

EVENTS

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The Debate on the Address.

THE forms of parliament require a Speech from the Throne, written out by the Government, and a Reply from Parliament endorsing the Speech. All other proceedings are suspended pending the adoption of the reply. That reply was moved on Monday in the House of Commons by Mr. E. M. Macdonald, member for Pictou, N.S., and seconded by Mr. George Parent, member for Montmorency, Que.

Mr. Macdonald's speech was most admirable, both as to the matter and manner of delivery. Its keynote was Canada, her unity, development, and great future. "Canada first, last and forever", he put it. He deprecated hasty schemes for the solution of the Imperial problems and declared against the appropriation of our taxes unless they were spent under our supervision. Naturally Mr. Macdonald boasted of coming from a province which returned its whole quota of members to support the Liberal leader. He closed with an appeal for unity and progress.

Mr. Parent is the youngest member of



SIR WILFRID LAURIER
The leader of the House

the new House. He was born in 1879 and is therefore only 25 years of age. He made an eloquent and patrician speech quite suited to a federal assembly.

Hon. Geo. E. Foster was allotted the position of first Opposition critic although he jocularly alluded to himself as a new member, having been out of the House last parliament. After an Imperial unity reference, coupled with a welcome to the new Governor-General, Mr. Foster acknowledged that the country was prosperous but



J. G. TURRIFF, M. P.

Appointed Liberal Whip for the West.

claimed that the foundations of that prosperity were laid by the Conservatives. For instance, he declared, every line of transportation now existing in the West, existed when the Liberals entered office in 1896 and were due to the Conservatives. Mr. Foster forgot that the first line of all into the Canadian Northwest was built by the Mackenzie Administration. He attributed the victory of the Government party in the recent elections to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Co. in return for a rich franchise. Public works, he also said was the reason for the victory. In a word the

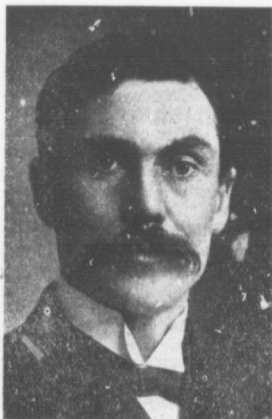
acting Conservative leader told us that Canadians could be induced by bribery to support the worst party. He went on to accuse the Quebec Liberals of raising racial and religious cries in order to carry county elections. After noting what was not in the Speech he concluded an hour's address by asking that guns should be mounted at our ports and preparations made to meet an enemy.

The Prime Minister, in replying to Mr. Foster, treated that gentleman with some scorn by not choosing to notice many of the points in the speech of the member for North Toronto. They had, he declared heard that same speech many times in the parliament which lasted from 1896 to 1900. He had hoped that during Mr. Foster's four years interregnum the hon. gentleman would have learned something, but he regretted that Mr. Foster was a Bourbon who learned nothing and forgot nothing. He was evidently smarting under defeat. It was, he continued, too late in the day to accuse the Liberal party in the Province of Quebec of making appeals to race and creed. Mr. Foster had read an extract from a copy of a small paper called *Le Courier de Montmagny*, and charged that Mr. Casgrain had been defeated in Montmorency, and Mr. Lavergne elected in Montmagny by racial and religious appeals, on the strength of the appeal in this one paper. Sir Wilfrid had two replies to this: first, that one swallow does not make a summer, and, second, that the paper quoted was published in neither Montmagny nor Montmorency, but in Beausé. Further, that the paper was one opposing him personally.

In reply to the criticism that there was nothing in the Speech from the Throne, the premier said that conciseness was a merit and not a drawback, and that in former days the effort was to conceal a paucity of policy under a verbosity of words. He announced that the only measure the government proposed for this session was one granting autonomy to the Northwest Territories by erecting them into two provinces, a measure so important that it would take up most of their time. He concluded with a eulogy of Earl Grey, the new Governor General.

If Sir Wilfrid's speech was somewhat disappointing it was hardly his fault as Mr. Foster's speech was perhaps the poorest performance the House has witnessed for many a day, and there was really nothing for the prime minister to answer. He could hardly be expected to waste time repelling the charge that the people of Canada had been purchased wholesale to vote for the Liberal candidates. Mr. Foster even discussed the Auditor and the Audit Act, a subject of which the House was heartily tired, in the first place, the policy of the government had been declared last

eight years the Administration has held office when Mr. Frster himself actually fobbed the question for the same period? Are the people expected to hear a rehash eternally of the old United States reciprocity policy of the Liberal party, even now that its chief exponent is no longer in the elective Chamber, and anyway, when the Liberals have carried three general elections since that policy was propounded fourteen or fifteen years ago? If the net result of the Opposition's recitation of the songs sung by the Liberals when in opposition has resulted in prompting the people to return the Liberals to power with increased majority is it not time for a change in the programme? It is well known that this is the chief cause of the split in the present Opposition which is divided between the younger men and the old men, meaning, by the old men the Bourbons who can't forget and never learn. The people of Canada are taxed more for railway charges, telephone charges, telegraph tools than for customs taxes. Could the Opposition not, for instance, forestall the Liberals by declaring for government ownership of the telegraphs, which is as feasible as government ownership of railways is infeasible? The progressive though not socialistic legislation of other countries might be studied with advantage. The Opposition will learn that the Conservative half of the country expect some diet more wholesome than old eggs.



WALTER SCOTT, M.P.

Who was offered position of Whip by Liberal caucus.

session, in the second place, and the people had been appealed to by the Auditor himself, in the third place. Are we never to pass on to anything new? Why does not the Opposition bring forward some substantial reform that will attract the attention of the electors? Do they expect to listen with continued patience to Mr. Foster's charge that the Fast Atlantic service had not been established during the



HON. G. E. FOSTER

Acting Leader of the Opposition.

EVENTS

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ARNOTT J. MAGURN, Editor

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THE Christmas of 1904, says Black and White, will long be memorable for the terrible visitation of fog by which it was signalized. Day after day London lay under an impenetrable pall, that converted it into a "city of dreadful night," while its citizens were compelled to live in a darkness that not only could be felt, but that had to be breathed. Happily the plague—as grievous almost as any inflicted on Egypt—was removed on Christmas Day, when glimpses of the sky and even the sun were vouchsafed to suffering eyes. But the inconvenience and injury sustained before the welcome relief came are not easily to be exaggerated. The direct pecuniary loss to trade from the interruption of Christmas shopping just at the time when it should become most brisk, was enormous, but hardly greater than the indirect loss caused by the complete dislocation of the social and commercial economy at a time of the highest pressure. It is small comfort, too, to know that on the other side of the account are to be set the enormous earnings of the gas and electric light companies, to whom a week of fog is a princely revenue. To anyone compelled by unhappy fate to go about the City and West End last week, it must seem wonderful indeed that so few serious accidents have been recorded. With heavy traffic groping its way blindly along crowded thoroughfares, disaster must have been imminent in a thousand forms; while for a pedestrian to cross the main thoroughfares was an exploit as perilous as a forlorn hope. At the Marble Arch, for example, many persons wishing to pass from the north to the south side of Oxford street deliberately chose to journey in the Tube from the Marble Arch to the Bond Street station, rather than attempt a direct crossing. Not less remarkable than the avoidance of serious accident has been the ab-

sence of that crime which might be expected to flourish in circumstances which deprived property and the person of their best safeguard. It is not very pleasant to reflect how very much London lay at the mercy of lawlessness during a great part of that week. Scientific investigation has just determined that fog is for London not one of the preventable ills; but at least one of the most distressing qualities of that fog—its sulphurous impurities, the inhalation of which produce such smarting eyes and aching heads—is preventable, as soon as London has realized the folly of allowing a million domestic chimneys to discharge the unconsumed smoke into the air.

ENGLISH journals think they can read the Tokyo mind as affected by the present juncture of affairs on land and sea. The London Statist, one of the competent students of the subject, thinks "there will have to be another campaign," and that "the Japanese Government will be able largely to reinforce Marshal Oyama." Oyama will therefore be numerically superior by this time. He can move his forces freely because the theatre of war is frozen over. Should Kuropatkin find his communications threatened, he will retreat, "possibly as far as Harbin." "In any event, we may reasonably conclude that the Russians will not acknowledge themselves utterly defeated until General Kuropatkin has been compelled to evacuate the most fertile portions of Manchuria." Then and not before, as this authority discerns the facts, "it would clearly be the wise course for the Russian Government to make peace."

SEVERAL correspondents have written to Southern newspapers advising the farmers to burn a part of their cotton in order to raise the market price, and a circular making the same proposal is said to have been widely distributed. During the past month the Charleston News and Courier printed a letter calling upon the men of the South to "rise up and on the first of January burn one million bales of cotton. If that doesn't remedy the matter," con-

tinued the writer, "burn another million bales!" So far as can be ascertained, the net result of these inflammatory exhortations up to date has been the burning of one cotton bale in Clay County, Ga. This single episode, however, with its accretion of legend and exaggeration has served to start a spirited discussion throughout the country. The "Wall Street Journal" comments indignantly on what it regards as an "immoral proceeding," concluding: "The incident is most depressing to those who realize the absolute dependence of free institutions upon a sound public opinion, especially in the matter of morals."

THE most remarkable feature of world politics, asserts the Berlin Kranz Zeitung, is the way the United States is made to play second fiddle to England. Washington says a writer in the organ of the Foreign Office in Berlin, is becoming more and more an echo of London. The phenomenon, thinks this authority, is very satisfactory to the British Government, which takes care never to push the pecuniary claims of British subjects against the United States in a way calculated to annoy or embarrass the American authorities. Indeed, the old saying that no Englishman abroad can be wronged with impunity because the flag protects him must in the United States be pronounced obsolete. England is too eager to win the favor of the American republic to carry any claim of the sort to extremes.

THE session of the Austrian parliament was brought to an end amid riotous scenes. When Count Tisza attempted to address the House he was howled down by the Opposition with cries of "Haynan"—in delicate allusion to the Austrian General who crushed out the last Hungarian rising with such brutality. Count Apponyi has now definitely joined the Nationalist or Independence Party under Kossuth, the able and fiery son of the great champion of the revolutionary struggles. Parliament was dissolved by the King in person at the Hofburg. The speech of the Emperor, as King of Hungary, passed off

without any incident, as the Opposition, instead of attending to interrupt, absented themselves.

THE London Speaker of Jan. 7th contains the following:—The parliamentary paper on the Colonies and Preferential trade issued this week by Mr. Lyttelton in fulfilment of his promise, is sorry reading for the Protectionists. This paper is the result of the circular addressed by the Colonial Office last May to Colonial Governors asking them to furnish copies of any resolutions passed since 1890 by Colonial Legislatures in favour of Preferential Trade relations between the colonies and the United Kingdom. In Australia there have been no resolutions. In New Zealand there has been an Act giving preference, but Mr. Seddon described the effect of this Act, as the Westminster Gazette reminds us, as "not to increase imports from the mother country, but to check imports from alien countries." The most promising resolution comes from Canada, but it is now twelve years old, and the preference which Canada has since given to the mother country was not regarded by Mr. Chamberlain as demanding any concession in return. In Bermuda a committee has been appointed to consider the matter, but the Governor warns us that the House of Assembly has in no sense committed itself. This return shows how extravagant it is to talk of colonial offers. But an even more remarkable argument against the Protectionist's case is the statement which the Standard announces that Mr. H. A. Grainger, the Agent-General for South Australia, made to one of the representatives: "If England does not shortly enter into a preferential arrangement with us, I am inclined to believe that Australia will make a Commercial Treaty with some other Power. I, at all events, should favor such a proceeding." If the mere discussion of Preferential Trade relations can elicit from a colonial agent such a threat to the mother country, what acrimonies will be manufactured when the various parties begin to arrange these difficult bargains? If we are to be hectored into an immediate and inconsiderate composition, the consequent

transactions are not likely to promote peace and good will between the mother country and the colonies. Mr. Grainger is an advertisement of the danger of his cause."

GENERAL STOESEL'S last despatch to the Tsar, dated January 1, gives some facts about the desperate straits to which the garrison of Port Arthur was reduced before it surrendered. Only a quarter of the garrison, and one half of these sick and wounded, remained to defend eighteen miles of fortifications. The men, the General concludes, are reduced to shadows. There is something primitive, almost dog-like in his prayer for forgiveness after so long an endurance which has touched the heart of the world. Accounts of the number of the prisoners who have fallen into the hands of the Japanese have varied greatly. They are said by General Nogi to amount to 48,000 men, including about 16,000 sick and wounded. Scarcy was one of the chief causes of sickness. It is impossible to estimate accurately as yet the losses caused by the siege on either side. It is probable that those of the Japanese, whose attacks were often pressed with a desperate bravery of which perhaps no European troops would be capable, exceed even those of the Russians.

ONE of those esteemed "life-long Liberals" in Ottawa who is promoting the election of the Conservative candidates caused a rebellion among the workers and division among the Conservative Executive which held an emergency meeting on Tuesday evening to try and restore peace. The workers went on strike Monday afternoon and locked up the committee rooms because the manager of the campaign literature wanted to employ low-priced girl labor instead of employing good voters at good pay. This, they say, was only the culmination of the disaffection caused by the convention managers going outside of the party for a candidate who persists in being so "honest" and "straight" that he leans over. The situation in Ottawa looks exceedingly like the return of both Liberal candidates, whose straightness and honesty no one questions. And if Ottawa elects two supporters of the Hon. G. W. Ross it means that he has the province.

THE Toronto Telegram of the 16th inst. returns to its attack on Mr. R. L. Borden as the choice of the "Conservatives for leader." The Telegram is one of the most determined Conservative papers and, probably, Mr. Borden is not fierce enough or truculent enough to suit a paper whose proprietor when occupying a seat in the House of Commons called the chief directors of the C. P. K. murderers because two workmen died of disease out on some construction work under contract.

"OREGON" is the title of a handsomely illustrated 96 page booklet, descriptive of the resources and industries of the great State of the North Pacific coast. There are chapters also, on the States of Washington, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Several pages are devoted to the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition, which will be held at Portland in 1905 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the exploration of the Oregon Country by Captains Lewis and Clark, commanding a government expedition which had been commissioned by President Jefferson. The Oregon Country comprise all of the present States of Oregon, Washington and Idaho and the western parts of Montana and Wyoming. Its area when explored in 1805-06 was 307,000 square miles, nearly equal to that of Italy and Spain combined. Its population in 1850 was 13,300, while in 1904 it is 1,500,000. In 1850 it produced 2,760,000 bushels of grain, and in 1900 over 64,000,000 bushels. Its manufactures have grown from \$2,250,000 in 1850 to \$300,000,000 in 1904. It now annually adds to the Nation's store of wealth \$70,000,000 in gold, silver, copper and lead. Portland, the principal city of Oregon, is shown to have a population of 125,000 as against 821 in 1850. One of the principal purposes of the Lewis and Clark Exposition is to bring the United States and Oriental countries into closer trade relations. The booklet which is here briefly reviewed may be obtained free of charge by addressing Henry E. Reed, Secretary Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition, Stearns Building, Portland, Oregon.

MR. CHARLES MARCIL, the member for Bonaventure, was on Tuesday elected Deputy-Speaker of the House of Commons. The selection meets with general approval. Mr. Marcil is not only well qualified for the important position but, in addition, he has earned it by hard work in the chair during the last parliament. The duties of the Deputy-Speaker are onerous.



CHARLES MARCIL, M.P.

Elected, Jan. 17, Deputy-Speaker of the House of Commons

He is the presiding officer in the absence of the Speaker, and Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House when estimates and bills are being put through. Great tact and infinite patience are required in committee and these qualities especially distinguish the talented member for Bonaventure. He is a working newspaper man and has for years discharged the duties of Ottawa correspondent for Montreal papers. In

this way he is more than ordinarily informed as to parliamentary proceedings and public affairs. As a public speaker Mr. Marcil has for a long time been in demand, and on the invitation of many of the Ontario members he has visited a good many of the Ontario cities and counties. He was only the other day paid the compliment of being invited to address the Canadian Club of Ottawa where he delivered a patriotic speech.

DR. GOLDWIN SMITH writes in the Sun as follows, concerning a subject to which Mr. Foster alluded in the debate on the Address:—Let Canada do whatever is honorable and right towards the Mother Country. In this we are all agreed, though some of us may be more strongly impressed than others with the fact that the mass of our people are here not to realize the dream of Imperialist ambition but to make their own bread. However, if there is to be a compact with the Imperial government on the subject of armaments, military or naval, let the terms of the contract be clear. If they are not, there are sure to be heart-burnings hereafter. What is to be Canada's position? Is it to be that of an ally or that of a vassal? Is she, when she contributes, to have a voice in questions of peace and war, or is she to be at the beck of the Imperial Government without being consulted about the necessity of the war, perhaps even without being fully informed of its cause? If Canada contributes to Imperial defence, will the Empire in turn pledge itself to the defence of Canada? These questions and the amount of the contingent, military or naval, cannot be left to be settled by chance amidst the disturbance and heat which prelude the outbreak of war. As a recruiting ground, military or naval, Canada is of course always open to Great Britain, and perhaps in the present difficulty of recruiting the British army she could not practically render a much better service.

Confidence in Leader Borden.

AT a caucus of Liberal Conservative senators and members of the House of Commons held at Ottawa on January 10, it was unanimously decided not to accept the resignation of Mr. R. L. Borden the leader of the Opposition, and a telegram was sent to him in the name of the party urging him to come to Ottawa at once to arrange to resume his duties as leader.

The meeting was largely attended, over 50 out of 74 Conservative members of the House of Commons being present and some twenty senators, including such as Howell, Carling, Deboucherville, Perley and Josiah Wood. Senator Deboucherville occupied the chair.

George Taylor, chief whip, acted as secretary. He read a number of letters from absent members all urging that Mr. Borden should be asked to continue as leader. He then read the following letter from Mr. Borden:

"To the Conservative members of the Senate and the House of Commons assembled in caucus:

"Four years ago you bestowed upon me the highest mark of your confidence when you required me to undertake the arduous duty and grave responsibility of leading the party in the House of Commons. To the best of my ability I have endeavored ever since to justify that confidence. I gratefully acknowledge how much you have done to strengthen my hands, and I am deeply sensible that, without your loyal and generous aid freely accorded on all occasions my task would have been infinitely more onerous. We still firmly believe that the policy which we advocated and the principles which we upheld in the recent contest were truly to the best interests of Canada, and although we may regret temporary defeat, yet we do not for one moment regret the stand which we took upon

the great questions of the day. Under the conditions which have ensued, it is necessary that you shall choose another leader. My resignation has already been given informally. I now place it unreservedly in your hands with every assurance of my hearty co-operation in the ranks of the party. Let me add that the happy remembrance of your loyal support and comradeship will always abide with me.

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) "R. L. BORDEN.

Halifax, N.S., Jan. 7, 1905."

Mr. Haggart moved, seconded by Mr. Roche, that the caucus decline to accept Mr. Borden's resignation, but that he be requested to attend an early meeting of the caucus for the purpose of hearing the views of his supporters as to why he should retain the leadership of the party.

This resolution was supported by a dozen gentlemen and carried unanimously on a standing vote.

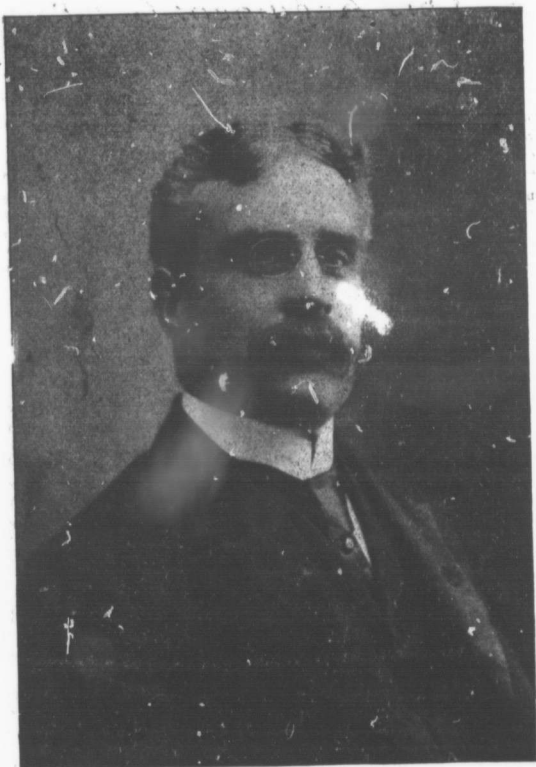
It was decided, on the motion of Messrs. Bergeron and Sproule, that a senator or privy councillor should lead the opposition until such time as Mr. Borden takes his seat in the house. This means that Hon. Geo. E. Foster will be acting leader.

A committee was appointed to convey the wishes of the caucus to Mr. Borden. They met immediately after the adjournment and sent the following telegraphic message to Mr. Borden in Halifax:

"The caucus of Conservative senators and members unanimously decline to accept your resignation of the leadership, and, in the name of the party in the Senate, in the House of Commons and throughout the Dominion, respectfully request you to retain it. They desire you to attend an adjourned meeting of the caucus at Ottawa at the earliest possible moment."

The telegram was signed by all the members of the committee.

EVENTS.



MR. R. L. BORDEN, K C.

Again elected as leader of the federal Conservative party

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Is This Argument Good?

TWO years ago the governor of Pennsylvania secured the enactment of a law providing for the punishment of newspapers guilty of "negligence in the ascertainment of facts," and awarding damages for "injuries to business reputation" and "physical and mental suffering" caused by pictures, cartoons, headlines, etc. He was mercilessly satirized for his championship of this measure and the law has remained unenforced on the statute books. Nothing daunted, he formulates, in his latest message to the Pennsylvania legislature, a new plan for "muzzling" a disrespectful press. He leads up to his argument by citing the case of an offended citizen who recently shot and killed an editor, was tried for murder and acquitted," adding the comment: "Lawlessness is the inevitable result of the failure of the law to correct existing evils." He says further:

"Under the English common law, when a woman habitually made outcries of scandals upon the public highways to the annoyance of the neighborhood, she was held to be a common scold and a public

nuisance. Anybody may abate a public nuisance, and she was punished by being ducked in a neighboring pond.

"I suggest the application of this legal principle to the habitual publication of scandalous untruths.

"Let the persons (say six persons, citizens of Pennsylvania, harmed or annoyed) present a petition to the attorney general setting forth the facts, and if, in his judgment, they show a case of habitual falsehood, defamation and scandal, so as to constitute a public nuisance, let him file a bill in the Court of Common Pleas having jurisdiction, asking for an abatement of the nuisance, and let the court have authority, upon sufficient proof, to make such abatement by suppression of the journal so offending, in whole or in part as may be necessary."

The Philadelphia North American (Ind. Rep.) against which this proposal is known to be specially aimed, retorts by proposing a "law to suppress nuisances in office who bring contempt on the State."



When is Alcohol a Food?

THE numerous recent researches on the food value of alcohol are interpreted by The Lancet as signifying that up to a certain point that substance is a food, while above that point it is poison. The writer goes on to say:

"To draw a sharp line of demarcation which shall define for all persons when its action as a food exactly ceases and when its effect as a poison exactly begins is barely possible. The tissues of different individuals differ greatly in regard to their oxidizing capacity, and it is a matter of common observation that there are persons who can tolerate more alcohol than others without apparent injury to health. Again, occupation and environment very materially affect the powers of the body to assimilate alcohol. Thus men who pursue an active life in the open air are able to indulge in alcohol more freely than are those who are engaged in sedentary occupation. It is all a question of functional activity, of the condition of the tissue to oxidize the combustible material presented to it.

"It has been conjectured that the oxidizing power of the tissues, over alcohol in particular, must have steadily diminished since the time when our ancestors drank their three bottles of port with impunity. Such a performance at any rate is seldom heard of nowadays. The quantity of alcohol imbibed in such an exploit must obviously be greatly in excess of the limit of the body's oxidizing capacity, as deduced from scientific experiment. One and a half fluid ounces of pure alcohol is the utmost quantity that can be completely oxidized as food in the human body per diem according to experimental observation. A quantity ingested additional to that amount, therefore may escape oxidation, incomplete products of combustion, so

to speak, may be formed, and toxic effects ensue.

"It is therefore interesting to consider what amounts of the ordinary alcoholic drinks contain this permissible allowance of alcohol—say, one and a half fluid ounces—which is assumed to be the extreme limit of the oxidizing power of the body. Taking brandy and whiskey to contain 30 per cent by volume of alcohol, three fluid ounces or six tablespoonfuls of these spirits would contain the maximum allowable daily dose. This would be the equivalent of about two glasses of brandy and whisky and water per diem, each containing three tablespoonfuls of spirit and a half pint of water, to exceed which would be to risk a toxic result. Port and sherry, with their average of 20 per cent of alcohol, would contain the permissible amount of alcohol in seven ounces or a little over two wineglassfuls, assuming each to contain about three fluid ounces. The limited quantity of white wines, claret or champagne with 10 per cent of alcohol, would be 15 fluid ounces, while one and a half fluid ounces, of alcohol represent about 30 fluid ounces or a pint and a half of table beer. The question is, however, complicated in the case of wines and beer, because these contain nutritive matter in addition. Apart from the fact that to avoid injury to health the amount of alcohol consumed per diem should be limited strictly to one and a half fluid ounces, it can be regarded for practical purposes as a food in the sense of a true reparative. It is at best a producer of heat and energy, and then frequently at the expense of healthy cellular activity, while its cost from the point of view of actual food value, has been calculated to be eight times more than that of bread."



NO WONDER HE LAUGHS

Old John Ontario—You'll take charge of it for me? Kiddies, that's the funniest thing I ever heard in my life!—Toronto Globe

After the Paper Combine.

THEY do some good things well in the United States. In Canada the prosecution of the paper combine was made a farce by the ineffective remedy provided by the Laurier Administration. President Roosevelt and Attorney General Moody are entitled to commendation for their action in beginning suit to enjoin the operations of the General Paper Company of Wisconsin. "Every newspaper reader in the country is interested in this action," says the Pittsburg Gazette. The legal step referred to was urged a year ago by the American Newspaper Publishers' Association at its meeting in New York, and is based on the subsequent investigations of James M. Beck of New York, and Frank B. Kellogg of St. Paul, Minn., special attorneys appointed by the United States Government. According to the New York Commercial (Ind. Rep.):

"The facts unearthed have justified the attorney general in bringing suit against this Western paper 'combine' looking to its dissolution and the prevention of its illegal practices—and it may reasonably be regarded as only an initial movement, which, if successful, will eventually be directed against all law breakers in the paper and other manufacturing trades.

"That it must be successful those consumers having the closest knowledge of conditions in the news-print-paper trade can scarcely doubt. Consolidations and combinations among manufactures in this line—there are two of them, one operating chiefly in the West, the other in the East—have failed conspicuously both in promoting economies of production and in reducing the price. In 1897 the average cost of white paper to the leading daily newspapers of the country was about \$85 per ton. Today some of them pay as high as \$45 per ton; and the average cost is probably about

\$41. In other words under 'trust' control in the paper trade the newspaper publishers of the United States are paying about \$4,800,000 a year more for paper than they paid when competition in the trade was free, when prices were not set arbitrarily, when there was no 'division of territory' and nothing approaching monopoly in the business. It would be manifestly unfair to say that there have been no contributing causes for this changed condition—for there have been two or three—but no honest investigator of the facts will fail to lay the chief responsibility for it at the door of the 'combine' that controls the news-print-paper trade today."



PEACE ON EARTH.

"If I only knew the countersign!"

—Punch (London)

Rhab the Rabbit.

BY FRANK RICHARDSON

THE sun shone white in the Courtyard of the Great King's Palace, while the Keeper of the Royal Rabbits gave a mid-day meal to his charges in their dwellings of cool porphyry.

Opposite to them in his marble cage lay the Great King Snake, torpid from comfortable eating. Through the golden bars one could see his monstrous coils of amber and jade green and Royal purple shimmering in the sunlight. The Rabbits also could see this thing.

Then the Forefather of all the Rabbits called to his side Rhab—"the peaceful one"—the youngest and whitest of them all, whose coat was of fine ermine, without blemish and without stain.

"My son," said he, "you are the fairest of my children. Your fur is white as snow upon the mountain, and your eyes are pink with the pinkness of a pearl. To you, of a surety, is it given to bring high honor to my house, O Rhab."

"Is it so O, my Forefather? Tell me after what manner this thing shall fall?"

"After this manner it shall fall, O Rhab. So long as the King Snake shall live, so long shall the Great King be seated on his throne, but at the death of the Snake, then the King also shall surely perish. Thus is it written and thus it shall befall; for the life of the Monarch and the life of the King Snake are as one (though the reason of this thing not even the wisest of the Rabbits can ever hope to compass). But, therefore, it is that the King-Snake fares delicately, and before him are only

placed Rabbits of the purest white, tender and succulent, even as you, my son."

"Even as I, my father?" said Rhab; and his little white whiskers shivered with fear.

"On an appointed day, the Keeper of the Rabbits shall come and shall place you between the golden bars; thus shall great honour come to my house."

"But I, O my father? What will become of me?"

"You will become a portion of the King-Snake, an upholder of the Empire of the Great King."

Tears came into the eyes of Rhab, and his little nose, made of the purest white velvet, tipped with pink, moved quickly to and fro from fear.

"Is it not possible that this great honor should pass me by, O my Forefather?"

"No," said the ancestor of all the Rabbits, "you are too white. The honour will surely be yours."

Every day when the sun was hottest Rhab beheld the Keeper of the Rabbits place between the golden bars a shivering ball of whiteness. . . . And the thought of the honour that was to come upon him caused cold fear to flutter in his heart. Nevertheless, both by day and by night, he thought of that honour and of naught else.

* * *

Now Pshaw was the wisest of all the King's Counsellors. So wise was he that no man hearkened to his counsel. For only those who were themselves as wise as

Pshaw could rightly comprehend the wisdom of the words he spoke. And in all the kingdom there was no sage who approached nearly to Pshaw for wisdom. Often, indeed, so that he might express his judgment with the greater precision, he spoke in a language of which he alone of all the Counsellors had knowledge. Happy is the lot of a monarch who numbers among his Court so learned an adviser as was Pshaw (Even to this day his name is set down by the makers of books to convey the sound made by men when they scorn the opinions of the foolish.)

Now it fell out that this great Counsellor was wrath with the Great King. For many years' space he had tendered shrewd advice on affairs of weight, and for many years' space his master had rejected the same in favor of Counsel which Pshaw, in his wisdom, knew to be far less wise.

Therefore, he determined, after much searching of heart, to kill the King, and the manner of the killing that he devised gave proof of the wisdom of Pshaw. It was his aim to slay the King by means of a subtle and secret, yet potent poison that he had placed in a carrot: this carrot he destined for that white Rabbit which should be next in order as provision for the dweller behind the golden bars. He foresaw that the King-Snake would die of the poison that was in the carrot that should be in the Rabbit.

And then, of a surety, the King himself would perish. For this was, as the ancestor of the Rabbits had said, written in the Book of Destiny a book so large that it could not lie, as do the little books that men make in our time.

Thus, on a day when the sun was hot, Pshaw walked in the Courtyard of the Royal Rabbits (called also, the Courtyard of the King's Security, for so long as the snake should live so long might the monarch sit without care upon his throne.). Very stately was the manner of his habit, for his coat of cloth of gold, reaching to his heels, was lined with crimson tuffetas and girt with a broad girdle of silver lace heavily fringed. From his shoulders hung the "Cloak of Sage Counsel," made wholly of white velvet, on which were brodered in thread of gold and precious stones,

the Eye of Justice, which is red; the Eye of Mercy, blue as the heavens themselves; and the Eye of Craft, which has no colour; since the lids are closed. About his neck hung a baderike of large balasses (with- out which it was permitted to no counsellor to raise his voice)

To the Keeper of the King's Rabbits spake Pshaw:

"Which of all the Rabbits shall next provide eating for the Great Snake, O diligent Warden of the Court of Security?"

"This one shall be the next, O wisest of all possible Counsellors," he answered, and pointed to Rhab "with his hand outstretched, as though for some killing.

Rhab heard and trembled.

"Let him have at least one good meal before he dies. Let him meet his death with the Full Stomach that is the father of the Stout Heart."

"It shall be as my lord desires," answered the Keeper, as he took the poisoned carrot from Pshaw and laid it before the nose of the whitest of all white Rabbits.

Then Pshaw, certain of having accomplished his purpose, went his way out of the Courtyard of Security.

But Rhab had no heart for eating, and the Forefather of the Rabbits took the carrot for his portion.

Then came the Keeper in quest of Rhab; by his velvet ears he seized him to the honour and glory of the Forefather's house.

Into the cage of the King-Snake he thrust him, trembling at the honour that was his. Slowly, the tired eyes of the Serpent opened. Slowly, the monstrous coils of amber and jade-green and Royal Purple uncoiled as the King-Snake raised his head to strike.

So terrible was the glitter in his eyes, so evil was the dead fire as it flashed to life that Rhab sprang suddenly erect.

On his hind legs he stood.

With his white velvet paws he beat the air rapidly from fear. High up in the cage he leaped in his panic. Not once or twice did he leap, but three times in all.

So strange to the King-Snake was the sight of this leaping, that he himself threw up his evil head—whether in fear or resentment who shall say? Yet such was the strength of his movement, that his head

stuck with great violence against the marble roof of the cage.

And his neck brake.

Many moons passed ere the Great King spoke the funeral oration at the burying of Pshaw, the wisest of all wise Counselors.

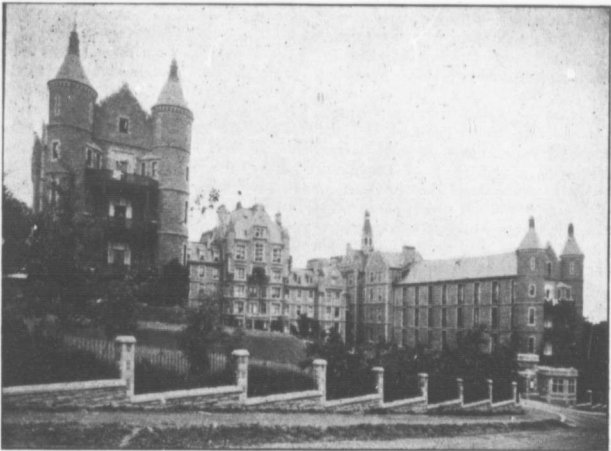
And in that same year Rhab was appointed by the Great King Forefather of the Royal Rabbits, and the King ordered that the Great Book of Destiny should be burnt by the Chief Hangman (after the Sworn Tormentor had proclaimed the evil nature

of the work), because there was written in it a Thing that was not True.

He commanded, likewise that all books containing aught but the Truth should be burnt both in his time and forever.

Now, alack, in our days no heed is given to the words of the Great King. And these my words, the words of a foolish scribe and a vain fellow escape the hand of the Hangman.

But the Sworn Tormentor may yet perform his office.



Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal Damaged on Sunday by fire, Lord Strathcona cabling that he would defray cost of repairs.