

NEW WELLAND CANAL WILL FREE ONTARIO

"Cinderella of Lakes" to Take on New Life.

Toronto, Ont.—Lake Ontario, the Cinderella of inland seas, rejoices in the prospect of an early emancipation by the opening of the new Welland canal.

In every port on the great lakes shipping men and others are discussing what will happen in the new era to be inaugurated by the canal, which in some respects rivals Panama. There is some difference of opinion, but whatever happens will be an improvement for the ports located on Lake Ontario.

Here is one of the finest bodies of water in the world, 200 miles long by 40 wide. Surrounded on all sides by rich country and teeming cities, it ought to be alive with commerce. But the ordinary view of Lake Ontario is as lifeless as the picture of the "painted ship upon a painted ocean."

Imprisoned by Falls, Rapids.

Nature played a mean trick on Lake Ontario. It made her the connecting link between two of the most famous rivers in the world—the Niagara and the St. Lawrence—but the falls of Niagara and the rapids of the St. Lawrence, which millions of people have come from the ends of the earth to see, have isolated and imprisoned Ontario.

Great ocean liners come up the St. Lawrence to Montreal and stop. Great liners of the inland seas cruise Superior, Huron, Michigan and Erie, but they stop when they approach the mouth of the Niagara river.

It is true both the Niagara and the St. Lawrence have been canalized, but the ships than can be accommodated are small and the trips through the locks tiresome.

The new Welland canal will be revolutionary in its capacity. Instead of a draft of 12 or 14 feet it will provide a draft of 25 feet, which can be deepened to 30 feet. Instead of 27 locks, it will have only 7 locks, and 3 of these will be double locks in flight, enabling boats to ascend and descend.

Instead of 12 to 18 hours now required to get through the canal the passage will be made in 8 hours or less. Ships of 12,000 tons, good-sized ocean liners, will be able to make the Niagara detour with ease.

Ontario Ports Looking Up.

A great milling industry has grown up at Buffalo, N. Y., and Port Colborne, Ont., because all the larger grain ships from the head of the lakes were stopped by Niagara. Now all the ports at the eastern end of Lake Ontario are getting ready to capture or at least share in this trade. The large boats will be able to get down the St. Lawrence as far as Prescott, Ont., and Ogdensburg, N. Y., but as the channel through the Thousand Islands is tricky the ports of Kingston, Ont., and Oswego, N. Y., are more generally favored. Kingston, one of the most ancient cities in Canada, is preparing for a great revival.

Montreal also hopes to benefit. Freight rates for the all-Canadian route will, it is hoped, be lowered (though as to this there is some doubt) and Montreal will be able to compete on more favorable terms with the Atlantic American ports. In any case, Montreal hopes to become a great milling center.

Toronto, in anticipation of the canal, has spent \$20,000,000 on a harbor development and even if the achievement of ocean port status is delayed it hopes by more accessible coal and ore supplies to establish on its harbor front large new industries.

By the end of the present season 80 per cent of the new Welland canal undertaking will be completed. By 1930 at the latest it will be ready for traffic.

The cost will be well under \$100,000,000.

One Eye Her Oculist

Son Could Not Help

The oculist had a joke the other morning. Every now and then he smiled quietly to himself. "You know," he said finally to the woman, "mothers are wonderful people. They always believe there is nobody quite so clever as their own children."

"Now, my mother, for instance, thinks I know everything about eyes. She doesn't confine her boasting to the neighbors, either. She is just as likely as not to walk up to a nearsighted or cross-eyed passenger in the subway and tell him his eyes need attention and that her son is the best oculist in New York. She says that isn't hunting business for me; it's helping people who don't know enough to look after their sight. But the joke is on her."

"Yesterday she met a man who is distinctly and painfully 'wall-eyed.' 'You mustn't let your eyes go like that,' she told him immediately the introductions were made. 'My son can do anything with eyes. Why don't you go to see him? I'm afraid he can't do anything with this eye, madam,' answered the object of her solicitude; 'you see, it's a glass one.'"

—Subscribe for the Watchman.

Success Credited to Exactions of Poverty

Boys who have grown into successful men will, as a rule, say that the greatest asset and blessing they enjoyed was the exactions of poverty, the struggles they had to make through which they kept their appetites in check, in keeping with their earnings; that frugality was necessary because they had to make ends meet, had to pay for their keep and could only have what they were able to buy after contributing to their families or relatives. They will say that the self-denials they made for others were the most valuable lessons on the road to success, and that the practices forced upon them by necessity lasted through their business careers and made success possible. It is hard for the boy who earns a dollar a week to give part of it for his keep—but there is more in it than the mere contributions of the money. The boy is learning—learning everything worth while. Poor is the boy who is denied this part of his education. It matters not how great his money riches.—Macor (Ga.) Telegraph.

Fool Friends Scored by Great Naturalist

Luther Burbank preferred his garden experiments to business ventures, but the activities of his friends succeeded in embroiling him in business relations with various people for more than twenty years. His business ventures not only turned out badly, but they took considerable time from his creative work.

"I do not believe any of the men who tried to exploit or subsidize me or my work had base motives," he wrote in the Saturday Evening Post. "On the contrary, most of them were actuated by a desire to increase my usefulness and to widen the scope of my experiments and to broadcast the results over a greater area."

"I would rather have five energetic and competent enemies than one fool friend; now and again my friends have led me astray, and it has cost me a lot of money, a world of trouble and a multitude of worries before I got back on the main track again."

"Ghost Money"

"Money" and other articles made out of tin foil, and intended for the special use of departed spirits, provides the town of Shaohing, China, with a curious and profitable industry.

All day long the din of thousands of hammers pounding on anvils can be heard, and the production of these symbols for departed spirits is said to bring in £3,000,000 a year.

The symbolic money is made by hand, the tin being hammered out on anvils until a surprising thinness is obtained. Although the "money" is intended for the use of the dead, there is considerable traffic in the ashes of the fires burnt at the tombs where the "money" is placed. The tin is extracted from the ashes and used again to make more "money."—London Tit-Bits.

Sugar Cane in America

Sugar cane was introduced into the New World shortly after its discovery, and it is recorded that in 1518 many sugar mills were in operation on the island of Santo Domingo. It was not until 1751, however, that the plant was grown in continental America, as a result of the importation of cuttings by Jesuits in Louisiana. From that time it was cultivated in a desultory manner until the end of the Eighteenth century, when the failure of indigo and other crops forced the Louisiana planters to turn their attention to the manufacture of sugar as a source of revenue. Establishment of the American sugar cane industry may be said to date from 1793, when the first successful mill began operations on a plantation about six miles from New Orleans.

Odd Butterfly

Perhaps one of the most remarkable instances of camouflage is that of the "Green Hairstreak" butterfly. The upper surface of the wings are blackish-brown; the undersides an intensely vivid light-green.

A butterfly invariably folds the wings close upwards when resting. Consequently the green hairstreak, conspicuous enough among the hedges, has only to alight upon a green leaf for his green undersurface to render him instantly invisible.—Nature Magazine.

Order Was Placed

The teacher of the kindergarten Sunday school class was asking each member if there was a little brother or sister at home who might soon be eligible for admission to the class. One little boy, as he heard the proud responses of the children in front of him, felt that he was rapidly losing caste.

"No, ma'am," he admitted reluctantly, then added in sudden desperation, "But we're going to get one!"

The Only Girl

Jack had just asked Jill to marry him, and she had murmured, "Yes." "Jack, dear," asked Jill, after a long silence, "am I the only girl?" "Jill, darling," he interrupted, "don't ask me if you are the only girl I have ever loved. You know it as well as I do." "That wasn't the question at all, Jack," she answered. "I was just going to ask you if I was the only girl who would have you."

PLANNING TO PUT VOLCANO TO WORK

Scientists Seek Method of Harnessing Crater.

Not so many years ago the people of Iceland conceived the idea of harnessing the famous hot springs which abound in that country and, by means of pipes, conveying the hot water to their homes for heating and domestic purposes.

The wise men of Naples, Italy, are seeking for some method of impressing the volcano, Little Vesuvius, into service, and utilizing its heat for train car operation.

For 800 years the crater at Pozzuoli was considered extinct. A few years ago it awakened, and two volcanic cauldrons opened at the crater base, while more recently an eruptive mouth appeared.

Men of science consider that if the forces, heat and electricity, at this point were controlled by a power plant, it would be possible not only to provide sufficient electricity for the supply of the surrounding towns, but for Naples as well.

The great difficulty is in finding a piping which can resist the corroding power of the hydrosulphides and sulphur dioxide of the soil near the volcanic mouth.

The commune of Naples had a huge iron pipe sunk, but after a short time it was entirely destroyed by the action of these gases. Later a smaller pipe of white metal was used, but this too, corroded.

So far it has not been possible to find a piping which lasts more than a few weeks, after being sunk.

The Solfatara, ever since Roman times, has been celebrated for its curative properties.

In Roman days its baths were famous and today remains of them can be seen in the hillside.

Since the war the sulphurous vapors from the different apertures have brought health to many ex-soldiers suffering from lung trouble. During the past five years vast quantities of kaolin have been taken from the crater basin, for the Neapolitan industry of chalk statuettes.

It was this extensive digging which caused the ground to cave in, when a volcanic cauldron of lava mud made its appearance.

A small observatory was erected, in order that the crater could be studied. The volcano was given the name of "Little Vesuvius," though it is miles away from Mount Vesuvius, and situated on the other side of Naples.

Experts consider the Pozzuoli crater as far more wonderful than Vesuvius itself.

The heat generated by the mud cauldron is 100 degrees hotter than boiling water, and is thus capable of generating power for electrical purposes.

Its vapors also carry a positive charge of electricity. The only recorded eruption of lava from Solfatara is one of doubtful authenticity ascribed to the year 1193.

Early Life Insurance

Originally life insurance was not much more than an incident of marine insurance. When the success or failure of a voyage depended largely on the personal qualities of the master of the ship, the owners of ship and cargo would insure themselves not only against the perils of deep, but also against the danger of loss through the death of the master—that is, they took out insurance on the life of the master for the voyage. These early life insurance policies were written by individuals long before life insurance companies came into existence. The earliest policy of which anything definite is known was issued in London in 1539, insuring the life of one William Cybbons for 12 months. This was underwritten by 13 persons acting individually; the premium was \$50 per thousand. A similar policy would cost today about \$10 at age thirty-five.

Storms and Headaches

Each of us is carrying through life an enormous weight in the form of the pressure of the outside atmosphere upon our bodies. We don't, it is true, notice it, because inside our bodies is another pressure (in our blood, and so forth) which exactly balances the outside pressure.

Were it not for this equalizing pressure, we should experience grave discomfort just as do mountain explorers who go to great heights where the air is "thinner."

Roughly speaking, this is generally what causes many people trouble in a thunderstorm. The atmospheric pressure alters suddenly and disturbs the balance, with the result that the arteries swell up and probably affect the brain and nerve centers, causing a headache.

Sun and Fire Symbols

There are to be found occasionally upon the walls of old brick houses, at about the line of division between the first and second stories, flat pieces of iron 5 or 6 inches in length and shaped somewhat like the letter "S."

The use of these articles was clearly brought from England, where it is still continued, and there is a curious origin and meaning attached to them. The figure in question is an early symbol of the sun. It is still used in Herefordshire and other parts of England. There one is informed that the reason for the particular form of these irons is that they were made thus in order to protect the house from fire as well as from collapse.

MOTHER'S DAY MEDITATION.

In one of the great churches in Paris there is an altar and over the altar is the figure of a woman with a babe in her arms standing on the world, and under her feet lies a crushed and bleeding serpent. The power which crushes evil and becomes the hope of the world lies in consecrated motherhood. In the formative period of France's history, when the future seemed uncertain and insecure, Napoleon cried: "What France needs is mothers." Civilization will always owe an enormous debt to that man or woman in whose life's career is expressed a mother's dreams and ideals.

As we wrestle with the responsible tasks of our life's work, it is a mother's soul which rises to meet us and with whom we keep companionship. It is her soul we would interpret. The most wonderful thing in the world is a mother sending forth her child into the world with high ideals burning like beacon lights in his heart. The destinies of civilization rest very largely in the hands of motherhood.

On Mothers' Day our minds especially return to the old home. We are reminded of the secret of the home life. We live over again the days of our childhood. In memory of the mother who made that home what it was we wear today either the red or white carnation. We should not be ashamed to do it. We should do it with the spirit of pride. Whistler was not ashamed of his mother. He painted her in a picture everybody admires. Kipling was not ashamed of his mother. He wrote in her memory that beautiful poem, "O, Mother of Mine!" It is said that upon the occasion of his inaugural exercises, President McKinley, in the presence of a large number of people, went over to where his mother was sitting and kissed her. Our opportunities are made possible because some mother suffered, and prayed. She toiled many times when we slept. Her hands were soiled with work when ours were soft. She sacrificed that we might live. There are different kinds of love in the world, but there is nothing that can compare with or take the place of the sacrificial love of a mother.

Find Ample Proof of Elephants in America

Scientists interested in the prehistoric animals that roamed the North American continent in times too remote to calculate offhand have now and then resurrected from their beds of rock and debris the skeletons of mammoths and mastodons, those strange creatures akin to the elephant. That the elephant species was known to the civilizations of Central America no so many thousands of years ago seems to be proved conclusively by recent excavations made in Panama. A Hyatt Verrill, writing in World's Work, describes the strange sculptures of an ancient people, dug up from the volcanic soil of the little isthmian republic showing the degree of artistic advancement achieved by that vanished race.

Perhaps the most interesting and remarkable find of all, writes Mr. Verrill, was a large sculptured stone figure thoroughly elephantine in form and detail. Hitherto the so-called "elephants" found in prehistoric (and modern) American ceramics and stone work have been generally accepted as conventionalized antelopes or tapirs with exaggerated snouts. But in this case it is scarcely possible to account for the creature on this hypothesis. Not only is the body elephantine, but the large leaf-like ears could belong to no other known creature, while the hind knees bend forward, a character peculiar to the elephant. It is difficult to believe that any man unfamiliar with the elephant could have conventionalized a tapir or an antelope to the extent of adding broad fan-shaped ears and legs bending forward, while as a final touch, the creature is represented carrying a load or burden upon its back.

London Fogs

Those Londoners who speak of the present-day white mists and darkened skies as fogs are very young. In 1881 the fog was so thick during cattle show week that several cattle were suffocated by it at the Agricultural hall. A really long fog was the one which began in November, 1873, and lasted until February, 1880. Incidentally, it sent up the death rate 48 per thousand. And we cannot blame our Victorian forefathers for our fogs, either. As long ago as 1306, when London was a mere handful of 50,000 inhabitants, the city's fog problem loomed so large that the sin of burning smoke-producing coal was punishable with death.—London Daily Mail.

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