

NEWS OF ELECTRICITY.

A Simple Street Car Track Cleaner.
In the cleaning of street car tracks, as in everything else, prevention is better than cure. One of the difficulties railway companies have to contend with in heavy winter weather is to bring their more or less cumbersome snow-clearing devices into operation over large sections of their lines with sufficient promptitude to prevent the accumulation of large quantities of snow on the rails. To meet this exigency a new device has been brought out, which is based on the principle that each street car shall be its own track cleaner. Two circular brushes, suspended from beneath the car platform, are laid at a suitable angle to the direction of the track. As the car goes along the brushes are revolved, and all snow or dirt is dashed outward from the rails. The brushes are made of either rattan, brass or flat galvanized spring steel. The steel gives the best service, as it cuts the snow and ice cleaner and wears better. The brushes can be applied to any make of car, and can be raised or lowered by the motorman. By the equipment of cars with this device a fall of snow is dealt with from the start, and the cars themselves are sufficient to keep the road entirely clean without expensive sweepers and plows being resorted to. To meet the hardening of snow into ice and other emergencies a steel nose plow a foot deep is provided. When the use of this is necessary it is fixed in front of the brushes, taking off snow to the depth of 1-1/2 or 2 inches, the brushes taking care of the rest. The fixed track brooms now ordinarily employed for street car track work are 6 inches long and 2 inches wide, with bristles 4 inches in length, while the brushes of the improved track cleaner have a diameter of from 18 inches to 2 feet, according to the height of the car, with a width of 6 inches and 8 inches of bristles. This, of course, gives a much greater wearing surface.

As Others See Us.

They were pretty girls, perhaps sixteen and eighteen years of age, both gay, lighthearted creatures who seemed for an instant to brighten even the dingy corner of the waiting room, as the crowd jostled each other this way and that.
"How did you enjoy the lecture?" queried the dark one.
"Enjoy! Don't mention it! I suffered agonies."
"Why, you take my breath away. How so?"
"It was vile."
"Forevermore! and I've always supposed he was way up in G."
"Oh! that's all gammon. He's a perfect stick."
"But what did he say?"
"Oh! I don't remember; but it was too utterly awful for anything."
"Can't you remember some of the awful things?"
"No indeed! I didn't even try to hear them. He was hideously homely, the lecturer, I mean, and the only wonder is I didn't faint outright."
"But very clever, isn't he?"
"I really don't know. Homely people are too awful."
"You went with Fred didn't you?"
"Yes; isn't his new overcoat lovely?"
"And you play to-night, I suppose."
"Yes, of course. The whole thing would be a fizzle if I didn't." And the pretty face was turned from one to another of the bystanders, fancying she had impressed them with a proper sense of her importance, when the universal sentiment was one of sorrow that such rare external beauty should be but the cloak with which she tried to cover the ugly scars left by overweening conceit. Hyperbolic expressions failed to impose upon the people about her, and while she fancied she was showing her superiority by voting the lecture "vile" and the like, her audience wished devoutly that she might see herself as others saw her.

The Wrong Word.

There is in the city a certain young attaché to one of the legations who has communicated to the world his resolve to eschew its pleasures for the present. This determination is by no means due to the fact of a cold shoulder being turned toward him by the fashionables, but on account of the numerous conversational slips that he is conscious of making. Telling of a certain occasion where he "put in ze foot" more than usual, he says: "I talk to ze ladees and smile and be agreeable, and all at once zey grow quiet and look at me so var' queer. I exclaim, 'What haf I done?' and ze ladees zey make answer: 'It is not what you haf done, monsieur, but what you haf said.' And zen I feel so decayed, oh, so decayed."
His confidant here reminded him that he had made another faux pas and proceeded to explain to him the different applications of the synonyms, decayed and mortified, and the despairing foreigner replied: "Haf I not told you I spik bad all ze time?"—Washington Star.

Tempted by the Stamps.

I once talked with a man who had served a term in prison for embezzlement. He said that the first step in his downfall was the stamp drawer. The clerks in that store, as in many, helped themselves to stamps from this drawer for their private letters, using the firm's stationery also. What more natural than that they should take a few more stamps if they were ordering some trifle by mail? Having made this start, and seeing no trouble therefrom, how easy it was to take a larger amount when a more expensive article was wanted. The step from the dollar's worth of stamps to the dollar itself was not a very long one, and then to larger amounts, followed at length by discovery and prison! This was the man's story, and it set me to thinking.—Hardware.

Canadian Statesmen.

It is a mistake to think that the act which led to the confederation of the various provinces in 1867 has attained no higher meaning in the life of the Canadian people than that of constitutional union. It carries with it a meaning of far deeper import—a union of hearts, whose offspring is oneness of patriotic aim and purpose. Of course it would be idle to say that the Canadian people are a unit upon all questions of vital interest to the life and growth of the dominion. The geographical interests of Canada are so varied that there must necessarily be at times some friction and clashing of provincial needs and ambitions. This is the case at Washington; this is the case, too, in so small a confederation as the cantons of Switzerland.

A stranger visiting the gallery of the Canadian house of commons is struck with the dignity and decorum which mark the proceedings and surround even the warmest and keenest of debates. Parliamentary procedure being rigidly adhered to, there is little room for unseemly encounters, which usually grow out of uncalled for personalities in the heat of a discussion. Sometimes, however, when the house has been sitting for hours with the perplexities and incoherencies of some member from "way back," suddenly, as if through the unity of desperation the usual dignity of the house is relaxed and grave members from such intellectual centers as Montreal and Toronto play the schoolboy and outvie one another in "shying" blue books at the heads of slumbering and inoffensive members. Of the 215 members that make up the house of commons, in point of ability and gifts, 20 per cent of them are below mediocrity; 20 per cent of them occupy the plane of mediocrity; 40 per cent possess admitted ability, and the remaining 20 per cent are men of commanding talent.—Donahoe's Magazine.

BRISBANE, Queensland, Feb. 14.—Steamer Pearl, having on board about eighty persons, met with a peculiar accident Thursday that resulted in the death of forty persons. The Brisbane river is greatly swollen by heavy rains and the Pearl, not powerful enough to stem the current, was swung broadside and carried down the river athwart the cable chain of the Lucinda lying at anchor. The Pearl was almost completely cut in two. Then the current turned her over and she sank, and her steam pipes broke. Many on the lower deck were fatally scalded. Forty were drowned. The work of rescuing the survivors was extremely difficult, as they were carried seaward with great rapidity by the flood. Some of the bodies will never be recovered.

St. Nicholas River Notes.

The ice is unfit for travelling on, on account of the deep snow and slush with which it is loaded. Some of our young men started to market with a load of smelts one day last week, but I do not think they ever reached their destination. At last accounts their horse was lying in the ditch with one eye closed; and several hungry looking crows were perched on the wayside trees near by probably anxious to render what assistance they could. They had a roguish leer in their eyes.
George and James Wilson, horse dealers of this place have recently made a business tour of the County and have handled several valuable animals.
California Bill.

Bay City, Mich. Feb. 5 1896.—Miss Minnie McDormett, youngest daughter of the late Patrick McDormett of Main river Kent County N. B. was united in marriage at Bay City, to Mr. Frank Doyle of the same place. The marriage ceremony was witnessed by a large number of friends. Rev. T. Rafter of St. James church extended his blessing to the happy couple after the ceremony, which took place at 8 o'clock. The bride was attired in a green silk gown trimmed with pearl and ribbons, gloves to match. James McDormett, brother of the bride acted as groomsmen, and Miss Sarah Moran, of West Bay City an intimate friend of the bride, was the bride's maid. After the ceremony the happy couple repaired to their future home, where a reception was tendered from 9 till 12. Mr. and Mrs. Doyle were the recipients of many costly presents. In the evening a grand ball, which was attended by about forty couples of intimate friends, was given in the Moran hall West Bay City. Dancing was kept up until a late hour in the morning. All the guests enjoyed themselves largely.

A woman drummer for a New York brush factory has been doing a sweeping business in New Jersey and Maryland. She is reported as having sold goods to merchants who were not in the brush business, and generally to have sold vastly more than any male drummer ever could, and at prices a man would not have dared to mention.

Officials of the State Department at Washington are much gratified over the reference in the Queen's speech to the Venezuelan dispute, particularly over the conciliatory speeches that followed.

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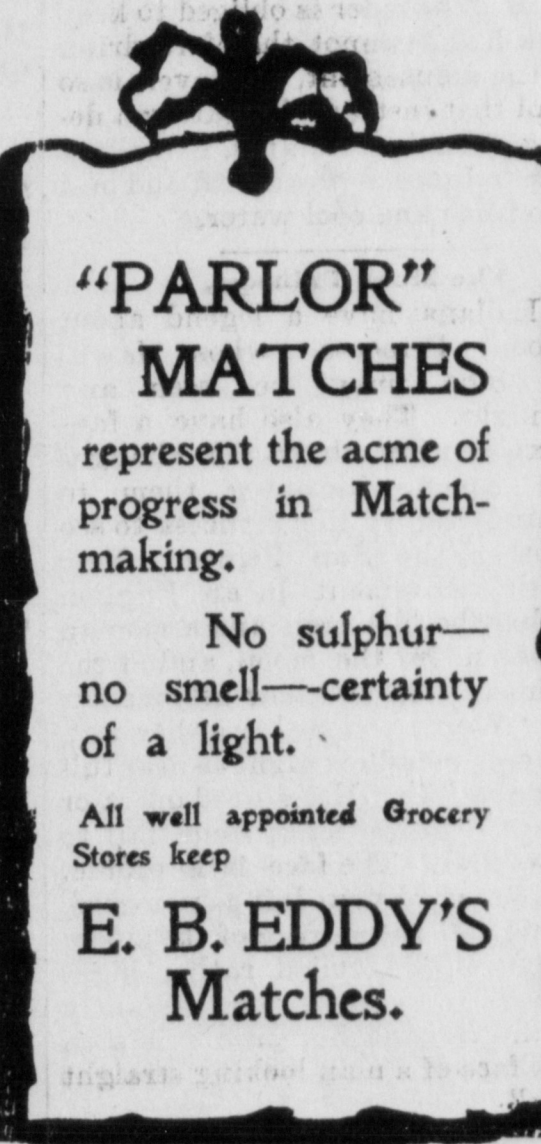
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