

The Planet.

S. STEPHENSON.—Proprietor.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26.

AN ALARM CLOCK NEEDED

The conviction is surely, if slowly, gaining ground that the services of a vigorous and resonant alarm clock, to punctuate the somnambulist existence of the local Board of Health, would prove a material public blessing.

The Board of Health, as properly constituted and in energetic working order, is one of the most important and valuable and essential organizations in the government of a municipality. There is nothing more vitally important than the health of the community. Men should never be appointed to the Board of Health as figure-heads and ornaments — and they should never accept the appointment unless they intend to be vigorously loyal to its obligations.

Fortunately, there are a few such conscientious men on the Chatham Board of Health, but one doesn't even need the fingers of one hand to count them on. Month after month elapses without even a meeting of this body. They are called regularly and one or two of the conscientious members turn up every time, wait around half an hour or so, vainly telephoning for their colleagues, and then the clerk hangs out the "Adjourned; No Quorum" sign, and the unctuous lethargy is smoothly resumed.

The last meeting of the City Board of Health was held on January 25th, when there were present the Mayor and Messrs. Richards, Hadley, Charteris and Bray. A perusal of the records show that this was the first time the Board had succeeded in getting a quorum together since October 5th of last year, when there were present only Messrs. Richards, Hadley, Charteris and Bray.

These gentlemen, with the energetic M. H. O., Dr. W. R. Hall, are by no means the full membership of the Board.

And there are plenty of matters which clamor for attention from the inactive Board. There are such problems as the inspection of meat sold on the market; such conditions as that revealed by the visit of the assessors to the one-room tenement in the east end; such other equally important matters of moment to the health of the community.

And the Board of Health — or, at least, a liberal majority of its members — slumber in state and the dignity of their office.

So, it wouldn't be a bad idea for the municipality to invest in an alarm clock and present it to the City Board of Health with the compliments of the people of Chatham.

EMPIRE'S GREATEST ENEMY.

There is a wealth of argument in favor of preparedness for war contained in the record of the first five days of the contest now being waged in the east, comments the Ottawa Citizen. The British nation, in common with other countries afflicted with noisy visionaries who are forever forecasting the day when nations will beat their 47 guns into pruning hooks and the nations will learn war no more. Perhaps we should not blame them, because it is a beautiful dream, but unfortunately this world is not run by dreamers. There is no dreaming in business, neither in war. Life is the same old struggle. Now, as in B. C. 5625, business is business and the dreamer is in the bankruptcy court; and war is war, and the dreamer is the subject of the man with the largest stone axe, and the most energy in using it. We trust that the British nation will beat its lethal weapons into reapers and mowers of the most improved pattern, but not until the other less-to-be-trusted powers have done so. It is to be regretted, but a solemn fact, that just at the particular periods in the world's history when the dreamers can clearly discern the millennium in sight, this bad old world takes a backward streak. At the time of the first great international exposition in London, in 1851, the dreamers were in the seventh heaven. They saw in that assembling of the commercial products of the nations a guarantee that for the future the competition would be purely commercial, — that this good world would at last enter upon an era of rivalry in the production of pruning hooks of the very finest quality, which they would place on exhibition in order to enjoy the triumph of gold medals and certificates as a substitute for the warlike competition of the unregenerate days. What followed? The Crimean war, the Indian mutiny, the American civil war, the Franco-Italian war, the Austro-Prussian war, and the Franco-Prussian war, all in a period of less than two decades. Then came a quarter of a century of comparative peace, and recuperation. Once more the dreamers commenced to see visions and there was talk of arbitration as a substitute

Cure that Cough and avoid Consumption by using Allen's Lung Balm

For war—we did not notice American or Spanish, Boer or British, Russ or Jap turning to the Hague when the trouble began to brew, nor even anybody having the courage to suggest it—and there was talk of the construction of a Temple of Peace. But here we are in the midst of war and the rumors of war, and we notice that the nations which paid least attention to the dreamers are feeling most safe at the present moment. The Czar of Russia was a dreamer, the Mikado of Japan was not, and here are the records of the first five days of the war which has recently broke out: February 6—Negotiations broken off by Japan.

February 6—Russian gunboat Korietz was the first shot and begins the war.

February 8—Japanese land at Chemulpho.

February 8-9—Midnight torpedo attack by the Japanese on the Port Arthur fleet—Russian battleships Tarevitch, Retvian, cruiser Pallada disabled. Russian casualties 15.

February 9—Japanese attack the Port Arthur fleet with long range fire, injuring Russian battleships Pallada, cruisers Diana, Askold, Novik, Russian casualties 56.

February 9—Action off Chemulpho, Russian cruiser Varyag, gunboat Korietz sunk.

February 9—Japanese occupy Seoul.

February 11—Russian Vladivostok fleet appears off the coast of Yezo and burns a Japanese merchantman.

RUSSIAN LOSSES.

Battleships.	Tons.	Guns.
Tarevitch, torpedoed at Port Arthur.	13,000	16
Retvian, torpedoed at Port Arthur.	12,700	16
Pallada, struck by shot.	10,000	16
Cruisers.		
Pallada, torpedoed at Port Arthur.	6,000	8
Diana, struck by shot.	6,000	8
Askold, struck by shot.	6,500	12
Novik, struck by shot.	3,000	6
Varyag, sunk in action off Chemulpho.	6,500	12
Gunboat.		
Korietz, sunk in action off Chemulpho.	1,400	3
Total.	67,300	97

JAPANESE LOSSES.

Nil.

There is much food for thought in this. Britain's empire depends upon her control of the sea. If she once lost it, the greatest nation that the world has ever seen would be "out of business," to use a slang phrase, in one day. If she had a ruler like Russia, who hearkened to the dreams of dreamers, this might happen. Britain's power rests upon her Channel and Mediterranean fleets. If they met with such a series of disasters as have marked the opening of the war for Russia "the nation of shopkeepers" might put up the shutters and go out of business. The dreamers, the anti-militarists, the forecasters of the millennium are the only and real danger we have to fear. They conquer a country before it meets the foe. They cut the hair of the Samson when their Delilah plaudits and delivered him helpless to be blinded and bound by his enemies. (The only real enemy to be feared by the British empire is the dreamer.)

A SENSIBLE DECISION.

Mr. Justice MacMahon has settled for the time the old and vexed question whether in a libel suit against a newspaper the plaintiff has a right to be furnished with the name of the writer of the alleged libel. The contention on the side of the press has always been that so long as the management is held responsible for any damage done by an article, the writer of it should be left free from responsibility. In Canadian as in British journalism, the names of writers are not appended to their articles; in view of the fact that they are thus deprived of whatever prestige they might otherwise have won by their literary work it would be very unfair to drag them before the public. Whether anonymous journalism is or is not the best system, it has long been the one in use here and is not likely to be changed. If a writer through malice and falsehood gets his employers into a libel suit it is open to the management to expose him, but there should be no compulsion on the management to betray a staff secret to the public.

HOW ARE YOUR NERVES?

If they are weak and you feel nervous, and easily "flustered," can't sleep and rise in the morning unfreshed, your blood is poor. Strong nerves depend upon rich, nourishing blood. Hood's Sarsaparilla makes the blood strong by enriching and vitalizing the blood. It gives sweet, refreshing sleep and completely cures nervous troubles. Begin taking it today.

Nerves, indigestion are cured by Hood's Pills.

A person may be a light sleeper and sleep just as well in the dark.

A JAPANESE DIPLOMAT

SHINICHIRO KURINO, THE MIKADO'S MINISTER TO RUSSIA.

One of the Ablest and Most Experienced in His Royal Master's Service—Position at St. Petersburg During the Past Few Months One of Great Delicacy—Of an Old Two Sword Samurai Family.

Shinichiro Kurino, Japanese Minister to the Russian Court, whose position during the past four months has been one of extreme delicacy, is one of the ablest and most experienced diplomats in the service of the Mikado.

Mr. Kurino comes of one of the old two sword Samurai families of southern Japan, a class which has furnished many of the most advanced men of the Empire. In 1874, when Prince Kuroda, in whose service the Minister's father had been prominent, sent a number of Japanese youths to America to be educated according to western ideas, Mr. Kurino was among them. Although liberally tutored at home, he took the law course at Harvard and on his return to Japan entered the Foreign Office, with which he has since been connected.

He was selected for important missions in Korea in 1882 and 1883, and again in 1894. He was also intrust-



SHINICHIRO KURINO.

ed with important missions to Europe, those to Portugal in 1893 and to France with reference to treaties being highly successful. At the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese war he came to the United States as Minister. He is extremely simple in his life and arrived at Washington without retinue or escort and almost unheralded. From the United States he was transferred to Italy and later to France. He was appointed Minister to Russia in the fall of 1901.

Minister Kurino is of pleasing address and speaks English and French with fluency. In stature he is rather short, and his build is compact, though not portly. He was born during the year Commodore Perry visited Japan, 1853.

FAVORITE OF THE CZAR.

Count Vladimir Lamsdorff, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, on whose diplomatic skill the Czar relies to keep peace with Japan, has been connected with his department for more than thirty-five years and is looked upon as an adept in the art of diplomacy. His present task has been most difficult owing to Russia's determination to firmly maintain her position and at the same time avoid war.

When Count Lamsdorff was appointed to his present post in 1900, there was some surprise, as he was very little known outside Russia. He was, however, very well known to the Czar as one of the most efficient men in the Foreign Office, being at that time first assistant and familiar with the secrets of Russia's foreign diplomacy. He has never represented Russia abroad, his whole life having been spent in St. Petersburg, where he successively served three Emperors. Count Lams-



COUNT LAMSDORFF.

dorff entered the Foreign Office in 1865 and rose rapidly in the service. After a time he was attached to the Emperor's Cabinet, then appointed secretary to the Foreign Office, Counsellor, Assistant Minister and finally, on the death of Count Muraviev, became Minister. He possesses the unbounded confidence of the Emperor.

Count Lamsdorff's family is of German origin and belongs to the Westphalian "Uradel"—that is to say, to those houses of the aristocracy whose members have ranked as nobles since the beginning of history and who, while always recognized by the Crown as nobles, can show no patents of original creation, since their nobility antedates the origin of the monarchs.

ONE W:E:E:K MORE

Then our Great Clothing Sale is over. New Spring Clothing is coming to hand every day. Take advantage of the following prices and be wise.

Special inducements for balance of this month.

\$7.50 will buy an Overcoat in the store up to \$13.50.

\$7.50 will buy Men's Suits for the balance of this month, up to \$12.

Boys' Overcoats at about Half Price.

All Underclothing at Less than Cost.

You will get what is advertised; no two ways about it.

Here's a chance for cash buyers.

Meynell's,

3 Doors West from Market, King Street

Give the Children the Magi Waters

to drink, they like them and are highly beneficial for the most delicate.

J. J. McLAUGHLIN, Agent, Toronto

The Hardiness of Trees.

An expert nurseryman says the hardiness or non-hardiness of trees depends largely upon where the seeds from which the trees in question sprang came from. Satisfactory results are seldom experienced by planting a seed obtained from the sunny south, say, by planting seeds generally farther north, however, trees may be at length hardened and acclimated until a seed from such a tree may be reasonably expected to thrive and mature its fruits.

Trees, like people, acquire their habits from the climate in which they live. The northern tree knows instinctively when the time has come to ripen its fruits. The southern tree follows the same instinct, being in no hurry, at least, to leave the land of real cold. With transplantings farther north its habit changes.

The great trouble with most people is that they want to jump a tree from south to north at one move. This same idea is evident in the attempt to bring various fruit trees from Russia to the northern United States. Apples and plums from the land of the great white bear have taken kindly to the below zero conditions of the gentle Dakotas.

EMINENT DOCTOR ON INDIGESTION

Appendicitis Caused by It—Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets the Safeguard and Cure.

The leading medical men of the world are to-day turning their attention to indigestion and dyspepsia. In a lecture delivered in London a short time ago the eminent authority Dr. Sir James Orlinton Brown said:

"Not only have modern men not got such health as their ancestors had but their health is less abundant owing to the softer, pulper food that are eaten. The increase in indigestion is largely due to indigestion resulting from imperfect mastication and the hurried methods of eating. From the same cause people are less able to resist disease." This means that if you would be healthy you must take heed to your stomach. It must be kept toned up and able to do its full work all the time. The easiest and best way to do this is to use Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets. They do the work of digestion themselves while the stomach rests. This ensures the supplying of food to all parts of the body. It means a strong, healthy body ready for work and in shape to throw off any disease that attempts to get a hold on it.

Queer Korean Ways.

The women of the community are volatile and vixenish and ever ready to slip a handful of stars into the eyes of a husband or into those of a timid and shrinking tourist should the occasion arise. The women of the upper class are rigorously excluded from masculine eyes, and a hearty vote of thanks is due the committee who featured this unwritten law. The dainty little Japanese musclee, teetering along in sandals or on wooden gets, is a genuine relief to the eye after a view of the uncouth Korean woman.

Until Korean boys are married and acquire the pseudo dignity of the topknot their hair is worn girl fashion in twin plaits down their backs. So much do they resemble girls that it is sometimes difficult to determine the sex, and one is often tempted to unconsciously observe what he is positive are two girls sprawling and viciously fighting in a Korean street.

For the Last Two Days of February

February, the month of bargains, is drawing to a close for 1904. In a few days the great clearing-up month will be put behind us and business will strike its new gait in preparation for the coming change of season.

This store has planned the assembling of the finest stock in its history for the spring and summer trade. The bulk of these goods are now on their way from Great Britain, France, Germany and other European countries, and will soon be here seeking shelf room. In the meantime we are putting forth every effort to clear up all odd lines, broken assortments, special lots and all lines of winter goods in particular.

We are anxious to crowd as much business as possible in the last two business days of the month. The buying inducements offered should attract crowds of buyers. The items on the list are but a few of the many special buying chances that await you here

SATURDAY AND MONDAY

Flannelettes, at 40 yard worth 60—600 yards fine heavy flannelette, 22 in. wide, in large range of fast color stripe patterns, good value at 60 yd. Saturday and Monday.

French Flannel Waists at \$1.19 each 16 only fine pure wool French flannel waists colors cardinal, sky, navy, cream, royal old rose and black, pretty styles, tucked, hemstitched and piped, regular \$2.50 and \$2.75 each clearing Saturday and Monday at

\$1.19

\$3.00 Chemise Curtains at \$3.90 a pair—11 pairs fine heavy chenille curtains, large size, rich tassels, fringe ends in good range of colors, regular \$4.50, \$5.00, \$5.50 and \$6.00 a pair, clearing Saturday and Monday at

\$3.90

4 pcs. Elder Clothing—Extra fine, heavy quality in handsome patterns and colorings, regular 40c to 45c yd. clearing Saturday and Monday at

32

300 yards Heavy Crash Towelling—pure Irish Lanes, full 17 1/2 inches wide special at 10c a yard, Saturday and Monday, price

7 1/2c

Men's Flannelette Shirts—Good dark colored checks and stripes, cut full size, collars attached, special Saturday and Monday each

25c

40 pcs Pure Silk Ribbons—1 1/8 inch wide, rich bright finish in good range of colors, worth 60c a yard, special Saturday and Monday per yard.

30

Another Special Lot of Dress Goods—30 pcs. fine pure wool black and colored dress goods in rich satin cloths, coverlets, 56 inch Homespuns, 48 inch Serges, plain and figured mohair lustrous, canvas suitings, etc., regular 65c, 70c, 90c, and \$1.00 a yard, clearing Saturday and Monday, at

48c

\$1.50, \$5.00, and \$5.50 Dress Skirts at \$3.98 each—Your pick of 18 beautiful dresses and walking skirts in chevrons, homespuns, trices, tweeds, and flake mixtures, cut and trimmed in latest style, assorted lengths, regular \$1.50 to \$3.00 each, clearing Saturday and Monday at

\$3.98

15c, 18c, 20c and 25c Embroideries at 12 1/2c a Yard—400 yards fine Swiss Embroidery, handsome designs, on fine cambric, 4 in. to 10 in. wide, regular 15c, 18c, 20c and 25c values; special Saturday and Monday

12 1/2c

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12 1/2c

Children's Coats at 98c each—12 only children's tweed and eider coats pretty styles, nicely trimmed, assorted colors and sizes, regular \$1.50 to \$2.75 each, clearing Saturday and Monday at

98c

65c and 75c Shawls at 44c each—4 dozen fine knit shawls, honey comb and fancy patterns, colors, white, black, cardinal and grey, worth 65c to 75c each, special Saturday and Monday

44c

Men's Overalls at 50c a pair—5 doz men's heavy cotton made, duck and denim overalls, well made and sewed full range of sizes, worth 65c to 75c a pair, Saturday and Monday, price

50c

40c. Hosiery at 25c. Each—3 doz. Hosiery (Foot-stocks), tapestry carpet covering, square shape, in good colorings, regular 40c each; clearing Saturday and Monday at

25c

Pura—A few choice fur garments in ruffs, boas, scarfs, muffs, etc., which we are clearing at Less than Manufacturers' Prices.

Lace Curtains—10 pairs only, Cream Brussels Net Curtains, superior quality, in rich applique designs, overlook edges, regular \$5.00 to \$6.50 a pair; clearing Saturday and Monday at

\$3.90

3 Pairs Brussels Net Curtains—Handsome designs, regular \$5.00 to \$6.50 a pair; clearing at

\$3.90

25c. Gloves at 15c. a pair—10 doz. pairs full Cashmere, Jersey and Homespun Gloves, plain and fleeced, in black, tans, cream and leather mixtures, regular 20c, 25c and 30c a pair; clearing Saturday and Monday at

15c

Ladies' and Children's Wool Hosiery at 18c. a pair—10 doz. pairs ladies' and children's fine, plain wool and grey rib wool hose, regular 25c a pair; Saturday and Monday price

18c

15c, 18c, 20c and 25c Embroideries at 12 1/2c a Yard—400 yards fine Swiss Embroidery, handsome designs, on fine cambric, 4 in. to 10 in. wide, regular 15c, 18c, 20c and 25c values; special Saturday and Monday

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