

Railway Construction.

The immediate effect of the adoption of the national transcontinental railway scheme of the government, says an Ottawa despatch, will be the pushing of branch lines into the northern country. Under its agreement with the government and its charter of incorporation the Grand Trunk Pacific has to construct branch lines, and with this object in view a party has been sent out to survey for a line running northerly from Lake Nipigon to the proposed point of junction with the transcontinental railway. Similarly Ontario has decided to extend its line from New Liskeard northerly 70 or 80 miles to the proposed junction with the national transcontinental road. The C. P. R., not to be outdone and to get a share of traffic and carriage of supplies for the building of the new road and of freight when the line is built, has decided to push its Gatineau branch, which starts from Ottawa, into the north country. Thirty additional miles of this road, from Gracefield to Manitowaki, have been constructed this year, and trains will be running into Manitowaki regularly within one month, this point being about 92 miles north of Ottawa. The junction with the national railway will mean an extension of the road of probably one hundred miles further.

The building of the national railway and its branches means a great activity in railway construction in Canada for some years to come.

A Wondrous Change of Heart.

People who thought they knew a few things, wondered when they saw that James L. Hughes of Toronto, who has ridden a white horse every twelfth of July for forty years, took a prominent part in the reception to Mr. Bourassa at Toronto the other day. The explanation cropped out at a dinner given a few evenings ago to celebrate the publication of the first of the makers of Canada series. Mr. Hughes, it seems, had been selected to write the life of William Lyon Mackenzie, the Ontario rebel of 1837, doubtless on the principle that dreams go by contraries. He astonished his friends by saying that although he had been educated to think of Mackenzie as the worst of men, and had acted, politically, on that belief all his life, his study of the times made necessary when he undertook his present task, had convinced him that Mackenzie was right. That speech implies a whole lot of courage in the man who made it, and Colonel Sam's big brother was never accused of lacking it. There are a lot of other Tories in this country who ought to be set to writing the lives of Liberal statesmen. And it is not only Tories who are guilty of the besetting sin of contempt without examination.

Better Than a Plaster.

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A Death Feigning Plant.

That certain insects, birds, mammals and reptiles habitually pretend to be dead when danger threatens them is a well known fact, but it is generally believed that this stratagem is resorted to only by animals. In South America, however, there is a plant—a species of mimosa—which resorts to death feigning, evidently for the purpose of preventing the grass eating animals from eating it. In its natural state this plant has a vivid green hue, but directly it is touched by a human finger or by any living animal it collapses into a tangle of apparently dead and withered stems.—London Globe.

Henley and Stevenson.

W. E. Henley once met Robert Louis Stevenson and found his friend distressed because he was not a Voltaire or a Dumas, though he had an equipment which ought to have made him their peer. Stevenson put his "failure" down to the weakness of his lungs. "Perhaps you are right, Louis," said Henley. "I've always felt that if I had not been a blessed cripple I could have taken the earth in my hand and hurled it into the sun."

The Test.

Lily—Well, did you see her? Is it true? Is she really engaged to him or is it only idle rumor?
Nellie—There isn't a word of truth in it. I had a long talk with her and told her of the men who are just wild about me, and she never said a word about him.

Mean.

"Come, dear, kiss my cheek and make up," she said forgivingly.
"I'll kiss it," he answered, "but I don't think it wants any more making up."

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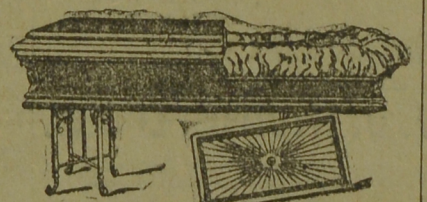
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