

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1901.

To Guard Niagara Falls.

For seventeen years Andrew H. Green and his co-laborers on the commission in charge of the State Reservation at Niagara have been working to preserve Niagara Falls to the State and the nation. In some measure they have succeeded, but the fight is not yet won. Commercial enterprise has always been in opposition to their views. It has sought, and in some instances with success, to harness the tremendous hydraulic power of the Niagara River for manufacturing purposes. It has lessened the volume of water plunging over the great ledges on both the American and the Canadian side, and has gained such privileges from the Government of the State that if they were exercised to their fullest extent, the probability of the ruin of the Falls would seem to be the consequence.

To those who have not given careful attention and deep study to this matter, it may seem an exaggeration to say that the great volume of water now pouring over the Falls can be appreciably diminished by the schemes of men. It is perhaps true up to the present no diminution has been observed, but in these days of great things such a feat would be by no means wonderful. A beginning of this use of Niagara's waters has just been made, but the projects in contemplation and already authorized by the State are so comprehensive in their scope and so alluring financially in prospect that unless protective measures are taken the danger will be a present one before long.

It is not only through these projects to use the water of Niagara for the purpose of creating motive power that the Falls are threatened. There are other schemes purely commercial and utilitarian which are highly commendable when viewed from these standpoints, and yet are fraught with danger not only to the Falls but also to other interests. These schemes are the great canals leading from the lakes to ocean outlets. Already Chicago has tapped the south end of Lake Michigan with her drainage canal and the level of the lake is said to be falling. There is in contemplation the deepening and widening of this canal in order that ships from the lakes may find a passage to the sea down the Mississippi River. If this should be done the drain on the lakes would be greater and the tendency to the lowering of the water's level would be increased. Another canal is suggested from Cleveland south to the Ohio River, and still another from Lake Erie to the Hudson, a ship canal 100 feet wide and 24 feet in depth. Canada, not to be outdone, is planning to cut a canal from Georgian Bay following the French River to Lake Nipissing and thence down the Ottawa River to the St. Lawrence. The purpose of this canal is to avoid the long southward voyage from Lake Superior down Lake Huron into Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

All these projects are splendid, but there are people who wonder what the outcome will be if they cause the level of the lakes to be lowered six or seven feet. They ask if harbors and piers, elevators and warehouses now suited to existing conditions might not be utterly ruined and the loss of millions of dollars involved, to say nothing of the irretrievable but uncommercial damage to one of the wonders of the world.

These are matters which Mr. Green and his colleagues deputed by the State to safeguard the Falls of Niagara have been watching with the most careful attention for years. The phase of the question which particularly appealed to them was the safety of the Falls. The Commissioners of the Reservations first expressed their disapproval of the diversion of the water of the upper Niagara for manufacturing purposes in 1892. In their annual report for that year they endeavored to impress upon the Legislature of this State the importance of refusing to grant the right to do this. In their reports for the two following years they reiterated their opposition, but the pressure of the commercial interests in the western part of the State was so strong that the Legislature ignored the protest of the Commissioners.

When the State Constitutional Convention met in May, 1894, Mr. Green who was a member, offered a resolution which

authorized the appointment of a special committee to report to the convention whether an amendment should be made to the Constitution restraining the legislature from granting to corporations or to individuals the right to divert the waters of the upper Niagara and to inform the convention as to the rights and privileges already granted. The committee being appointed visited Niagara Falls and made a careful study of the conditions existing there with reference to the matter complained of, and it reported facts which fully bore out the fears of Mr. Green and his associates. It found that eight separate companies had been empowered to take water from the upper river for commercial purposes. These companies were:

The Niagara Falls Hydraulic Power and Manufacturing company, organized in 1879 under the Manufacturing act of 1848, but without special rights or a charter from the State. This company at that time owned a canal seven feet wide and fourteen feet deep tapping the river one mile above the Falls, with a horse-power capacity of 8,000 and a water flow of 1,727,880 gallons a minute. At that time it was engaged in doubling the size of the canal, which, of course, meant nearly doubling the amount of water taken. The State receives no compensation from this company.

The Niagara River Hydraulic Tunnel, Power and Sawyer company of Niagara Falls was chartered in 1886 and changed its name in 1889 to the Niagara Falls Company. This company is prohibited from taking more water from the river than shall be sufficient to produce 200,000 effective horse power. Its horse power capacity at present is believed to be 100,000 and it draws from the river to generate this amount 3,850,680 gallons a minute. If its tunnel were increased so as to carry water enough to generate the permitted 200,000 horse power, about 6 per cent of the total amount of water flowing over the falls would be diverted by this company alone, as various experts have agreed in their computations that the total flow is about 123,420,000 gallons a minute. For this right, to which many others were added by the state to facilitate the sale of the company's power and light, the company pays nothing. Canada was much shrewder in this respect than New York. The same company obtained from the dominion government a grant for the use of an equal amount of water on the Canadian side of the river and for this it pays a fixed rental of \$15,000 for the first 10,000 electrical horse power generated and an additional charge for every horse power disposed of beyond the first 10,000. In 1899 the company paid to the Commissioners of the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park \$20,000.

The Lockport Water and Electric Company, chartered in 1886; the Niagara County Irrigation and Water Supply Company chartered in 1891; the Lewiston Water Supply Company, incorporated in 1888; the Model Town Company, incorporated in 1883; the Niagara, Lockport and Ontario Power Company, incorporated in 1894, and the Buffalo and Niagara Power and Drainage Company, incorporated in 1889, all have authority to use an unlimited supply of water without paying the State a cent for it.

That the state has a right to charge corporations or individuals for the use of this water or to prevent absolutely its diversion by constitutional or Legislative enactment, the committee which studied the law on the subject was entirely convinced. The committee agreed that the bed of the river and the water therein from the high water mark to the centre of the stream belonged to the State of New York. In its report it cited many decisions of the courts to sustain its views. In its recommendations the committee urged that in view of the failure of the legislature to safeguard the state's interests an amendment should be inserted in the constitution prohibiting the granting to any corporation or individual of the right to divert the water of the upper Niagara except for sanitary, domestic or fire purposes and that those corporations already licensed should be put under the control of the commissioners of the state reservation of Niagara.

The corporations were to have the right to divert only such amounts of water as the commissioners should prescribe.

Great opposition to the proposed amendment developed upon its introduction in the convention. Representatives of the corporations interested naturally exerted their power to prevent its adoption. They appeared before the special committee to which it was referred and finally succeeded in causing its defeat. Amendments less rigorous looking to a requirement that corporations obtaining these rights should pay the State, were also defeated through the same influences.

This was discouraging to Mr. Green. He hoped in the beginning when the State by the right of eminent domain took possession of the shore and the islands adjacent to the cataract, that thereafter the Falls would be safe from injury. When the Province of Ottawa, a short time thereafter, exercised a like prerogative, and established a reservation on the Canadian shore, he was more than ever reassured. With both sides of the river under government protection he thought all danger was over; but constant watchfulness was necessary to protect the river beyond the State domain and even this in a measure failed. In the face of his protests the Legislature from time to time granted these rights of diversion and when the fight came on in the Constitutional Convention the corporate interests were again victorious.

But Mr. Green did not despair. He saw that even had this State done all that it might, the Falls would still be in danger. The action of not only the United States Government, but of the Canadian Government as well, was necessary for the competent protection, because the diversion of waters might occur not only without the bounds of New York, but even of the country. So when the late John Sherman was Secretary of the State Mr. Green wrote to him asking him to use his authority to have an international commission appointed to look into the subject with a view to determining if there were any menaces to the Falls, and, if so, what should be done in the matter. Secretary Sherman wrote back that he thought New York should take the initiative. Gov. Black was appealed to. He wrote to Washington approving Mr. Green's ideas. Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British Ambassador was approached. He thought it would be a good thing, but he wanted Canada to move first. Mr. Green wrote to Lord Aberdeen, the Governor General, who referred the matter to his Council. While the Council pondered Lord Aberdeen resigned as Governor General and more delay came.

Finally Mr. Green drew up a joint resolution, which Senator Platt introduced in the Senate at the first session of the Fifty-sixth Congress. The resolution authorized the President to invite the Government of Great Britain to join in the formation of an international commission, 'whose duty it shall be from time to time to report upon the conditions and uses of the waters adjacent to the boundary line between the United States and Canada, including all the waters of the lakes and rivers whose waters flow by the River St. Lawrence to the Atlantic Ocean, and also upon the effect upon the shores of these waters and the structures thereon and upon the interests of navigation by reason of their diversion from their natural flow and further to report upon the necessary measures to regulate such diversions.'

This resolution was introduced in January 1900. It passed the Senate unanimously and went to the House. The provisions of the resolution have been embodied in the River and Harbor Bill which was passed by the House on Wednesday, they having been offered in the shape of an amendment by Congressman Burton. This action gives Mr. Green hope that something positive will now be done to conserve the Falls.

'There is nothing to be afraid of in it,' said Mr. Green, in speaking of it. 'It is merely looking to an inquiry. If there is no danger threatening, the commission will find this out, and no harm will come of it. If there is danger, then it is proper that Canada and the United States should unite to save the most unique natural wonder in the world.'

An Important Feature.

'Well,' said one tourist, 'the great exhibition in Paris is over at last.'
'Yes,' answered the other; 'all of it except Count Castellane.'

Chinese Side of the story.

Ever since the murder of Baron von Ketteler, the German minister in the streets of Peking, the papers of the world have been full of the atrocities of the Chinese, committed principally upon protestant and Roman Catholic missionaries and on christian Chinese. In a letter received at Hartford, Conn., the reverse side of the picture is presented and a glimpse is given of the allied nations, especially the Russians, who are charged with being pitiless in their slaughter of Chinese.

The letter referred to comes from an educated Chinaman who was a student at the Chinese Educational Institution in Hartford, but whose name, for obvious reasons, it would be unwise to use. He with others—a score or more—came to Hartford twenty years ago to attend this Chinese mission school, which was established and conducted by Yung Wing, one of the most enlightened Chinamen of the age and one who is even more liberal toward Western civilization than Li Hung Chang. Mr. Yung was succeeding admirably in his mission school here when a wave of hatred of the "foreign devil" swept through the Peking government and the school was ordered discontinued. The young Chinese meanwhile had made strong ties of friendship with Hartford people.

They had lived in their homes, mingled with their children in the High School and had attended their churches. Among those who were ordered back to their own country several have maintained a correspondence with their Hartford friends through all the eighteen years that have elapsed since the school on Collins street was broken up. The late Charles Dudley Warner was much interested in the careers of some of these Chinese youths. The Rev. Joseph H. Twichell also has continued intimate acquaintance with 'the boys,' because of his friendship for Yung Wing.

In the letter just received much is said about the dangers that have beset the life of the Chinese ever since the allied forces began their march on Peking. It is plain from the guarded references of the writer that he and others like him who have imbibed Western ideas have a horror of the blood-thirsty Boxers and have had the courage of their convictions by opposing them and their teaching. But their unselfishness and bravery have received slight recognition so far. The writer says:

'There were quiet heroes among the boys, I am happy to be able to tell you, who by their courage and devotion to duty saved thousands of lives of refugees who were surrounded by Boxers, the pet of that tiger, the Empress Dowager. They expected to be made into mince-meat at any moment, but like good fellows they stuck to their work and only shook the dust from their feet when there was no more to be done.'

The leaven of education in these few Chinese is evidently doing wonderful things in China. Although these young men were recalled to their native country and suffered rebuke at the hands of their countrymen, they have risen to important places in Government and educational service. One of the brightest of the Chinese students in Hartford was Tun Yen, who had the honor of making the graduating oration in his class in the high school. He spoke on 'The Russian Bear,' and his address was the most favorably received of any. 'Dear old Tun' his intimate friends called him. Tun has become a private secretary to Viceroy Chang Chih Tung, the Chinese Prodigal. Tun has thrown his influence on the side of progress, and it is more than likely that he has enlightened Chang and others powerful at court as to the quality of the 'foreign devil,' as he knows him from personal experience.

Tun and his friends have felt the weight of the paw of that 'Russian Bear' which Tun so well described in his high school oration. The information comes from the letter referred to.

'I have the saddest of sad news in regard to our dear old friend, Dr. Kin. He and his whole family have been exterminated. He was at work in one of

the field hospitals away from his family, who were in great danger. It was in going to look after them that he was shot by the Russians, who shot everything that came within their way. His gentle little girls and wife and servants were all butchered. Dr. Lin of the Viceroy's hospital is also dead. Tang, who used to live with the Smiths in Hartford was shot with his wife and their baby girl in her arms. She was another nice and gentle lady.'

This testimony to the indiscriminate cruelty of the Russian army in China has increased weight from the Imperial source from which it comes. To these educated Chinese, who have by their courage saved thousands of refugees from the Boxers, this action of the Russians must appear the most inhuman ingratitude. The correspondent says that rebellions are breaking out all over the Empire and a reign of terror exists. The lot of the native Christian has been of the most miserable, but at least they have known who their enemies are. In the shifting policies of the Empress Dowager the fortunes of those who hold places of authority have become precarious.

At one time or another the hand of the Government, the allies, the Boxers or the horde is raised against them. Such men as Dr. Kin, Tang and those other 'quiet heroes' who are struggling for the upbuilding of their country, are the objects of intrigue, revenge and jealousy. The correspondent says that no man's life is worth anything if he is caught and no one knows whose name is on the prescribed list. If a man is caught he is either put to death on the spot or tortured till every bone in his body is broken to extract other names from him. He says:

'This is a great harvest time for informers to pay off old scores and grudges, for all they have to do is to report that 'So-and-so' is a reformer or member of such-and-such a society. If the man is caught no trial is necessary to send him to the other world. At one of the military schools the cadets, on returning from their vacation, were massacred in the schoolrooms by order of the governor, and only one out of the whole school escaped.'

Tsao Kai Cheong left the junior class in the high school in Hartford when called back to China in 1881. He has been in command of one of the large ships of the Chinese Navy for some time. He was in the battle at Taku, and the Chinese Admiral shifted over to Tsao's ship at the very last, his ship alone being captured and detained by the allied fleet. The ship, with all on board, is now in the hands of the English at Wei-hai-Wei.

Dr. Kin La Ting, whose death at the hands of the Russians has been spoken of, while here was in the family of the parents of Dr. Charles M. Lamson, the late president of the American board. He became an earnest christian and on his return to China was appointed to study medicine in Li Hung Chang's hospital at Tientsin. He was a most philanthropic, high-minded man.

Pow Lee, who was in the local high school was taken out three times to be shot, but somehow or other got off each time, but is not half demented. Sik Quai lost his family, but escaped himself, disguised as a laborer. Shou Kie got out of Tientsin with his family, but Yung Tsang, who is a mining engineer, was at the Kai Ping collieries when they were seized by the Russians and was detained by them to look after the mines.

In closing his letter the writer says: 'I did not mean to write all these horrors for you, but sorrow and rage got the best of me. Like the moth before the lamp, I fly back to the wretched subject of China and her miseries. The most harrowing stories are told of the dreadful famine in Shansi and Sensi provinces, to which the Empress Dowager and her crew have fled. That limb of satan seems to bring misery and death with her wherever she goes.'

The Hartford families who took an interest in the personal welfare and future of the Chinese boys who came here for a brief time twenty years ago feel that the christian influences they had here made them men who have accomplished much in the progress of the empire.