

WE SHOULD PAY THE SHOT.

Not Right That Great Britain Should Do It All.

SIR R. T. REID ON THE SUBJECT OF COLONIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

London, May 18.—In the debate on the finance bill Sir R. T. Reid said we had an army of 156,000 men at home, not for our own protection, but exclusively for other parts of the empire, who provided very little of the cost, except India. This had no regard to the navy. He denied that he was indifferent to the maintenance of the empire, but the navy was largely used for the outlying parts of the British dominions, also the commerce common to all.

The whole burden practically was being placed on the shoulders of the British taxpayers. It might be inevitable, if they liked, but he was satisfied that the country would not be content indefinitely to bear the whole of the burden. It would disgust them with the great inheritance they had come into.

As soon as it caused them to suffer real privation and make real sacrifices of health and material comfort it was their duty to alter that policy. He thought the policy introduced by Lord Cardwell of letting the colonies provide their own protection might again be carried out.

WOULD BE A SEA ATTACK.
Hon. Mr. Blake, referring to the same question, said he might imagine an attack on Canada by the United States, with its population of 80,000,000, and he was sure that no lover of this country would suggest that the defence of the colony so far as

it could be conducted from this side of the empire should be other than a defence on the ocean. No one would suggest that this country, with its obligations all the world over, its population of 40,000,000, should engage in a land war with the United States, with its population of 80,000,000. No doubt the course that would be taken in such a calamitous conjuncture would be a war upon the sea, therefore the people of this country had no need to consider seriously the question of their military forces being required for the defence of North American possessions.

MUST HAVE SHARE IN CONTROL.
These conditions must be remembered when the suggestion was made that these outlying possessions ought to contribute to the naval and military expenditure. It was absurd to suggest that while they could not have any effective control over expenditure, they should be called upon to pay for a policy which the people of this country controlled. Until they succeeded in the impossible task of co-ordinating the empire so as to give a common interest it was necessary and just that the great bulk of the military and naval expenditure should fall upon England, but they would assist in every way to the adoption of a sane system of such expenditure, believing that such a policy would be for the general, social and industrial welfare.

TIPS ON SNAKE CHARMING.

Chief Essential of Safety is to Keep Your Eye on the Tail.

A snake charmer has let out some of the secrets of the profession, says The Washington Post. It was easy, he said. Anybody could be a snake charmer.

He made no pretense of hypnotic power over his sinuous fellow performers. Everything lay in close acquaintance with the snakes. After that a snake charmer must be a person of eternal vigilance.

He could never be quite sure what a snake would do. The snake that he had handled a hundred times with perfect safety might turn on him the hundred and first time.

One indication was especially to be trusted. A snake, like a cat, shows its anger by the slow movement of the tail. When the tail begins to wag the snake charmer must put aside the angry serpent and bring out another if his little turn is to be done in safety.

This particular snake charmer was especially skillful in handling pythons. The python, being a constrictor, is usually held to be non-venomous, but the bite of the python is to be avoided when the snake is shedding his skin.

At that time the python is blind from a film that comes over his eyes, a film that is shed with the cast off coat. In this condition the creature is extremely nervous and sensitive, easily provoked to anger, and somewhat venomous.

At other times the python is to be feared for the blow he strikes. It is like the kick of a mule, and no man can stand up against it. The python strikes a man in the breast or near the waist. If he is disabled by the blow the snake may coil around him and do him mortal injury.

The snake charmer found it necessary for success in his business to keep three pythons, and, as they cost from \$100 to \$600 each, the business required some outlay of capital. He could not safely work with strange snakes. With three pythons whose temper he understood he could be pretty sure of always having at least one to work with.

He had to study the condition of a snake before undertaking to exhibit it. The snakes were fed every two weeks, and the snake charmer found that it was unsafe to handle them until three or four days after their meal.

In the early stages of digestion they required quiet, and if disturbed were likely to disgorge what they had eaten. It is a serious matter to lose a meal when meals come two weeks apart. Sometimes a snake would die from being disturbed too soon after feeding. It was not difficult to replace a snake, but the loss of a python was a serious matter financially, and a new snake had to be studied before it could be publicly exhibited.

The important thing in picking up a snake, was, first, to distract his attention. This was commonly done by holding a cloth in front of the creature. Instantly the eyes of the snake were fixed upon the cloth and then was the moment for the snake charmer to seize it.

He must take a firm hold just behind the head and not far enough back to permit the snake to turn upon him. After that the snake charmer must be wary, gentle, and ready upon the slightest sign of the snake's anger to put the creature back in his cage and get out another.

SEEKS FAIR BENEFACTOR.

Babylon. Folks Interested in Search of Colorado Jurist, Which Involves War Time Romance.

Babylon, L. I., May 18.—Justice Henry C. Lydick, of Basalt, Col., is in search of a young woman who placed a pillow under his head, some seven years ago, while he was being carried from Montauk Point to a hospital in Long Island City. Judge

Lydick was then a private in Company A, Seventh Volunteer Infantry, having served in the Spanish-American war, and had been in camp at Montauk Point.

He was very ill, and was granted a furlough. He started for home but grew worse, and on arriving at Long Island City was taken to a hospital. While the train halted at Babylon a young woman entered the car, Justice Lydick says in a letter to Postmaster Fletcher, and placed a pillow under his head. On the pillow was the young woman's card, giving her name and address.

Arriving at Long Island City, he was hurried to a hospital, as stated, and the pillow, with the card attached, was lost in the excitement of the transfer.

He is now apparently in prosperous circumstances and from a private in the ranks has risen to the position of judicial officer, and is very anxious to obtain the name and address of his fair benefactor, with presumably but one object, that of matrimony, in view.

The young woman he seeks has not as yet been located, but several parties have undertaken the task of finding her, and there is a possibility of the affair ending in a romantic marriage.

Why he has waited from September, 1898, when the incident occurred until the present time is not known, but it is supposed that he had been devoting his time to retrieving his fortunes and now, having done so, he is anxious to have someone with whom to share them.

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I Was Sick, Broken Down, No Appetite, no Strength, Couldn't Sleep.

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A ROMANCE OF OLD AGE.

Groom of Eighty-Six Deserts Bride of Ninety-Nine.

London, May 18.—The Daily Express publishes the following: Within four years of her hundredth birthday, Annie Harvey, who lives in the charming village of Ludgvan, near Penzance, has suffered a grievous disappointment in love.

She was to have been married to Francis Russell Vincent, a sturdy youngster of eighty-six, but at the last moment the distressing news was given out that the marriage had

been "indefinitely postponed." The story of this love dream is distinctly romantic.

For forty-seven years Mr. Vincent was employed in the Bristol Gas Works. He had been married twice. A month ago he received a comfortable pension, and decided to visit his eight children who live in Ludgvan village.

One evening he met an old woman, nearly six feet in height, walking along the road. It was a case of love at first sight, and Mr. Vincent lost no time in making her acquaintance.

He found that she was Annie Harvey, a respected inhabitant of the village.

She reciprocated his affections, and confessed that she was ninety-six years of age, and thought nothing of walking several miles. She, too, had been twice married.

A few days afterwards the banns were published. Mr. Vincent furnished a nice little house, and the marriage was fixed for yesterday.

But on Tuesday night the villagers, for some unaccountable reason, they became very indignant. Armed with tin canisters and brooms they held a demonstration outside Mr. Vincent's house, and so vigorously nipped him that he seems to have lost his nerve.

At any rate the crowd that gathered outside of Penzance registry office in anticipation of the wedding were sorely disappointed when neither bridegroom nor bride appeared.

DARING ROBBERY.

Woman Held up on Cobourg Street, Ottawa by Desperados and Roughly Handled.

TORE RINGS FROM HER FINGERS BUT FAILED TO GET HIDDEN MONEY.

Ottawa, May 18.—The trio of daring burglars who have been operating right and left in Ottawa lately, have again held up a woman on the street.

Their attempt this time was made on Mrs. Louis Desouteaux, 200 Cumberland street, and though the robbers did not get her money, they secured some jewellery she had on her person, and ill-used her.

The woman, her husband, and Emory Cote, who is staying at their house, had been visiting friends on Cobourg street last Tuesday night. They left there to return home close upon midnight. The woman was in company with the men for a few moments and then went on ahead. At the corner of St. Patrick and Cobourg streets three men stopped her and in gruff tones told her they wanted her money. She had \$15, but it was hidden about her person, and they did not get it. She told them she had no money and asked them to let her go on home, but they refused and detained her several moments. It is alleged the woman was rather roughly handled. One of the cowards seized her hands and tore the rings from her finger.

They appeared very angry when they found she apparently had no money with her. She wore two or three rings, and one, at least, of them was on so tight that they could not remove it.

It was rumored that one of the assaulters made improper proposals, and that in the tussle that resulted when she endeavored to prevent them taking the rings from her hands, she was knocked down.

"It is quite true my wife was held up and robbed," said the husband, Louis Desouteaux, to the Free Press today.

"She had gone ahead of us and three men stopped her and asked for money. According to the story she told me, they did not strike her. They did not get any money from her."

By a strange coincidence, the other man, Emory Cote, was either robbed or lost a ten-dollar gold watch and chain the same night.

He and Desouteaux had lingered behind Mrs. Desouteaux, and did not don they had been drinking.

All Cote can remember is that the watch for a few moments was hanging out of his pocket. Whether he dropped it on the sidewalk or some one stole it he is not quite sure.

Desouteaux also acknowledges he cannot distinctly remember what occurred. When he got home his wife was there and told him of the hold-up. Cote belongs to Montebello and will leave for there in a few days. He has advertised for the watch, but never expects to see it again.

One of the detectives on the local force was asked did they know anything about this matter, and said

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that in so far as he knew, the police had not been notified of the hold-up.

WOULD NOT GO TO COURT.

Montreal Woman Swallows Dose of Poison.

Montreal, May 18.—Mary Tatlock, a woman of thirty-six years, was brought to Notre Dame Hospital today from 44 St. Vincent Street, suffering from poison. She appeared to be in an exceedingly nervous condition.

Inquiries at her home showed that she had been in an abnormal state for the last few days owing to the reception of a subpoena, calling upon her to testify today at the court house in an action by Austin Dare, against Gault Bros. Company, Limited. She worried over the idea of appearing in court, and during the forenoon told an elderly woman who lives in the same house that she would not appear under any circumstances.

She seemed to be working herself up over the matter, and at last cried out, "I would rather be dead than go to court." At the same moment she attempted to swallow the contents of a paper parcel she held in her hands. The old woman tried to snatch the paper, but the other had already succeeded in absorbing the greater portion of the stuff, which turned out to be permanganate of potassium.

When taken to the hospital the usual remedies for poisoning cases were applied, and the woman seems in a fair way to recover.

Old whisky and young women play havoc with a fellow, but then who would care for old women and young whisky?

Lovers like to quarrel on the same theory that a small boy likes to stub his toe, it feels so good when it stops hurting.

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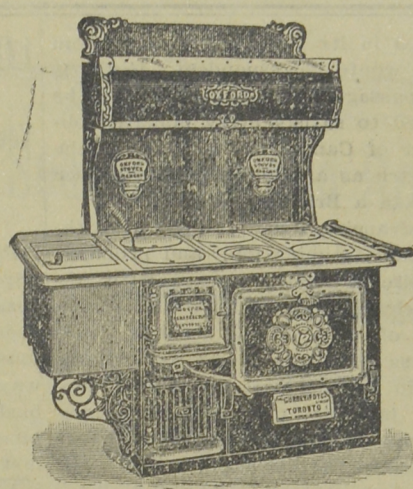
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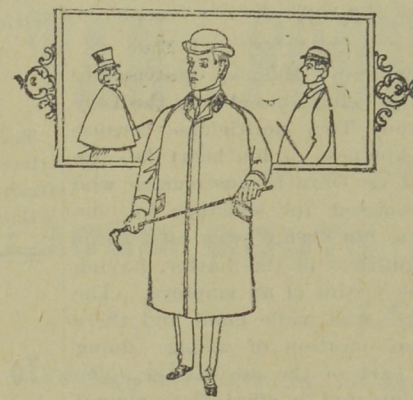
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