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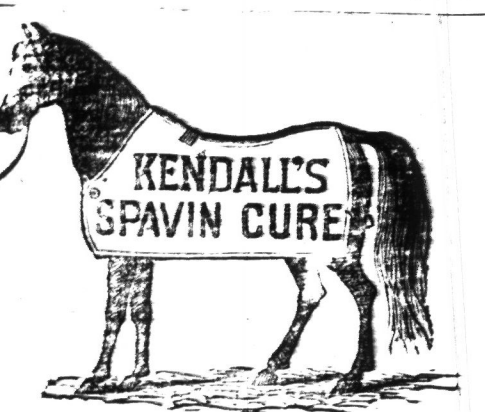
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JARVIS RECORD.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 1889.

CURRENT NOTES.

The Canada Gazette of Saturday contains and proclamation of the recently announced reduction of the export duty on pine logs from \$3 to \$2 per thousand feet, board measure. It takes effect from 1st July.

The statistic record for 1887 just out shows the number of letters posted in the Dominion of Canada to have increased from 18,100,000 in 1867, to 80,200,000 in 1887. The number of letters per head of the population was at that time 5.37, and is now 16.13.

A return, ordered by the House of Commons and just brought down, giving the names of veterans who fought in the war of 1812, and who received the \$30 voted by Parliament in the session of 1888, gives the names of 104. Of these 42 are in Ontario, 52 in Quebec, 4 in New Brunswick, 1 in Nova Scotia, 1 in Manitoba, and 4 in United States.

As an instance of the freedom of Canada from the most serious crimes, it may be mentioned that at present there is not a single prisoner under sentence of death. While such a happy condition of affairs exists, Canada cannot become keenly interested in the neighboring country's experiments concerning the best mode of administering capital punishment.

The highest statistics which have ever been reached in her annals of suicide were recorded at Berlin during the last month. Fifty-nine persons attempted to quit this mortal life and thirty-eight among them were successful. One boy, twenty women and thirty-eight men made up the number. Twenty-two sought death in the water, fourteen by hanging, twelve through bullets, five by poisoning and two by jumping from windows.

Millers of Norfolk, Brant, Haldimand and Waterloo counties met Thursday in Brantford, organized a local association and adopted a scale for buying and grinding as follows:—64-lb. wheat, 4 cents over; 63, 3 cents; 62, 2 cents; 61, 1 cent; 60 lbs standard, 59 lbs, 1 cent less; 58, 2 cents; 57, 5 cents; 56, 8 cents; 55, 12 cents; 54, 15 cents; 53, 20 cents. The following table for the exchange of flour was also adopted:—62 lb. wheat, 39 lbs. straight roller flour, 61, 38; 60, 37; 59, 36; 58, 35; 57, 34; 56, 30; 55, 25, and 12 lbs. of offal. The next meeting will be held at Woodstock on the 15th of August.

That the editorial page may soon disappear altogether is a dreadful possibility; and if it is to be committed to the care of the elegant essayist, writing over his own signature, there will remain no reason for its existence in its present form. The pressure for space every great daily is severe, and it now requires a stern front to hold the three or four columns sacred for editorial utterances. Give the news editor his opportunity and he will abolish the essayist without a qualm of conscience.—The Century.

An Ottawa despatch says—The contract for the new Atlantic mail service undertaken by the Messrs. Anderson, of London, was signed Wednesday. The contract calls for a fleet of steamers of a speed of twenty knots, capable of performing the journey between the terminal points, Quebec and Plymouth, in six days, and of a tonnage of 6,000 tons. Halifax to be the terminus in winter and Quebec in summer. It is not known yet whether the vessels will call at Montreal, but it is presumed that if they carry any considerable quantity of freight it will be necessary for

them to do so. It is expected that the new line will be in operation next spring. It is reported that the Messrs. Anderson are also to undertake a service between Vancouver and China and Japan.

PUMP OUT YOUR WELLS.—A medical gentleman in town suggests the propriety of having all the wells pumped out in order to avoid an epidemic of typhoid fever. Many of the wells are now filled almost to the top. Most of this water is surface water and is consequently more or less impregnated with vegetable matter. If this water is allowed to remain in the wells, the warm weather of July and August will breed in it the germs of the disease and its use by the people will be almost certain to spread typhoid fever broadcast over the land. A little care in this matter may prevent serious consequences, and it is much cheaper to pump out the well than to pay a large doctor's bill. A hint to the wise should be sufficient.—Brantford Expositor.

A Buffalo crank who believed he could navigate the falls of Niagara in a tub had the forethought to make the first attempt by proxy, the proxy being a dog. The navigation of the falls that a slight misunderstanding occurred between the river and the tub. In fact the tub reappeared in the shape of kindling wood, and the dog never reappeared at all. Another crank believed he could construct an air ship by means of which "the nations' airy navies" could navigate the central blue. He, too, tried thing by proxy, and unfortunately lives to explain in that if it had not been for some comparatively trifling errors of calculation and mechanism, Prof. Hog might have come down alive. We believe both these feats can be accomplished. The Hon. Peter Mitchell has more command over water than any other man in Canada, and there is little doubt that if he should resolutely set himself to the task he could navigate the falls in a tub. Then Billy Peterson, of Brant is quite an artist in wind, and it is quite certain that he could navigate an air ship. Why should Canada not have some honor from the elemental talent that now lies idly rotting upon Lethe's shores?

National Currency.

The Montreal Star strongly urges the adoption of a system by which bank notes may be made absolutely safe and will be received at par throughout the Dominion. It calls for a system similar to that of the national banks of the United States, though it hints that currency "direct from the government" would not be unacceptable.

We are decidedly of opinion that all notes employed as money should be issued by the government, should be made legal tender, and should be so far redeemable in coin or in government bonds as to be maintained at their face value at all times. The government will not permit a bank, or any corporation or individual to coin money. We really cannot understand why it should permit anybody to make and circulate notes which are the mere representatives of coined money. Dominion notes now circulate freely throughout the whole country, nobody has any doubt respecting them, and nobody can ever suffer any loss through failure to pay coin for them on demand. If any of them are burned, or in any way destroyed, the loser suffers as in the case of bank bills, but the whole people, not a particular business concern, get the benefit. If the issue of bank notes were prohibited, the government would be able to issue notes equal to the present bank circulation; that is, more than \$30,000,000 over and above the Dominion notes now in circulation; and the whole of this sum, less specie on hand for redemption of notes, would be money borrowed without interest. Even if we suppose so much as \$10,000,000 of specie would be required, the government would still be in the position of borrowing \$20,000,000 without interest.

The value of a Dominion bond bearing a low rate of interest, and convertible into currency at will, and vice versa, would be that it would make the currency flexible. At present, the moment little clouds appear on the horizon of the money market, the banks grow weary and shorten credits. Many people, amply solvent, who have been encouraged to work up to their full limit, find their line drawn tighter just at the moment they need some little relaxation and in this manner disasters are precipitated. The banks would under any system feel impelled to be cautious in the presence of possible danger; but if the Spectator's scheme were adopted money could be made as plenty as might be desirable at critical moments, and the volume of currency would always be adequate for business needs.

But, without the intermediate bonds, the issue of all money and substitutes for or representatives of money by the government would make bills good in all parts of the Dominion, would secure note-holders against loss, and would save large sums to the people every year. These advantages would amply justify the change.—Spectator.

The Belgian Chamber of Deputies has voted \$2,000,000 for a new Congo railway.

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Michigan express, except Monday, 10:39 am

Chicago express, daily, 11:30 am

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