we have of permitting the transferring of licenses—of making the privilege which we grant for one year only something to be trafficked in—if we can get the License Board's consent. That is evil.

It places the entire trade on a false basis. It suggests a permanency in the privilege that it has not and cannot be admitted to obtain. It invites to corruption, wire-pulling, dishonesty, on the part of officials, and the "bleeding" of license-holders.

That is easily remedied. Let the Leg-

islature enact that no license shall be transferred.

It may be objected that cases may arise in which the enforcement of such a rule might entail hardship. There is no fear of that. The system is in operation in some of the neighboring States.

The State authorities grant the licenses. If a license holder wishes to retire from the business, dies or becomes bankrupt, the license is surrendered, and a proportionate part of the yearly fee is remitted.

Oh, yes! The British landlords will undoubtedly "fight" against the new budget proposals. Few men relish being taxed, least of all the men who live on the "unearned increment" tolled from the toilers.

A Frenchman who calls himself "a scientist" tells us that there will be a United States earthquake this month. He blames the moon for the quakes. One thing about this sort of prophecy, you do not have long to wait for verification or disproof.

LANDLORDISM.

The question of landlordism in the United States is not generally regarded as one of much importance. Mr. Henry M. Hyde has recently been making some disclosures, however, which go to show that it is a matter of some moment.

In Canada we have given away, at one time and another, vast areas to speculators and railway companies, and it was not until about twelve years ago, when the Laurier Government attained power, that the policy "The land for the people" was carried into effect, and the alienation of the soil ceased.

The British Admiralty having set out to excel the Dreadnought type of warship by building mammoth battleships 8,000 to 10,000 tons heavier, it will now be in order for the alarmists to speak of the Dreadnoughts as "obsolete" and "outclassed."

Coroner Anderson deserves to be complimented upon the ability with which he has discharged his duties in the very trying circumstances of the Kinrade in-mquest. Lawyers sometimes sneer at coroners and look down upon them from the giddy altitude of self-conscious superiority.

We hear a good deal about absentee landlordism in Ireland, but there are few people who are aware of the extent to which it exists in the United States. Here are a few of the absentee owners of United States lands:

Table with 2 columns: Name, Acres owned. Includes Duke of Bedford (51,085), Earl of Brownlow (57,799), Earl of Cairn (75,941), Earl of Carnarvon (31,278), Earl of Cleveland (106,659), Earl of Derby (36,698), Duke of Devonshire (148,825), Lord Londonderry (191,409), Duke of Northumberland (35,259), Duke of Portland (46,095), Duke of Rutland (70,691), Lady Willoughby (59,212), Sir W. W. W. (91,612), Earl of Yarborough (34,379), Baron Tweeddale (175,930), Byron H. Evans (70,920), Duke of Sutherland (422,500), W. Whaley, M. P. (210,000), Robert Tennant (330,000), Benjamin Xengas (129,000), M. Ellerhousen (609,000), Lord Houghton (60,000), Lord Darnley (60,000), Sir W. W. W. (10,000), Alexander Grant (35,000).

A contemporary points out that one hundred years ago Uncle Sam owned 1,800,000,000 acres of public lands, and it presents this statement showing how they were disposed of:

Table with 2 columns: To the Public Domain, Acres. Includes Credit: By railroad (1,800,000,000), By grants for schools and colleges (192,500,000), By grants on soldiers' scrip (80,000,000), By grants of swamp lands to States (61,000,000).

From this remainder we may deduct 400,000,000 acres in Alaska, leaving 241,000,000 acres, much of which is desert, mountain and swamp, showing that the United States public domain is nearly exhausted.

The Workman case is to be brought into the courts. Rev. Dr. Workman has begun an action against the Wesleyan Theological College for \$5,000 damages for wrongful dismissal and for libellous and defamatory statements made against him.

This is Canada's growing time. Fifty-one new postoffices were opened in this country during the month of March.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Too much addiction to "secret examinations." The Police Commissioners do not need to resort to that sort of thing.

Earl Grey may keep his job for another year. Lucky fellow! By this time he has come to appreciate that Canada is a fine place to live in.

The sample of the industry-attracting power of the Greater Hamilton Association looks satisfactory. Send on a continuous supply of the goods.

Thirteen hangings in Constantinople yesterday. Those Turks are pronounced fatalists, and probably every man of the thirteen regarded it as an unlucky number!

New York's Public Service Commission has decided that all the street railway cars are to be equipped with wheel guards or fenders, approved by the commission, by July 1. The public can regulate.

A Frenchman who calls himself "a scientist" tells us that there will be a United States earthquake this month. He blames the moon for the quakes. One thing about this sort of prophecy, you do not have long to wait for verification or disproof.

According to the Canadian Northern Railway returns the wheat acreage of the Northwest this year will be increased from 10 to 30 per cent. Seeding is a little late, but the weather conditions are now favorable, and the farmers are hopeful of a good return for their labor.

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But perhaps if our genial friend of the Galt Reporter would shift his point of view occasionally so as to get the hypothesizing glare of the protection light out of his eyes, he might understand the situation better. The people of Huron town would probably laugh at his idea that its towns would become cities, its villages towns, and that farms would be subdivided to accommodate the wild rush of population, if only the duties against the United States were doubled. These men, or the same majority of them, know that what goods they buy from the United States are not bought to oblige Uncle Sam, but because it is an advantage to our people to buy them. The number of Canadians who would punish themselves in order to avoid buying from our neighbors when they could gain an advantage by so doing is small indeed. Take coal, for instance; we have coal in Canada. Why not by a protective tariff make us haul it from British Columbia or Nova Scotia?

Speaking of the notorious Mayes affidavit, which was secreted for months when Hon. Mr. Pugsley sought to get it and found perjury proceedings upon it, the Hamilton Herald says: "Of course Mayes may have sworn to what is false. But this has not yet been proved. Until it is shown that he has committed perjury it is surely reasonable to accept his sworn statement as worthy of some credence." It seeks to excuse the Opposition's neglect to bring the matter up in the Public Accounts Committee, as duty would dictate, if it really believes Mayes, by expressing a fear that if the Opposition should do so it would be treated "as a party matter." But if Mayes tells the truth and the whole truth about the matter, no member of the Opposition should hesitate about making charges in proper parliamentary form and assuming responsibility therefor. And then a thorough inquiry could not be blocked. The Liberals took that course in the Canadian Pacific Scandal, in the Curran Bridge matter, in the Langevin case, and others. Why shirk the issue?

There was a barnstorming troupe in Ontario, impudently, and the services of the best art and technical teacher lost to Canada. If the \$2,000 grant is saved, if the Technical College is secured for Hamilton; if the art and technical work be continued and developed, the public, after what has happened, will at least know to whom the credit is due. If, as Mr. Halford pointed out, the aldermen had made themselves acquainted with the school's work, there would have been less suspicion of their indifference. If not, a school that has 278 pupils is growing at the rate of 38 a year, is worthy of consideration and of support.

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OUR EXCHANGES.

TOO EARLY. (Brantford Courier.) Better leave your straw hat in camp for a while yet.

WHAT IT WAS LIKE. (Ottawa Citizen.) April came in like the Hamilton Times and went out like the Toronto Telegram. (Oh, slash!)

TO PLANT TREES. (Stratford Beacon.) The Park Commission of Woodstock has a plan to plant maple trees for every street in the city within a few years.

THE DECEIVING CLOCK. (Toronto Star.) Another advantage of the daylight saving bill will be that the hired man will not get up with the sun at 4 a. m. will not feel so badly about it when he sees by the clock that it is 5 a. m.

WILL BOOT THEM. (St. Catharines Standard.) The St. Catharines police force must be without their boots in pairs, but the city will hereafter foot the bills for their shoes. This is a foot or two gained by the blue-coated minions, anyway.

THERE ARE OTHERS. (Woodstock Sentinel-Review.) One consolation the people of Great Britain have as they contemplate their budget, and that is that the people of Germany are in a much worse condition. It may not be much of a consolation; but human nature is some times easily consoled.

A DESPICABLE FOE. (London Free Press.) The house in Winnipeg is troubled with the rat not single spies, but in battalions, of large size and in squads. The problem in every city is there a crisis, according to the local press. Plans for exterminations are many and various.

FACTS AND FANCIES. To the Editor of the Times: Sir—It is a fact that I said the Mayor of our city tried to induce the Finance Committee to reduce this year's grant to the Art School to \$2,500; it is a fancy of the Mayor's brain that I said he tried to have it reduced to \$250.

It is a fact that I praised the Tigers and the militia, and all kinds of sport, but it is a fancy that I had stood behind them; it is a fancy, serving a purpose, no doubt, that I called the Tigers, the militia, or the Bowling & Athletic Club "an institution of gamblers."

It is a fact that I stated my entire and hearty approval of the grants given to the said institutions; it is a fancy that there was any need of the gratuitous defence offered by the gallant Major against a purely imaginary foe, the creation of his own brain.

It is a fact that I claimed that the Art School had equal claims to those said institutions, and that there was no more lack of principle in supporting the Art School than in supporting the military; it is a fancy that I stated that the Art School had equal claims to those said institutions, and that there was no more lack of principle in supporting the Art School than in supporting the military.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 1909. SHEA'S Corset Clearance Big Bargains. Women's Skirts at \$2.95, Worth \$5 to \$6.50. An immense purchase of splendid Dress Skirts gives you this grand bargain. They are made of splendid all wool goods, Venetian Satin Cloths, Panama, Worsted and fancy striped materials; blacks, navys, browns, greys, etc.; styles all that you could desire and the same can be said of the \$2.95 workmanship; worth \$5.00 to \$6.50; on sale to clear at each...

SCRAP WITH THE BAILIFF. (Continued from Page 1.) "What do you go around looking for him for?" "Looking for him?" said Pat in deep disgust. "Who could help looking at him with that mug of his?" The Magistrate suggested that Pat separate himself from 300 cents of the coin of the realm or tarry at Castle O'gilvie for ten days.

THE VILLAGE CUTUP, VERSATILE PERFORMS AS A HOTEL CLERK. Hands Out Repartee to the Guests of the City Inn, But Sometimes Gets the Hot End of It. "This hotel contracted fleas." She was right there with a comeback. She said her dog didn't contract fleas. She said she'd guarantee all our fleas that got on her dog would get larger instead of getting contracted. Pretty good wheeze, eh?

TRADE UNIONS AND CO-OPERATION. By John Arnold & Co. If I hang out a sign, dollar fifty for forty-nine cents, or one shifty waists for ninety-nine cents, and I honestly produce the goods, there isn't one man or woman in a hundred who will ever stop to ask who is making the profit. There are dozens of answers to the question, if you care to ask it, but usually the answer would be "sweated labor."



Among the Suffragettes. O where is my wandering Ma to-night? O where can my mother be? She hid her feet in the suffrage fight And hasn't come home to me. The range is sold on the kitchen table, The cupboard is bleak and bare, For mother has gone to the county jail For pulling the Speaker's hair! O where is my wandering Ma to-night? My mother, to where is she? She dwells in the "Box," While father's socks Are holey as they can be!