

SHADES OF CITY LIFE.

BREEZY PARAGRAPHS OF ORDINARY HAPPENINGS.

How Canada is Flogging Ahead in the Different Athletic Sports This Year—The Clergymen on Financial Matters—Grocers who Refused to take a day off for the Picnic.

Mark Twain, I think it was he, who wrote a very amusing sketch descriptive of a French duel, will have to take a rear chair for once at any rate. Those much-heard but invariably fizzled fights have become world-famous for their harmlessness, and should it happen that one honorable monsieur is wounded, his least scratches are magnified into gaping wounds by the sensational press; for these life or death means of wiping out insults and settling social differences are looked upon with as much interest by the smart sets of Europe as the outcome of the big Carson city event was sought after by the Yellow Kid and "de gang" in mythical Hogan's Alley, Gotham.

The latest from the land of duels states that Prince Henri of Orleans is yet living, actually living. The pin-dig he received at the sword's point of Italia's Count has not turned into blood-poisoning nor gangrene, although the newspapers of France and as far east as New York have everything in readiness to illustrate his anatomy should a symptom of such results show themselves. It is quite probable these illustrations will have to go into the stock cut lists. And what was this duel all about, simply because a very refined "roast," delicately but well basted, was administered to Italy's soldiery, especially her officers, by his royal highness through the columns of the Paris Figaro and New York Herald Paris edition. Why it that was the way such matters were squared in this country it would be necessary to have "standing room only" signs hung up in every vacant lot the year round. Here in St. John such matters are treated about as the following incident will illustrate.

An alleged globe trotter, who, by the way, are among the latest New Brunswick novelties, rushed into a newspaper office last Saturday afternoon and in a very excited manner asked the first reporter he came across if he was desirous of having a suit for slander brought upon the paper upon which he worked. Naturally the scribe answered in the negative; but with very much amusement. The world wanderer became verbose, he swore, threatened and finally wanted to fight. As one of the conditions upon which the lonely traveller is supposed to circle the earth is that he shall return with \$5,000 in self-earned cash, the newspaper man very thoughtfully suggested that he might postpone the bout until the Jack Power-Billy Smith "go" in the Institute, when both the enraged "Phileas Fogg" and the icy-headed journalist might manage to come in for a small corner of the gate money as well as allowing one another the satisfaction of pummeling the atmosphere. The Count of Turin might have tarred worse had he engaged in a North American newspaper "roast" affair.

The newest thing in the moving picture line to St. John people is the "Projectoscope." We have had veriscope, kinetoscopes, vitascopes, rayographs, cinephotographs, cinegraphoscopes, and cinematographs. There is yet ample "scope" for a few more of these much prefixed machines. Why not beamograph, shakylightscope, cantseplainograph and so on; there is yet a big stack of words that can be used to explain the wonderful machine but they are being used up very rapidly. If those Corbett-Fitzsimmons pictures don't soon reach this part of the continent the animated illustration craze will have become a bygone pastime.

The maple leaf forever; Everything seems to be coming Canada's way now a-days, her militiamen are superior, her premier has made a tremendous hit (I won't say politically), in baseball she is beating out her American cousins while with the oar and most gloriously in the international yachting contests have her representatives defeated their Yankee rivals. Dear brethren of the stars and stripes land, if you have anything else you think you can beat your northern neighbours in, please speak quick for the beaver is at work, play rather, and is in high glee when competing within its capabilities. Toronto, in leading in the Eastern baseball league, has to continually run up against such strong and well-backed organizations as teams from Providence, Wilkesbarre, Buffalo, Syracuse, Springfield, and Scranton. Her lead is a good one and everything points favorably to the home-bringing of that coveted pennant for the Queen City lads. At Philadelphia our Canadian oarsmen covered themselves with glory, winning several internationala

What did Loghead, the Sarnia rider do at the Quaker city bicycle meet! Splendidly; alone he captured from such world-famed flyers as Bald, Cooper, Gardiner and others, the two mile and quarter mile championships. His riding was the sensation of the meet. While at Bisley the home representation did not do as well as last year nevertheless we have accumulated enough glory in that direction of late years to allow an "off" season or two.

But to my mind the most signal defeat, gently but very determinedly administered to the United States, was in the winning of three races straight from the crack half rater "Momo" by Commodore Duggan's "Glencairn II. this last week. They must have been glorious contests! to a Canadian of course. While Uncle Sam crowded and chuckled on the dizzy heights of glee when of late years the "Thistle", "Valkyries" I, II and III succumbed to the slipperiness of the "Volunteer", "Vigilant" and "Defender" he may now be found meditatively stroking his characteristic beard and wondering "how the deuce they did it." Three years in succession the Royal St. Lawrence Yacht club have put up a boat fast enough to outstrip the Americans to, winning and retaining the challenge cup of the Seawabaka—Corinthian Club. This year our friends put forth extra efforts and after carefully and secretly selecting the speediest half rater in the nation, but their wads confidently on her, but the "Momo" failed to carry out their expectations although she won the first contest, by the way which contest the Canadians attribute to their present financial reimbursement; that race was a tempter for the Americans and the Britishers took their generous bets.

Had it not been for the fog, H. M. S. Crescent would have arrived in time to attend the grocer's picnic.

The vague as well as "vogue" idea that sharper business instincts are found among the wearers of the ministerial gown and surplice, is being pretty well racked these days. To hear the reverends talking percents, bonds, \$ and cts. at the church parliaments now being held, would, I was going to say, be an education for a banker.

And now woman, that poor creature who is always short of clothes, is deciding upon a new suit, because the almanac tells her the wind blows more from a certain quarter this month than it did last. How many seasons are there represented in a woman's wardrobe anyway? I'm asking for information!

People of St. John tune your poetic chords very high—a British-Man-of-War is in port and John Callahan McCarthy has inspected her.

We have a few cool-headed citizens in St. John after all.

On one wagon, familiarly known, the lettering reads "W. A. Anders—on ice," and all on account of a little wooden post.

One of the features of the grocers' picnic seemed to be the non frere feeling of several storekeepers who refused to join the majority, close their places of business and go to the picnic; but still this world is oddly made up and these men no doubt belonging to the class immortalized by the great dramatist in the hard-fisted Israelite of Venice.

The fact is paramount that, anything within her means and resources, Canada can enter into without fear and not be in the least abashed. Once more hurrah for the maple leaf!

THE LONGEST TUNNEL.

Passes Beneath Pike's Peak 7,000 Feet Underground.

Two gangs of workmen have just begun digging in Colorado the longest tunnel which man ever attempted to construct. The man bore will be twenty miles long, and connecting with this are subsidiary miles. So, in reality, the task that has been put under way is that of digging fifty miles of tunnels, and every foot of this vast system will be under Pike's Peak and the mountains that tower on each side.

The starting point of the main tunnel, says the Cripple Creek Times, is at the foot of the mountain leading up to Pike's

Peak, near the old town of Colorado City. This point is but a short distance from the railroads which span the country between Colorado Springs and Manitou. From here it runs almost due southwest. The further edge of the tunnel is at the edge of the mountains at Four Mile Creek, over in Fremont County, Colorado, six miles south of Cripple Creek and near the little town of Sunol. Two gangs of men, as stated, are working on the tunnel, one at each end. Just at present they are making progress at the rate of thirty feet a day. It is believed that the mammoth task they have undertaken will be completed in seven years from the first of the present month.

The main tunnel will pass directly under the cone of Pike's Peak at a depth of nearly 7,000 feet and 2,700 feet beneath the town of Victor. Its average depth from the surface will be 2,800 feet, and it is designed to test the mineral deposits of the territory at these great depths. Thirty miles of laterals are contemplated, and these will pass underneath all the Cripple Creek district at an average depth of 2,800 feet. Cripple Creek, Victor, Gillette, the various small towns and a thousand mines are to be made tributary to this vast system.

Under present circumstances the distance—the shortest way—from Colorado Springs to Cripple Creek is fifty-four miles. By way of the tunnel the two cities will only be sixteen miles apart. It is estimated by the contractors that the average cost per foot of excavation will be \$80. This makes the total probable expense of digging the tunnel and its subsidiary branches \$20,520,000.

DELAYED INFORMATION.

It Took the Stranger a Long Time to Find Mr. Bailey.

"Is there a man named Bailey living in this neighborhood?" asked a man on horseback of a barefooted urchin standing idly before a cabin in the backwoods.

"I dunno," was the reply. "I'll ask Jim. Sa-a-y, Jim! Is there a man named Bailey round hyar any place?"

Jim was an older boy, who was playing with a lean yellow dog.

"I dunno," said Jim. "Ask Liz."

Liz was a tall, barefooted girl standing in the cabin doorway.

"I dunno if there is or if there aint. I'll ask ma. Ma! There aint no fam'ly named Bailey round hyar, is there?"

"Not as I know of. Ask pa."

"Pa! Is there a family named Bailey round hyar?"

"Never heard of 'em. Ask yer gran' pap."

"Gran'pap! Is there any Baileys round hyar?"

A grizzled old man came to the door and peered over the shoulder of Liz.

"Hey?" he asked.

"Is there a man named Bailey livin' round hyar? This man on the hoss wants to know."

"There used to be," said 'gran'pap,' 'but I dunno whar he lives now. I'll ask gran' ma'am."

And in a moment or two he came back to the door and called out:

"Gran'ma'am says she thinks he's dead, but you ride on to the cabin at the fork of the road, 'bout six mile from hyar, an' they kin tell you if he's dead or if he aint, an' whar he is."

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