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THE HERALD.
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THE DYING PREMIER.
From Ottawa comes the startling intelligence that Sir John Macdonald is at death's door. His condition is pronounced by his physicians to be hopeless. His power of speech has gone, hemorrhage having extended to the brain. At ten o'clock last evening on motion of Sir Hector Langevin seconded by Mr. Laurier, the debate in the house on supply was suspended. The greatest excitement prevails at Ottawa and in all the populous centres of the Dominion. The bulletins received at Fredericton early this morning were to the effect that Sir John was resting easier but that his death was only a question of hours. Probably before THE HERALD reaches its readers the great conservative chief will be no more.

This is not the time to discuss the brilliant career of that statesman who has been for over twenty years the central figure in the politics of Canada. That career was not free from faults, but in the hour of death all must unite in the tribute of sorrow and sympathy. It is not to be wondered at that the death of Sir John produces consternation in the conservative party. It has only been by his matchless sagacity that the incongruous elements of that party have been held together. There are no one in their ranks to take his place.

There can hardly be a doubt that Sir Charles Tupper will be called upon to assume the leadership of the party. He alone of all the conservative leaders has sufficient prestige for the post. But he will not be entirely satisfactory to the conservatives of Quebec and Ontario, and thus the future is one of great uncertainty. It is believed on good constitutional authority that the governor general will be obliged to form a new administration, the members of which would have to appeal to the people.

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT.
A considerable fraction of the lives of the majority of men is consumed in the effort to find work. This applies more especially to laboring men, as also to those who have derived no special advantages in the struggle of life from the circumstance of birth or social position. Sometimes the work for which men seek is not to be had for the seeking and many, for the practical purposes of discussion, are said not to exist. The labor market is overrun already and no more laborers are required. But there are times, though these are not frequent, when the work to be done exceeds the capacity of the laborers who can be found to do it. Those who employ labor expand time and money to find men to do the work at hand.

Again it will happen—and this is so common an occurrence that it may be looked for at all seasons with confidence—that while the laborers to be had do not in numbers exceed the work to be done, yet there will be too many laborers for some lines of industry and for others too few. There is a kind of friction between supply and demand, the result of which is the retarding of the industrial machine by the slow motion of some of its wheels and the great rapidity of others. This industrial friction seems to be inevitable, because it would be manifestly impossible for men to apply themselves in such proportion to numbers to particular lines of work, as to ensure that each line would have at all times available its full complement, and no more, of laborers.

The friction resulting from the inequality of supply and demand might be lessened, however, if the employer of labor always knew where laborers were to be found and if laborers in search of work always knew where work was to be found. The work is waiting; the laborer is waiting, but they do not discover each other. Much is accomplished to remove this difficulty by advertising through the newspapers and otherwise. The employer calls for labor and the laborer calls for employment. Sometimes the call is heard; some times it is not.

It would seem as though modern civilization ought to be equal to the further reduction of this industrial friction by devising means through which at all times the laborer could know immediately where labor, if any there exists, is to be had, and the employer of labor could know immediately where laborers, if any available, are to be found. Much is accomplished already by intelligence offices and labor bureaus but, for some reason, these means have always been found inefficient.

So pressing is the stress of existence upon the masses of the people that humanitarian reasons, if other, should urge those who can give employment to make it known as thoroughly and quickly as possible. The man who has worked needing to be saved should instantly apprise the man who saves. Of the fact, so that the work shall be done at once and so that the workmen shall find employment at the earliest moment. In like manner the housewife who needs domestic help should proclaim her wants immediately.

At present the best available medium through which people can make known their wants is the press. In all the great cities this medium is much employed. It is evident that even in smaller communities its newspapers ought to be utilized to a greater extent than is now the case.

The hoisting of the conservative press that the government would have a majority of forty in the house of commons has fallen with a dull thud to the ground. The division taken on the resolution for the repeal of the Franchise act resulted in 112 yeas and 85 nays, a government majority of 27, which is the smallest recorded for the government on a straight party division for the last 13 years.

COURT OVER.—The St. John circuit court has adjourned, and chief justice Allen and stenographer Hirston have returned home. The work of the session was heavy. Two at least of the cases will be appealed.

Prof. Robertson, of the experimental farm, was in town this week.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE.

The St. John Telegraph quotes fully our article in last week's issue on this subject and makes some appreciative comments. As brother McCready observes, there is an intimate connection between the subject of church attendance and that of the capacity of our ministers to instruct the people—discussed by THE HERALD in a previous number. The concluding remarks of the Telegraph, especially as to the doubts which exist of the sincerity of the orthodox pulpiter, in the views he presents, are to the point and we reproduce them in full:

"As not all of our city ministers may see THE HERALD, we reproduce these views for their advantage and edification. Here the ministry are fairly well paid as salaries go, but there is something like the same disproportion between the sexes attending religious service as is noted at Fredericton. It is probably not so bad in St. John. But we venture in all humility to add one or two points to the discussion. Possibly the male element sometimes excuses themselves from attendance at church because it is by their earnings that the monetary needs of all churches and charities are mainly supplied. We need not pause to expose the fallacy by which many men save their consciences for non-attendance in that their wives, sisters and children deposit the paternal moneys in the numerous collection plates. Yet possibly this thought has found a place in some minds than would willingly confess it. There is another reason which is more frequently expressed. The fact is that a large proportion of men have become doubters as to some of the doctrines and dogmas laid down in the creeds. Their daily thoughts are more busied with the free discussion of religious topics in the magazines and reviews than with the constrained and restricted utterances of the minister. They debate among themselves, and sometimes compel the minister to discuss with them, topics he would hardly care to touch upon in his Sunday deliverance. They complain that the pulpit of to-day is mainly silent toward subjects which were held in first prominence a quarter of a century ago and yet the silence is unexplained. There is a growing suspicion or belief that ministers are themselves more or less in doubt of what their predecessors earnestly believed and most confidently proclaimed. And there are not a few of these who, while almost questioning the sincerity of the pulpit, themselves strive to live honestly and purely as did he whom the laicure has immortalized."

Perplexed in faith but pure in deeds, At last he beat his music out, There lives more faith in honest doubt, Believe me, than in half the creeds.

This class is now too large and too intelligent to be longer ignored by the pulpit. But in what sermon do we hear even a condescending recognition of honest doubt? It may be present to the mind of the minister, but does it find public expression? "The thoughts of men are widened with the process of the suns," probably more than the thoughts of women have been as yet, and the pulpit, if it would retain its hold upon the male mind, must deal sometimes, at least, with those religious topics which occupy the minds of thinking men, and must discuss them with fearless candor, with undoubted sincerity and untrammelled by creed restraints."

THE MODERN BRITISH SOLDIER.
The prospect of another little war in South Africa, between the sturdy Boers and the British, is not a pleasant one for admirers of the latter to contemplate. The Boers are the finest bush fighters in the world, crafty in the ways of the chase, inured to the manifold dangers of forest and plain, and able to handle the rifle with consummate skill. Against their manly and their peculiar tactics in fighting, an equal number of British soldiers would stand no show.

Herein lies at the present time the great weakness of the British army. The British soldier is not a pleasant one for admirers of the latter to contemplate. The Boers are the finest bush fighters in the world, crafty in the ways of the chase, inured to the manifold dangers of forest and plain, and able to handle the rifle with consummate skill. Against their manly and their peculiar tactics in fighting, an equal number of British soldiers would stand no show.

They are not likely to be of benefit for the reason that the battles of the future will be fought at long range. It will be found impossible for human beings to exist in conflict at close quarters against the storm of missiles which will be thrown by modern firearms. The bayonet must become obsolete for civilized warfare. Cavalry, in a large measure, will cease to be the important arm of the service in the battles of the future that it has been in those of the past. The fortunes of war will depend upon the riflemen and the artillery. One hundred men who are able to average "inners" over the Queen's ranges will be more than a match for five hundred men who are indifferent shots.

It is passing strange in view of past experience, as well as of the outlook for the future, that no attempt is being made to make an efficient riflemen of the British soldier. To train an army how to shoot would be costly, but not so costly as the loss of a battle or the failure of a campaign. England's policy for many years has been to have a small but very efficient standing army. There is no way in which that efficiency can be so promoted as by making each bullet do what it has heretofore taken ten bullets to accomplish.

"STARTLING FIGURES."
Under this heading the reverend editor of the Methodist remarks that only 450 persons have been converted in the entire N. B. and P. E. L. conference during the past year, as the result of the labors of eighty-three ministers and many hundreds of teachers and lay workers. This showing is pronounced to be "very unsatisfactory." The editor thinks the causes of this stagnation are: the use of manuscript in preaching; undue attention by preachers to the intellectual side of man's nature; too much deference to the so-called cultured class; the pushing of men of means to the front; the relaxing of discipline and the inadequate pay of preachers.

In some respects brother Wilson is on the right track. He is not right when he rebukes the "so-called cultured class," and urges the preachers to dispense with intellectual preaching. Fortunately, or perhaps unfortunately, the cultured class is no longer a handful. It constitutes a very large proportion of the average church audience. If it were withdrawn from the church the preacher would be apt to keenly feel the loss of that inspiration that now comes to him from the presence of a multitude of attentive, intelligent faces in the pews. The cultured class cannot be rebuked by means of dramatic exhortation. Dramatic preaching, and

LONDON SOCIETY INTERESTED.

In the Prince of Wales and the Baccarat Case.
LONDON, May 27.—After no end of shilly shallying and irritating delay on the part of Sir William Gordon-Cumming's lawyers, the Prince of Wales has at last been able to secure a memorandum of the leading questions to be asked him at the trial of the baccarat scandal in June. The memorandum dispels all hope that Gordon-Cumming will desert even in the slightest degree from exposing the gambling adventures of H. R. H., or of any of the social satellites who revolve in his exclusive set. It is now clearly settled that if Gordon-Cumming must go under he might as drag down many high and mighty names with him. Mrs. Arthur Wilson and her friends have made every effort to spare the Prince of Wales the ordeal of the witness-box, but Gordon-Cumming's lawyers are determined to call him anyway, if only to testify to the honest-gambler's good character as a honest-gambler before the baccarat incident. It was expected that Gordon-Cumming was in any event disposed to spare the Prince of Wales from being subjected to any awkward questioning about that gambling scandal, but this hope has been finally dispelled by the formal note of probable questions which was submitted to the Prince of Wales this week. A reliable authority says that these notes consist of a very long series of inquiries concerning gambling games in aristocratic houses, in which the prince took a personal part, in company with Gordon-Cumming, giving names and places and winding up with a general question as to whether the Prince of Wales at any of these card parties ever heard Gordon-Cumming's play impugned. This list in the most innocent way imaginable casts a dreadful light on the fashion in which England's probable future king has been in the habit of passing his time in the homes of his friends.

Extreme Wilson partisans are at the moment framing this indictment against the prince is to put pressure on him to induce the Wilsons to withdraw and apologize for the imputations cast upon Gordon-Cumming, and thus save the matter from coming into court at all. But this result is scarcely possible at the stage which the litigation has now reached. Despite everything the Wilsons are doing, the society's boycott of Mrs. Wilson continues. The only way she can regain her social position is by proving a crushing case against Gordon-Cumming. It is said that Mrs. Wilson and her daughter can swear absolutely to two distinct acts of the Prince of Wales which she can do, and which she has been unable to corroborate by the other defendants, Gordon-Cumming, on his side, will, of course, utterly deny everything, and as he is not only a man of keen intellect, but of immense courage and nerve, his demeanor in the box and his brilliant career as a soldier will undoubtedly tell strongly with the jury. Society people have applied by hundreds for special tickets of admission to the court, but chief justice Coleridge, who is alwaysrotcholy on the subject of the law, has declined to make any special court arrangements, either for the press or for the public. He has signified that admission will be governed by the "first come, first served" principle.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER'S POSITION.
[Toronto Globe.]
As will be seen by a special cable despatch Goldwin Smith has taken a hand in the Tupper-Tyler controversy to the extent of questioning the high commissioner's most confidently proclaimed. And there are not a few of these who, while almost questioning the sincerity of the pulpit, themselves strive to live honestly and purely as did he whom the laicure has immortalized."

A REMARKABLE FAST.
INDEPENDENCE, Mo., May 28.
Lizzie Meader at her home in this city, has just concluded a 56 days' fast. About six months ago she became very sick and kept on growing weaker until the evening of March 20. Her mother was the act of administering a simple medicine, when the girl stiffened and without a sound fell to the floor and closed her eyes, and until last Saturday had never moved a muscle, except to frown or look pleased as a method of expressing joy or no.

RIOT IN A CIRCUS TENT.
A Hundred Shots Fired and Clubs Freely Used.
MAHANOV CITY, Pa., May 27.—This city was the scene of a terrible riot last evening caused, it is alleged, by the employees of Wallace's circus firing into a part of the audience that remained in the show after the performance. Patrick Quinn from Shenandoah was fatally wounded and several others hurt, perhaps fatally.

EVIDENCE FROM THE GRAVE.
Unpaid Note was Sewed in Lining of Burial Garment, it is Alleged.
NEW HAVEN, CONN., May 28th.—A queer story has been published in a local paper to the effect that by the opening of a grave involving respectable parties who had denied its existence, and says the identity of the principal will create a sensation when the case comes into court.

ROUND THE WORLD.
The Week's Events in Brief.—The Cream of our Exchanges.
The price of beef in St. John is the highest known for years.
London's assessment has increased this year nearly eight hundred thousand dollars.
The Brazilian government has decided that in future all custom duties must be paid in gold.
R. H. Armstrong, of Newcastle, N. B., has won a three thousand dollar prize in a Montreal Derby sweepstake.
A Boston judge has decided that it is lawful for a man to kiss his wife very affectionately on a public street.
Baron Hirsch has completed the purchase of an immense tract of land in Uruguay upon which he will form a Jewish colony.
Chinch bugs have appeared in the wheat fields around Blue Springs, Neb. This is the finest part of the wheat area in the state.
The Pope has ordered that all newspaper comments on his latest encyclical, especially those of British and American papers, be sent to him.
There are about 1,600 teachers engaged in teaching in New Brunswick. Of this number only 100 change every term from one district to another.
A despatch from Buenos Ayres says: A revolution has broken out in the province of Cordoba. The insurgents have cut the telegraph poles.
The Italian government has given an order to the Armistice for the construction of eight eighty-ton guns and fifty smaller guns and missiles.
A Berlin correspondent telegraphs to London that terrible misery exists among the refugee Russian Jews who are traversing the city and becoming a public scandal.
The St. Stephen nickel mines are attracting much attention, and are receiving frequent inspection from prominent men. It is believed that they contain vast undeveloped wealth.
Capt. W. H. Steeves, of Hillsboro, has a bunch of timothy and couch grass, some blades of which measure 16 inches in length. The captain facetiously asks: "How is this for high?"
The treaty between Portugal and the Congo Free state has been signed. Most of the Congo's African claims are allowed, but Portugal receives fertile territory on the west coast of Africa.
An Indian was run over and killed Wednesday night near Roxbury, on the I. C. R. His body was badly mangled. Two or three trains had run over the body before it was discovered.
The London correspondent of the Bermuda Royal Gazette says: "It is rumored that the Grenadier guards, when they leave Bermuda, will not return home, but will be transferred to Halifax."
A despatch from Winnipeg says:—The hand of a child was found in the stomach of a catfish caught in the Red River and another catfish was caught with another hand in its stomach, apparently belonging to the same child.
The ministers of Russia are preparing a scheme to replace the jury system by judges appointed by the judicial administration. They also propose to abolish the elective character in the appointment of a justice of the peace.
It is reported that the Russian government is preparing for a wholesale series of domiciliary police visits throughout St. Petersburg and its suburbs and that all persons residing in the city will be imprisoned and conveyed later on to the Hebrew pale.
Miss May Shilton, a school teacher of Lincoln county, Va., was capsize, along with three others, while out in a boat the other day. The brave young woman was the only one of the party who could swim, and she rescued the other three by swimming ashore with two men and her female companion.
Sir John Macdonald's health is so precarious that two physicians from the faculty of McGill college were summoned to the capital Thursday to consult with Sir John's medical adviser and to certify that a bulletin has been issued stating that they have enjoyed complete rest from all official work.
The Christian missions at Nankin, China, have been attacked and pillaged by natives. The inmates narrowly escaped with their lives. The anti-freemasonry movement, which is fomented by secret societies, has caused alarm at the treaty ports. The government is anxious, but is unable to suppress the movement.
An alarming epidemic of grip is sweeping over Newfoundland. Hundreds of people are affected, the doctors are unable to attend to the victims, and in some cases the doctors themselves are very sick. The mortality at Burin, Placentia and Fortuna bay is really terrible, and grief prevails in almost every household.
The St. James Gazette says the fact that Bramwell Booth, son of General Booth of the Salvation Army, is a creditor in \$10,000 to a bankrupt stock exchange named Taylor, suggests stock exchange gambling upon the part of Mr. Booth. The Gazette on these grounds demands that an explanation be given.
A Zanzibar despatch says:—On the northern shores of lake Tanganyika only ruined villages and the corpses of natives, half devoured by wild beasts, are left to attest to the raids made by Arab slave dealers. A peaceful population of 10,000 persons have succumbed to the cruelties of the Arabs or escaped to the forests.
The bishop of London, the right Hon. and right Rev. Frederick Temple received a mysterious letter last week warning him that an attempt would be made to assassinate him at the ordinance service held in St. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday last. The bishop placed the letter in the hands of the police, but the writer has not yet been discovered.
By an order-in-council, four hundred and eighty fathers or mothers of twelve living children have been awarded one hundred acres of land, which with the original concession of 20,000 acres makes 68,000 acres now conceded. Among the happy ones are Mr. F. X. Lemieux, M. P. for Lewis, the well-known criminal lawyer, and quite a good percentage of English, Irish and Scotch Canadians.
The Queen has decided that the Duke of Fife's daughter, the recently born granddaughter of the Prince of Wales, is to have only rank and title to which she is entitled as the daughter of a Duke. The Queen came to this decision in spite of the fact that the legal advisers of the crown concurred in the opinion that the Prince of Wales' granddaughter should rank as a princess of the blood royal. The Queen's decision is final.
The Rome correspondent of the Times in an article on the financial and political situation in the Italian Kingdom, declares that constitutionalism is becoming gradually reduced to a degraded condition and that the Italian provinces and communes are preying upon the state and slowly driving it into bankruptcy. Sentiments of patriotism and devotion, he says, are giving way to impulses of miserable personal ambition and to indifference to the national vitality. The government has lost control of the chamber of deputies.

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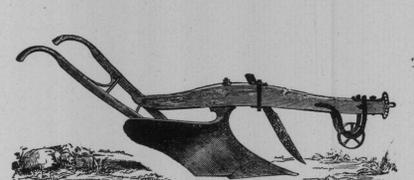
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