"Black Death" Threatens World

Bubonic Plague, After Six Centuries of Slumber, Once More Menaces Human Race, Declares Noted Authority.

Again the bubonic plague, the "black death" of the fourteenth century, which swent away half of the population of the earth, menaces the existence of the human race.

According to Dr. Justin de Lisle, a former pupil and assistant at the Pasteur Institute, himself a famous bacteriologist, now resident in New York, the plague, once more marching onward from its breeding place in India, has established itself in every clime and well nigh every country, ready to decimate the population when atmospheric and other conditions shall be favorable.

It may be a year, it may be ten years or yet a score of years, before the dread destroyer assumes a pandemic character, but surely as it has been incubating here and there throughout the civilized and savage worlds for 15 years, it will gather strength and sweep over the earth like a living fire.

We of the present day are prone to regard the plague as a thing of the past and to shelve it with the superstitions of the Middle Ages. We overlook the fact that Europe emerged only in 1879 from the shadow of the plague, and we simply close our eyes to the fact that two million human beings perished by it in India last year and probably a million and a half in China.

40,000,000 VICTIMS IN 17 YEARS.

Dr. de Lisle has amassed an enormous volume of statistics bearing upon the subject of the twentieth century plague visitation and is earnestly engaged in impressing upon scientific men here and abroad the tremendous necessity for immediate co-operation of the governments of the world to stamp out the dreaded pest.

"I have watched the march of the plague for fifteen years," said the doctor, "and have been amazed at the easy assurance of really scientific men. Ignoring the fact that the 'black death' carried off forty million people in Europe alone in the seventeen years between 1834 and 1851, as estimated by Pope Celment VI., and shutting their eyes to the secret medical reports from two score localities throughout the earth, they carelessly assume that modern sanitation and good luck will avert the catastrophy.

"Time was when the plague, starting out from Bombay, marched grimly across the earth by a beaten path, sweeping tens of thousands before it; slowly, but with frightful insistence, depopulating city after city, country after country, leaving behind it fragments of former populations, marching ever on and on until it had used up all of humanity susceptible to its blasting breath. In former centuries the plague followed the paths of commerce and its coming and going might be calculated with mathematical certainty.

"But today all is changed. Our vaunted 'twentieth century hygiene,' our advanced schools of medicine, our superior civilization are negatived by the fact that today a thousand avenues of communication by sea and land are open for the introduction of disease germs.

NO CURE FOR THE PLAGUE.

"I want to impress upon the people this fact: Medical science cannot cure the plague. There are five varieties of the pest, of which the bubonic and pneumonic are the principal. The latter, which is the most virulent, kills 99 per cent of its victims; the other form 75 to 80 per cent, during an epidemic. Medical science is almost futile against the ravages of the plague. It is only effective in furnishing a preventive, but of that I will speak later on.

"I was impressed while engaged in bacteriological work in the Pasteur laboratories in Paris with the ominous gathering of the cohorts of the 'black death.' Here and there I saw it gaining a foothold, and in spite of the utmost exertions of medical men and governments I saw that the germs of the disease were maintaining their ground and even spreading.

"I saw that in India, in spite of the frantic efforts of the English government, the plague was raging with ever increasing fury, carrying off its hundreds of thousands, and that in China the yellow men were going down with a rapidity only a trifle less startling. I saw the pest get a foothold in the Hawaiian Islands, in the Philippines, in Mexico, Brazil, Chili, Peru, California, Marseilles, Glasgow, Oporto, Russia, South Africa, Australia and a score of other places. I saw that the dreaded march had begun in earnest, and that no power on earth could stop it.

INDIA RAVAGED NOW.

"Look at this report in the Journal of the American Medical Association for the week of March 18. You will see it reported that in India for the week from January 21-28, the latest report to reach here, there were 38,204 cases of plague reported and 33,087 deaths, which means that during the week there were somewhere between 50,000 to 60,000 cases in all, for only about 25 per cent. of the cases in the death column come out of the live cases. You must bear in mind that the cases reported are those in, or near, the large cities, and that thousands of cases in the hills and remote districts are never reported. We find that there are numerous cases in Bombay, Calcutta and Karachi. In the same report we find 280 cases and 257 deaths reported in Arabia.

"Outside of India and China, where it is epidemic, it is in Oporto, Portugal; Glasgow, Scotland; Marseilles, France, and the Ural district, in Russia, where it is now epidemic. There have been some cases in London. It is in Bahia and Rio de Janiero, Brazil; Iquique, Chili; Port Elizabeth, Johannesburg, and Durban, in Cape Colony, South Africa; Callao, Peru; Singapore, in the Straits Settlement; Aden, Crater and other places in Arabia; Port Said, Egypt; Formosa, Chihuahua, Mexico; Manila and elsewhere in the Philippines, Hawaii and California.

"Note the wide dissemination of the plague. Wherever it has gained a foothold it has spread. It spreads today like ice upon a pond. Here a little centre, there another; then a needle shoots out and meets one projected from another centre and soon the entire pond is congealed. The plague is now spreading its campfires, and each fire gives off sparks which start other fires.

"Now, why is it that our health authorities are so infatuated with the idea that the quarantine regulations of the single port of New York will keep the plague from our doors? I have expostulated with them. They laugh and pretend to believe that there is nothing outside of New York. Why, let me tell you that the plague already has a foothold in this country, to say nothing of the plague spot in Mexico, just over the border.

IN SAN FRANCISCO IN 1900.

"Undoubted bubonic plague was uncovered in the Chinese quarter in San Francisco in 1900. A large area was found to be infected. The Chinese had hidden their fil in the dark alleys of Chinatown, as is their habit. Extraordinary efforts were made by the special committee of experts to stamp out the disease. Nevertheless next year, in 1901, there were forty-two fatal cases of plague in San Francisco, and since then the authorities have not allowed the statistics to be published. You can't stamp out the bubonic plague by concealment.

"In 1899 several cases of plague broke out in Manilla. The government sought to hide the facts. Next year there were 399 cases and 281 deaths, and in 1901 there were 497 cases and 375 deaths; all this in spite of a rigorous quarantine maintained by a military government and the utmost that the army and navy surgeons could do. Since this the government has suppressed the statistics. Every returned soldier is a menace to his countrymen.

"Let us look a litle nearer home. In 1899 two cases reached New York. The men came here on board the coffee steamer Santos, from Brazil. The plague stricken men were detained at quarantine. The following year two more cases reached here, and one died at quarantine. Again in 1901 a stoker on a steamer from Calcutta was taken to quarantine. These cases were heard of. Can there be any doubt that others among these mysterious cases hurried to quarantine are bubonic plague cases? Recently a series of very significant deaths occurred among passengers on a steamer detained at quarantine.

"The scourge reached England in 1899, in the person of a sailor from Calcutta. Four cases and two deaths were reported next year, and fourteen cases and eleven deaths in 1901. In 1900 there were eleven cases in Glasgow. Here, as elsewhere, the health authorities suddenly bottled up information.

SPREADS LIKE FOREST FIRE.

"I think that you will agree with me that the bubonic plague is once more upon its travels. It is gnawing its way with wolfish fangs into the entrails of civilization. It is like the incipient forest fire. Here and there a blasted tree is smouldering. There is no flame, little smoke, yet the glowing embers gnaw slowly, deeper and deeper, into the heart of the wood. By and by the conditions become favorable for the fire to spread. The surrounding timber is dry, a high wind arrives, the smouldering embers are fanned into a blaze, and behold! the whole forest is on fire and the devouring flames march onward with dreadful speed, destroying everything in their path.

"So the plague is but awaiting the moment when the populations of the earth shall be ripe for the scythe. As I have already remarked, it may be one year, or it may be ten, before the conditions are ripe for a worldwide scourge. Something will arouse the semi-dormant bacillus. Some climatic or meteorological condition will prevail, some sudden condition will present itself when the pest will strike all over the world, practically in an instant. Hence, I say, that the race is threatened by the plague.

"It only requires an atmospheric condition similar to that which sent the influenza around the globe, attacking practically the entire human race, to send the bubonic plague once more upon its ravages. And let me tell you that the scope of the two maladies is very much akin. The old fashioned notion that the plague is caused by filth, overcrowding, diseased grain and inundations, is exploded. It is caused always by the bacillus pesti, which was discovered simultaneously by Kitasato, the Japanese, and Yersin, the Frenchman, in 1894. It is a tiny, oval rod, short and thick, with rounded ends.

ATTACKS HOVEL AND PALACE.

"Bacilli Pesti" assemble in enormous numbers in the smaller glands and after death in the blood. The disease may be spread by the rats which run over the floors of pest laden houses, or carried by fleas, flies and other insects. The bacillus pesti is no respecter of persons. It fells alike the beggar in his hovel and the nobleman in his palace; and medical skill avails not. Within six weeks, I was informed by Sir Graham Bowden, late governor of one of the groups of British West Indies, that his people on the island of Mores, one of the Bahamas, were dying like flies of the plague, and that those attended by physicians died equally with those unattended.

VACCINE A PREVENTIVE.

"Science has practically given over the cult of the bubonic plague," said the doctor. "It seems to be, at present at least beyond the reach of remedies. But science has discovered a preventive of the disease, a vaccine which renders the human being immune for one year. How criminally negligent, then, is a government, which, knowing this, secretes its plague stricken people and neglects to provide a supply of this virus!

"Science has freely tendered its aid to the government, asking no reward. No secret is made of the preparation, and yet this government has allowed its soldiers in the Philippines to go unprotected. At the outbreak of the plague in Manila, in 1899, while I was at the Pasteur laboratory, the surgeon general of the United States marine service cabled for 10,000 doses of anti-bubonic serum. Not a tube existed in this country, five years after its discovery by a French scientist! The plague had then broken out in Marseilles, and the director of the laboratory replied that not one hundred tubes could be spared.

"While the plague is absolutely certain again to scorch the population of the earth, we may protect communities in the same manner as we now defy the ravages of smallpox by vaccination. Unfortunately the remedies protect only from fourteen to three hundred days.

MILLIONS OF TUBES NEEDED.

"Yersin, subsequent to his discovery of the bacillus of the bubonic plague, discovered what he called a curative serum. A large amount, about half a pint, has to be injected and it protects for only fourteen days. It is prepared by injecting horses similarly to the process in procuring diptheria antitoxin.

"Haffkine, a Frenchman, now in India, produced a virus made from cultures. The microbes are killed by heat and the preparation is injected under the skin. Its vaccine qualities develop after thiry days, during a portion of which time the subject is more prone to take the disease than at any other time. It protects after thirty days for about one year.

"The third and generally accepted vaccine was discovered by Besredka, a Russian, now chief de service in the Pasteur Institute. His virus protects within forty-eight hours and only the thirtieth part of an ounce is required. Immunity lasts a year. There is no disagreeable reaction. It is prepared from a combination of the principals of the other two vaccines.

"The formula is published. Besredka asks nothing for his work. Is is not strange then that the authorities do not get to work to prepare millions of tubes of this vaccine for the certain coming of the pest? It will keep, in the little hermetically sealed tubes, for all time. It can never deteriorate.

"See! In my hand I hold a tube with millions of bacilli of burbonic plague. If I threw it out of the window I would start a plague which would wipe out half of New York before it wore itself out. There is no virus here to protect the people. Months must elapse before it could be prepared. A year of work would be required before sufficient to inoculate all within the district could bep repared. I believe that the only colony of bacilli pesti, outside of perhaps those which the Washington authorities may have, you see before you.

"When you realize what the discovery of Jenner has done for the eradication of smallpox, which kills only ten per cent., and are assured that a disease which kills eighty to ninety-nine per cent. may be stamped out by the use of vaccine, can you excuse the conduct of our health authorities, national and municipal? The plague is spreading. No human agency can stay it. But science can protect those who can obtain vaccine—protect them for a year, when they may be revaccinated. Today $1,000,000 could not buy enough vaccine in this city to render a dozen persons immune."—New York Herald.

When Accidents Occur

be prompt to apply Pond's Extract—*the old family doctor*; its soothing, healing powers are marvelous. Cures burns, scalds, cuts, bruises; relieves all pain. 60 years it has been the one family remedy for every emergency. Imitations are weak, watery, worthless; Pond's Extract is pure, powerful, priceless.

Sold only in sealed bottles under buff wrapper.

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTE.

AVOIDING WASTE.

(London Chronicle.)

Andrew Lang, in his "Adventures Among Books," tells this of Robert Louis Stevenson:

"That he and a friend travelled utterly without baggage, buying a shirt where a shirt was needed, is a fact, and the incident is used in "The Wrecker." Legend says that once he and a friend did possess a bag and also, nobody ever knew why, a large bottle of scent. But there was no room for the bottle in the bag, so Mr. Stevenson spilled the whole contents over the other man's head, taking him unawares, that nothing might be wasted."

JAPAN'S ANTI-TOBACCO LAW.

Viscount Hayashi, the Japanese ambassador in London, writing to the secretary of the Scottish Anti-Tobacco society, states that there is a law in Japan prohibiting persons in their minority to smoke. The points of the stipulation, adds his excellency, are:

1. Persons in minority—that is under 20—are prohibited to smoke. If they are found smoking the police will confiscate the smoking instruments, as well as the tobacco.

2. If parents or guardians of youths under their knowledge allow their charges to smoke, they will be punished with a fine not exceeding one yen (about 2s).

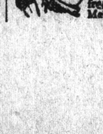
3. Tobacco dealers who under their knowledge sell smoking instruments to a youth for his personal use will be punished with a fine not exceeding 10 yen (about £1).

The law passed the house in March, 1900, and was subsequently promulgated.—London Daily Mail.

I want to get a dog collar, said the customer.

Yes, sir, replied the clerk, who had recently been transferred from the haberdashery department. What size shirt do you wear?

Advertising is like a plant. With the proper care and attention it will grow to mammoth proportions and increase the business of the merchant.—Ottumwa, Ia., Courier.



DR. A. W. CHASE'S CATARRH CURE ... 25c.

is sent direct to the diseased parts by the improved Blower. Heals the ulcers, clears the air passages, stops droppings in the throat and permanently cures Catarrh and Hay Fever. Blower free. All dealers, or Dr. A. W. Chase Medicine Co., Toronto and Buffalo.

FREDERICTON NEWS.

Poor Prospects for Driving on Upper St. John.

Some Drives Have Reached Safe Positions but Higher Water is Needed —Valuable Property Sold.

FREDERICTON, N. B., April 30.—At the annual meeting of the Wilmot Park board, Mathew Tenant was elected chairman, and W. T. H. Fenety secretary treasurer for the ensuing year. Henry Williams was re-appointed caretaker. The trustees are to visit the park next week and decide on necessary improvements. The grounds are to be open to the public on May 1st.

The death occurred at Gibson on Friday evening of John Morehouse, a well known resident of that place, and for several years a section foreman of the C. P. R. He was 45 years of age and leaves a widow, four sons and four daughters.

Effi-Ald. John S. Scott, of the Scott Lumber Company, states that word had been received by the firm to the effect that the tail of their drive on the Keswick had reached Zealand station. This means that it is in safe waters, and Mr. Scott feels most gratified.

Regarding the situation on the upper St. John, Mr. Scott states that he had heard nothing within the past day or two, but he felt that the prospects for getting out any of the lumber was gloomy indeed.

F. B. Edgecombe & Eaton's 300 men are still in the woods waiting for the water to rise. They cannot get anything much done at present.

From Edmundston and Woodstock despatches state that the water is very low and that no logs are running. The same reports come from along the Miramichi.

John Gibson's lumber drive on the Dunbar, consisting of two million feet, reached safe water Friday night. The logs go to the Alex. Gibson Manufacturing Company.

The Gibson Company drive at the head of the main Nashwaak is reported to be clear of the Stanley dam.

The Arnold Brook drive, containing five million feet, is coming along well, and should be out into the main river by the middle of next week.

The water in the Nashwaak is keeping up well and there is fair driving at the present time.

Gibson's drive on the Bartholemew is coming along well and should be in safe water in a short time.

It is reported that John Robinson of Newcastle will likely be appointed chief game warden, a position created during the recent session of the legislature. The salary attached to the office is $600 and travelling expenses.

John Pickard, a well known resident of Keswick, is dead in the 83rd year of his age.

There were over 100 stream drivers in town yesterday, and things are pretty lively about Regent street as a result. Most of the men were on what has been generally known as the Lepreaux drive. Operations there were carried on last winter by the Messrs. Hagerman. The cut was about 7,000,000, and in March Gregory & Dunn took charge of the operations. About 250 men were put on the drive, with Cornelius Hagerman as walking boss and William Hagerman as clerk. There was lots of snow and plenty of rain, so that there was really too much water, but every stick of the cut got out on Saturday.

About 30 of the men who were on this drive are to be hired by Thomas Morris to go upon the Tobique on the Murchie concern's drive.

With little water between 40 and 45 men brought out 3,000,000 feet on Shin Creek, leading into the South Branch of the Oromocto, with the exception of about 300 pieces owned by the John E. Moore concern. Another 800,000 on the South Branch lake has also been got out. Only a little water is needed to bring out the 300 pieces hung up and a crew of men have been sent back for them.

It is now expected that the companies of the R. C. R. will not be removed from here until the middle of the coming month. The official announcement has not yet been received and the suspense is getting rather exasperating.

Many of our citizens were busy yesterday in making a change in their residences.

Miss Louise Murray of St. John, sister of W. H. Murray, has purchased the property on the corner of King street and Queen Hotel alley, formerly the residence of the late Edward Jack. The purchase price is said to be in the vicinity of $3,000.

HAVING A GOOD TIME IN CUBA.

Miss Louise Wetmore, who is well known in St. John, and who was in charge of the Manual Training School at Campbellton last year, is spending the winter in Cuba, with her brother, who is engaged in engineering at Congopas. Recent letters from her give a very interesting account of her impressions of the handicraft of the native Cubans. She has taken the opportunity afforded by the many traces of Spanish occupation to study some very interesting pieces of woodwork and carving. She speaks of the wealth of beautiful material in the shape of various kinds of fancy woods grown in Cuba, but she says: "It arouses a strong feeling of covetousness in me when I see in the machine shops beautiful pieces of Spanish mahogany used in repairing plows, cane cars, etc."

Miss Wetmore has been travelling extensively in the island and is accumulating a good deal of lore about the inhabitants and their industries. She expects to return in the fall and again take up the work of which she has made a great success in this province.

"THE HAMPTON."

A Fine New Steamer Launched Yesterday at Hampton to Take Place of Stmr. Clifton.

HAMPTON, Kings Co., April 28.—Hampton Village presented quite a gala appearance today, with flags and bunting flying from every available vantage point in honor of the launching of the new steamboat which has been under construction on the street leading up from the public wharf since last autumn, and which is intended to take the place of the Clifton as soon as she can be supplied with her requisite machinery. The weather was superb. The steamer Clifton and the tugboat Tangent with steam up were near by. It was 1.40 o'clock p. m. when the last block was knocked away, and the first movement of the vessel occurred in her short trip to the river, which, full to its banks, seemed swelling with pride. Mrs. Mabee, wife of Captain Mabee, gracefully lifted an iron rod in her hand as she stood on the vessel's bow and breaking the bottle of wine which hung there christened the new steamer Hampton, which glided out upon the stream amid the greetings of steam whistles and the cheers of the people. She is in every respect a beautiful boat and a credit to her designer, to the workmen who built her and to the company who own her. Her dimensions are: Length, 115 feet; beam, 32 feet; depth of hold, 8 feet. After the bed has been laid for her boiler and engines, and some other necessary work has been completed, she will be taken to Indiantown to receive her outfit.

FREE TUITION IN SHORTHAND

C. P. R. to Establish School For Employes in Winnipeg.

WINNIPEG, Man., April 28.—The C. P. R. has decided to establish at Winnipeg a free school in shorthand and telegraphy for its employes. One school will be opened on May 1, and the classes will be held in the evening on the first floor in the new station. The qualifications for admission to the classes consist only of the recommendations of the heads of departments. A fee of $2 a month will be charged for each subject, but this money will be refunded as soon as the student has completed the standard course or has passed the examinations drafted by the committee to be appointed later. This committee will be in charge of the management of the classes.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF RAILWAY COMMISSION.

OTTAWA, April 28.—The first annual report of the railway commission of Canada has been prepared. It covers the period from February 1st of last year to December 31st, and contains a lot of information in detail concerning the work of that body. In the eleven months 79 public sittings were held. Of this number 65 were on the western circuit. A total of 102 applications were heard and 307 orders were issued. There were 53 inspections by officers of the board. Since the end of last year, the period covered by the report, the commission has been more active than before, and a great deal of business has been disposed of, while the staff has been thoroughly organized.

PROTESTANT ORPHAN ASYLUM.

O. H. Warwick, treasurer, gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following subscriptions: Geo. A. Kimball, Mrs. H. C. Rankine, Frank White, James E. White and F. E. S., each $10; J. H. Vaughan, J. G., J. and A. McMillan, Edwin J. Everett, H. H. deForest, Court Bros., James Fleming, Mrs. Murray MacLaren, F. H. McKiel, Henderson and Hunt, Mrs. A. A. Stockton, Samuel Kerr, J. H. McRobbie, each $5; A. C. Smith and Co., Dowling Bros., Miss M. Shay, each $3; N. W. Brennan, A. P. Miller, E. R. Machum, David Watson, A Friend, Alex. Watson, G. C., Cash F. C., Geo. Smith, J. T. Knight, J. Harvey Brown, G. Fred Anderson, each $2; S. L. Gorbell, $2.43; Mrs. T. E. C. Armstrong, Rev. A. A. Graham, James Hunter, G. A. Chamberlain, B. C., Barclay Boyd, S. Hawker, Mrs. C. E. Harding, Mrs. G. W. Fleming, Cash, A., A Friend, N. C., R. G. Murray, James Harding, Dr. G. R. Crawford, C. W. Stewart, each $1; Robt. Strain, A Friend, T. J. Dean, each 50 cents.

I. C. R. EMPLOYE KILLED.

Henry Frampton Fell 23 Feet and Broke Ribs, One Piercing His Lungs Causing Death.

MONCTON, N. B., April 29.—Henry Frampton, an I. C. R. carpenter, while at work on the roof of the car shop yesterday afternoon, missed his footing and fell a distance of 23 feet and sustained injuries which resulted in his death this morning.

Frampton was a carpenter by trade and was working with a crew of men erecting a travelling derrick. In addition to a bad cut in the head, the unfortunate man had several ribs broken and was suffering from internal injuries. It was found that one of the broken ribs had punctured the left lung and this was the cause of death.

Deceased was a native of Newfoundland and had lived in Moncton about two years. He was 45 years of age, and is survived by a widow and six children.

What is it that won't go down a chimney up, but will go up a chimney down; that won't go up a chimney up, but will go down a chimney down.

CASTORIA.

Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher. The Kind You Have Always Bought

HOW MUCH OF A LIAR IS LAWSON?

Norman Hapgood, writing in Collier's for April 22, in part says:

In the past Thomas W. Lawson has battled victoriously with the demon of obscurity. In the future he will not do less. By the reckoning of an expert, had he been compelled to pay at ordinary rates for notice recently received, it would have cost him three million dollars since July. To acquire fame, at rates so moderate, as Mr. Fales accurately concludes, in his entertaining little biography of the Boston saint and martyr, would, if Mr. Lawson had been a chewing gum or corn cure, have made a fortune for his owners. Throwing pennies to newsboys from a hotel window only cost him $20, and secured him $2,000 worth of space. Securing Mrs. Gardiner's box at the horse show was almost a free advertisement. Some think the Lawson pink actually cost but $3,000. In the "Why Priests Should Wed" sensation, Lawson is supposed to have hired the preacher whose arrest enabled "Big-Hearted Tom" to step in and play the paltry fine and secure notice worth many times the price. "Frenzied Finance" is the hottest advertisement he has encountered yet, but surely we have not seen the last of his resources.

Mr. Lawson is the greatest advertising genius since Phineas T. Barnum. He is also histrionic, and, like other actors, he does not always distinguish between himself and the role which he assumes. The histrionic nature is impulsive on the periphery, emphatic, easily moved to as much emotion as is needed to make expression easy.

That Mr. Lawson is a knave I have no doubt. He has proceeded all his life on the established brigand scheme of decrying a property, buying it, boosting it, and selling, letting the devil take the purchaser. His financial morals are the same today as they were in the days which he describes half with mock-penitence and half with pride. Fraud is the expression of his nature. He is a gentleman of fortune, an adventurer, charlatan, and liar. It is a foolish lamb that trusts him. Moreover, nobody honors the man who turns state's evidence. He is the man he was when his admitted crimes were done, and meaner than his companions, whose secrets he tells to save himself. Nevertheless, the law has need of him. His uncorroborated evidence goes for little, but it guides investigation. It leads to better evidence. Mr. Lawson's charges against the insurance companies are already bearing fruit. Because of them these great depositories for widow and orphan will be less rapacious. They will probably reach the same condition as savings banks, and the lurid picture of Mr. Lawson will have brought that day nearer. He has charged the directors with much of which they are innocent, but his charges have shown how wrongs can be committed under the current system and sometimes are committed. The excitement with which the Equitable troubles have been followed is largely due to him. He has prepared the people to protect themselves. He has set in motion a force which will hardly stop short of serious reforms.

Mr. Kemble once planned a cartoon, which he unfortunately never drew. Lawson, as vain and dishonorable in appearance as anybody could desire, was yelling and screaming with such intensity that the sleeping guardian of the people's treasure was beginning to awake, and the men who were robbing the people's safe were preparing to escape. If self-government is the wisest form of government, we shall be able to make use of Mr. Lawson's information without being misled by either his fabrications or his example.

GROUND TEMPERATURE.

The Earth a Sponge That Soaks Up Heat.

(Literary Digest.)

Interesting experiments on the temperature of the soil, both at the immediate surface and to a considerable degree below it, are reported in Cosmos, (Paris.) Heat travels so slowly through the earth that although the surface is hottest at noon, a layer two feet below it does not reach its hottest period until midnight. At the same time, of course, the difference between hot and cold is vastly reduced even at that slight depth. This fact was established long ago for the greater changes involved in the transition from one season to another. At a comparatively small depth it is warmest in midwinter, owing to the extreme slowness with which the temperature wave travels downward into the soil. Says the writer of the note in Cosmos:

"The earth may be regarded as a sort of calorimeter storing up in its mass the heat received at its surface: the gain of temperature for a period of some days depends on the value of the total radiation; its study is therefore an interesting one.

"The great heat of last July (in France) presented a very favorable opportunity, of which advantage was taken at the observatory of Juvisy, in a series of observations, from July 11 to July 17, at different depths underground. The following results are given in The Bulletin of the Astronomical Society:

"Under the alternate influence of solar heat and nocturnal radiation, the temperature of the earth's surface undergoes a daily variation. It increases from sunrise till the early hours of afternoon, and then decreases till sunrise the day following.

"The amplitude of this oscilation is much more considerable than that of the air. Its mean value for the period considered was 34.9 C. for the surface of the ground and only 16.6 for the air.

"If we observe the temperature of the ground at some depth we see that the temperature of the subjacent layers follows a movement analogous to that of the surface, but that the amplitude diminishes very rapidly with the depth, and at the same time the epoch of the maxima and minima is later and later.

"At 25 centimetres (10 inches), the mean amplitude is only 3.5; at 50 centimetres it fails to 0.4 and at 75 it disappears completely.

"The hours of maxima and minima are worth considering. The maximum that occurs about 1 p. m. at the surface has penetrated by 8 p. m. to a depth of 25 centimetres, and by 1 a. m. to 50 centimetres. It is the same for the minima, so that the hours of maximum and minimum are completely reversed. This arises from the fact that it requires a certain time to penetrate by conduction into the earth's interior."

NO DEFENCE IN PATTERSON CASE.

NEW YORK, April 28.—After a day replete with interesting developments, both the prosecution and the defense rested their case of Nan Patterson, the former actress, indicted for the alleged murder of Caesar Young, the wealthy bookmaker, almost a year ago. The prosecution finished its case just prior to the adjournment of the court and later Attorney O'Reilly, one of the counsel for Miss Patterson, notified the prosecution that his side would submit no defense and would rest on the contention that the state had failed to make out any case against the defendant. The decision means the speedy conclusion of the young woman's third trial. When the case is called Monday, to which date the trial was adjourned, Assistant District Attorney Rand will begin to sum up for the state. The succession of events which marked the day's proceedings included the court's denial of a motion to dismiss the indictment, the testimony of the prisoner's sister, Mrs. J. Morgan Smith, in which she made some interesting statements, but stood for the most part on her right to refuse questions on the ground that the answers might incriminate herself, notwithstanding Mr. Rand's promise to quash the conspiracy indictments against Smith if she would answer his questions, and the protest of the defense to the court that Mr. Rand's merciless method of questioning was badgering the witness, and the rejection again by the court of the much quoted letter of Mrs. Smith to Young expressing fear as to the consequences if Young did not see her sister.

HE DOESN'T WANT VERY MUCH.

(Chicago News.)

I want a house with rooms to spare—
Fine, spacious rooms; I want no flat,
I live in an apartment where
I cannot swing a small-sized cat.
I simply ache for elbow room,
I realize we were not meant
To live in cramped, steam-heated gloom,
I'm looking for a house to rent.

I wish to have it modern, though;
No tumble-down old barn will do.
Too far from town I cannot go;
I want good transportation, too.
Of course, the neighbors must be nice,
I'd like the grounds of some extent,
But can't afford a fancy price,
Where is there such a house to rent?

Yes, twenty-five is all I'll pay—
Eight rooms at least, in good repair,
Possession by the first of May—
I'll stand by then the country air.
I stick for flowers, fields and trees,
But want the sidewalks of cement.
I've looked so long for things like these,
I fear there's no such house to rent.

(Toronto Star.)

These are days in which a man rises up, grits his teeth, and with grim determination decides that next year they will have Easter hats within their means or go bareheaded.

Where is General Pflug?
Did he up and die?
He's doing no more pflghting—
Now, we wonder pfy.

MAINE MAN COMMITS SUICIDE.

YORK, Maine, April 30.—After filling his pockets with stones, Charles Lewis of Kittery jumped from Marshall's wharf at York Harbor taday and was drowned. The body was recovered. Lewis was about 33 years old and unmarried.

A VOLUNTARY INCREASE.

MONTREAL, April 30.—The Dominion Iron and Steel Company have made a voluntary increase in the wages of the foremen of the different departments.