WATERPOWER OF NIAGARA FALLS

Beauty Triumphs Over Utility, and the Great Cataract Will Plunge Forever—Some Concession to Sordid Gain.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

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Washington, Dec. 29.—If industry could triumph over beauty the fall of water at Niagara could some day be diverted to manufacturing uses, generating over 4,000,000 mechanical horsepower, supplying countless factories with motive power and causing the creation at Niagara of the greatest manufacturing center the world has ever known. Sixty-four years ago Daniel Webster, with prophetic eye turned toward the falls, said: "If the Thames had a fall of 250 feet within the limits of London, London would not be a town, it would be the whole world." And he had not then foreseen the development of electrical power.

Lovers of nature and of the beautiful have, however, circumvented industry in its efforts to divert the fall of water to more sordid uses. When the nation began to see that every time a new manufacturing enterprise found a home between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, there was a decrease in the flow of water that came over the great precipice in Niagara river, its people thought it wise to take steps to limit such enterprises, and so protect from final annihilation the biggest natural wonder of this country. It has been a stern, but good natured war between the commercial and art loving sides of the nation. A prominent manufacturer argued very seriously a few weeks ago that if the nation needed more food, or clothes, or paper or other articles than were being manufactured, it would be only the just and right thing to do to divert every drop of the water at Niagara to mechanical uses, supply the people with the needed commodity at a low price and, if necessary, leave the rocks bare and brown. So far in the contest, however, nature lovers have won, and the power generated on the American side is let until June 29, 1909, unless further legislation on the matter is effected, and the secretary of war has the right to revoke these permits at will. The campaign that brought about this victory was led by the American Civic association. The press and the people at large took it up, international discussions were held, the Burton act became a law despite the opposition of the manufacturers, and Mr. Taft, then secretary of war, made a pilgrimage to the spot and studied the situation carefully and in detail.

Government Stands Guard.

The loss of water from Niagara falls has already been considerable, without taking the power development question into consideration. Erie canal draws water from Niagara river at Buffalo, the Welland canal takes from Lake Erie, and further back the volume is diminished by the water taken from Lake Michigan by the Chicago drainage canal. The volume of water passing over the falls is now 220,000 cubic feet per second, and there is now being drawn off 20,000 cubic feet per second. The maximum amount to be taken per second on the American side is 6500 cubic feet by the Niagara Falls Hydraulic Power & Manufacturing company, and 8600 cubic feet by the Niagara Falls Power company. Power generated on the Canadian side is imported to the American side to the extent of 160,000 horse power.

The Burton act gives the United States government charge of the utilization of the Niagara falls water power. Congress, in exercising its right to regulate interstate commerce, may control the navigable streams of the country without regard to who owns the bed. On this authority it assumed charge of Niagara, much to the disgust of the users of the water power generated there. The opposition argued that the rule didn't apply in this case, that the falls and the whirlpool of Niagara were not navigable. But reply to this came that these deficiencies in the commercial eye were of greater importance, anyway, being a natural boundary of the country and a most important defense. If Niagara river were abolished the defense of the nation would be affected, and in event of international strife, Buffalo with its millions of dollars of shipping trade would fall quickly into the hands of the enemy; and a great percentage of the 65,000,000 tons of produce that pass annually through the Great Lakes suffer confiscation or annihilation.

Manufacturers, still sore over their limited allowance of water, have pointed to the government's own diversion of water at the Shoshone falls in the big irrigation projects there, and argue that manufacturing a commodity into food or clothing or furniture is quite as important as making homesteads and farms where the raw material from which these things are made can be raised. But the government pursues the even tenor of its way in the matter and doles out so many cubic feet of water per minute to the water power companies and preserves the natural beauties of the place for the nature lovers and the perennial tourist.

Cheap Power at Niagara.

For the use of electricity, per 75 horse power, the average cost in Boston is $957 a month, in New York or Brooklyn $699, in Niagara Falls, $144. This coupled with the exceptional transportation facilities, has made Niagara a paradise for manufacturers and has increased the village of 4000 or 5000 people, supported by tourist trade, to a city of 30,000 stable population, sustained by growing manufacturing and commercial industries. In its process of industrial development, Niagara has cheapened factory work, so that aluminum, for example, is half its former price. As it is used in making government armor plate, the saving in that one commodity is appreciable.

The 400 or more factories at Niagara have, with few exceptions, doubled their capacities since they were built, and the 2000 horsepower output of the earlier power houses has been increased accordingly. By rail Niagara manufacturers reach a wide stretch of territory, having access to seven branches of the New York Central lines, and 12 other roads. By water they have four canal and river outlets, and by trolley two international lines. Within a radius of 500 miles of Niagara live 50,000,000 people.

The Niagara Power House.

The labor expended in erecting the power houses and in excavating for the tunnel races at Niagara was enormous. With incredible skill and energy the solid rock was cut to a depth of 200 feet for the erection of a building 10 stories or more deep. The water is diverted from a point above the falls and is brought by a canal into the building, the flow carefully regulated and falling 180 feet to the turbines in the lowest basement. It sets in motion the giant dynamos on the ground floor, and brings into being one of the finest systems of electric power in the world. After having served its use the water slips into a deep tunnel, suggestive in its darkness and in the sinuous flow of its whispering waters of old world subterranean passages and oubliettes of the days of the French revolution. But this tunnel is devoted to the reign of peace and industry, and is a useful and unwarlike tail race 7000 feet long that finds its way under the city, and discharges into the river below the falls.

Millions of dollars have been expended in harnessing the falls to the more menial tasks of turning the wheels of modern industry. The perfection of the power houses has called for superior engineering skill and the highest examples of mechanism obtainable. The architecture, in conformity with the demands of modern civic pride, is of such excellence that the buildings, especially those on the Canadian side—the generating and distributing stations for a 200,000 horsepower force—have been taken for universities or art palaces. The power is distributed to cities miles away, furnishing motive power for cars, for factories, and in one particular instance, the heat for baking in a cracker factory.

If Hennepin Came Back.

If good old Father Hennepin could come back he would find a vast change in the surroundings of the falls since he first saw them that momentous day over two centuries ago. The falls themselves have not changed perceptibly, as can be seen from the little sketch he made then and had published in 1698, for on the American side the recession of the falls by erosion is only two tenths of a foot per year, but the surroundings are vastly different. Where he saw only nature in her wildest form, he would find today that civilization had taken things in hand and had beautified a little and marred more. Factories have come and have elbowed one another along the river side in an attempt to get a good place near the power giving flow; hotels have set themselves on heights and points overlooking the falls so that the beauty lover and the globe trotter may sit and look on the wonder at will, and find physical comfort in doing it. More humble dwellings have crept to the banks below the falls, and trolleys whir on threads of steel along the shore line far below the whirlpool, and loop back again.

The Old Indian Legend.

The Indians told the good explorer-priest the legend of the maid of the falls. Every year the best fruits of the harvest field and of the chase were placed in a canoe as a propitiation to the gods. A beautiful maiden was placed in the bow, and as the canoe was sent over the falls she chanted a song. Could Father Hennepin look over the shoulder of the secretary of the state reservation when he is working on his annual report he would see that the spirit of the falls has captured others than the Indian maiden, for the last fiscal report shows that seven people wilfully cast themselves in the river to be swept over the cataract, and others were accidentally taken.

Conservation of Niagara.

He would find the place no longer a land of the Indians to be held by them even as late as the time of their massacre of a British caravan and company of soldiers in 1763. He would find it a state property, set aside by New York in 1883, following the agitation started in 1869 by citizens of the state for the preservation of the falls. The superficial area of this reservation is 412 acres, and 300 acres are a vast tumult of surging, plunging, ungovernable waters, making of it the most unique reservation set aside by any national or state government in the world. The 112 acres of land have a most dangerous shore line. Seven and a half miles border on waters with high and precipitous cliffs, which the state has found necessary to safeguard with heavy rails and stone walls. But state government on the American, and provincial government on the Canadian side have set about restoring the beauty to nature that manufacture was in danger of destroying. And now, aided by civic leagues, the water power privileges are being rightfully restricted, and nature and manufacture are working harmoniously hand in hand, under the vigilant eye of two nations.

ANTI-SEMITES RAGE IN FINLAND

Obsolete Laws Resurrected to Enable Russia to Indulge Hate.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

St. Petersburg, Dec. 29.—Basing their action on ancient and obsolete anti-Semitic statutes, the Russian authorities in Finland have inaugurated a wholesale persecution of Hebrews and are driving them from their homes into the fields to starve and freeze. Reports of terrible suffering and appalling loss of life come from all parts of the dependency. The weather is extremely severe and the hunted Hebrews, stripped of their household goods and unable to secure food, herd together on the snow covered fields and die.

FRAT MEN ESCORT CHICKEN INTO HOUSE

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Berkeley, Cal., Dec. 29.—The police authorities have decided to decline the services of Attorneys Wilder White, H. Rickson and Samuel White of San Francisco, all members of the Delta Kappa Epsilon society, as special prosecutors to discover how an able bodied chicken obtained entrance to the fraternity house last night.

Patrolmen Kobler and Thompson were instructed yesterday afternoon by their chief to be alert for chicken thieves in the neighborhood of the fraternity house. They kept close watch and will swear they saw a chicken, surrounded by fraternity men, enter the home of the society.

Moreover, the policemen entered and saw the chicken gravely promenading on a table surrounded by jovial college men. They are certain also that "lost and found chicken" complaints in the neighborhood will cease.

CHINA ASKS EUROPE FOR RAILWAY LOAN

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Peking, Dec. 29.—For the purpose of developing the Canton-Hankow railroad, the Chinese government has directed its foreign agent to attempt to place a loan with British, French, German and Japanese banks.

The action follows the failure of the government to float a domestic loan of $5,000,000 to pay shareholders of the national telegraph system. Fearing a second failure to secure money for the road the government has deemed it prudent to raise the money outside of China.

Weed-Gardner Wedding.

Chicago, Dec. 29.—Society was interested in the wedding today of Miss Chloe Helen Gardner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Partridge Gardner, and Benjamin Bartlett Weed of St. Paul. The ceremony was performed at noon in the chapel of St. Paul's church. The attendants included Miss Achsa Gardner, sister of the bride, and her two cousins, Misses Pauline Brewster and Isabelle Gardner. Paul Weed of St. Paul served his brother as best man.

Dyspepsia is America's curse. Burdock Blood Bitters conquers dyspepsia every time. It drives out impurities, tones the stomach, restores perfect digestion, normal weight, and good health.

Itching, bleeding, protruding or blind piles yield to Doan's Ointment. Chronic cases soon relieved, finally cured. Druggists all sell it.

Doan's Regulets cure constipation without griping, nausea, nor any weakening effect. Ask your druggist for them. 25 cents per box.

For any pain, from top to toe, from any cause, apply Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil. Pain can't stay where it is used.

WAR CLOUD IN FAR EAST AGAIN

"Banzai" and "Hooray" Can't Keep Peace—It Will Take Navies.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Tokio, Dec. 29.—Although the reception given the United States battleship fleet by the Japanese was pronounced one of the most pleasant and interesting incidents of the world cruise and went far toward easing the strained relations between the two countries, and although much good feeling has followed the recent publication of the agreement between Secretary of State Root and Ambassador Takahira, the consensus of opinion among Americans in the orient is that unless the temporary good will is immediately strengthened little of political value will result.

While no diplomatic crisis is expected to develop between the two countries in the near future, owing to the condition of the finances of Japan, yet the fear is being generally expressed among Americans here that the apparent sincerity of the welcome to the fleet and the sympathetic tone of the five articles recently exchanged between the two powers may deceive the people of the United States into believing that no danger to the nation's interests now exists in the far east. Any failure at this time to build up the position of America on the Pacific, the naval strategists declare, will ultimately result in national disaster.

Peace Must Be Compelled.

That a compelled peace is the only certain peace which will come to the east, despite the protestations of friendship by Japan, is the universal belief of those men who are experienced in oriental politics and who, in case of trouble, will be entrusted with the defense of the national interests.

The plan of holding a pacific conference to be attended by representatives from all the countries holding territorial or trade interests in the east, which was broached during the visit of the fleet, meets with general favor.

The outline of the conference plan is to assemble, on the invitation of the Tokio government, men representing the business and financial interests of the several countries to discuss trade relations in the east. The political phases of the eastern problem could incidentally be discussed in an amicable way, it is pointed out by the advocates of the plan, and a better understanding could be promoted between the different interests which would eventually make the diplomatic task of framing a permanent agreement not so difficult.

Conference to Define "Zones."

This unofficial conference, under the plan suggested, is to be followed by a convention of representatives of the different governments to establish a readjustment of the conflicting zones of influence in the east.

The idea has the unofficial indorsement of the Japanese government, and the first conference is expected to be called through the Japan-American alliance, an association of influential Japanese who are desirous of establishing more friendly relations between Japan and the people of the American continent.

On the success of this conference will depend all official action along the same lines. The great value of such a conference is accepted, in that the good will established would prevent any sudden outbreaks of race antipathy, but, for the next century, it is the belief of all parties at interest that the peace of the east can only be maintained through power.

A pacific conference, it is thought, will prevent a diplomatic crisis from breaking out of a clear sky.

DOCTOR CHANGED TO GARAGE MAN

Singular Case of Metamorphosed Identity at Seattle.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 29.—Dr. Frank Masar, who lives at the Hotel Angeles, lost his personality last Tuesday afternoon and did not recover it until Friday evening.

During that time he ceased, so far as he was concerned, to be Dr. Masar and become for the time being William Kellogg, repairer of automobiles.

During this time he was under the care of his friend, Dr. W. T. Wooley. This is the first and only case recorded locally of a man losing his personality and identity. While Dr. Masar has entirely recovered, he knows from his medical experience that the lapse is likely to occur again at any time, and has made arrangements for turning over his patients to another physician and taking a long rest.

Neither Dr. Masar or Dr. Wooley can account for the sudden change, except that it was due to an attack of neuralgia. Tuesday morning Dr. Masar complained of a neuralgic pain over his left temple, but paid no particular attention to it. He dined in the afternoon with Dr. Wooley and returned to his apartments. In the course of the evening half a dozen friends who live at the hotel dropped into Dr. Masar's room, among them Miss Ella Gunnison. The latter was going to the theatre that evening and she and Dr. Masar discussed the play. Without warning, Dr. Masar suddenly raised his hand to the back of his head and lapsed into unconsciousness, in which condition he remained a few seconds. Almost before Miss Gunnison realized that anything was wrong, Dr. Masar opened his eyes and stared about the room with every evidence of overwhelming astonishment.

At first his friends thought he was playing a joke and entered into his supposed whimsical spirit, but after a time it became evident to them that Dr. Masar was acting in all seriousness.

Their laughter irritated him to such an extent that he assumed the dignity of a person who felt that he was being insulted, and introduced himself as William Kellogg, advancing the further information that he was an automobile repairer and was at a loss to understand how he came to be in the company of the people present.

Dr. Wooley was sent for but could do nothing. Until Friday night Dr. Masar was Mr. Kellogg and as such was humored when going about the streets. Late Friday Dr. Masar regained his former self, but did not remember anything that had transpired during the four days passed.

In Gladstone's Memory.

London, Dec. 29.—Wreaths and other floral offerings were placed about the Gladstone monument today in front of St. Clement Dane's church, in the Strand, in observance of the anniversary of the birth of "the Great Commoner." Mr. Gladstone was born December 29, 1809, and preparations are already making for an elaborate celebration of the centenary next year.

Revenue Cutter on Trial.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The new revenue cutter Yamacrow, recently completed by the New York Shipbuilding company of Camden, N. J., is to have her official acceptance trial today on the Delaware river. The Yamacrow is of the Seminole type and is intended for service on the South Atlantic coast, with headquarters at Savannah.

Do Your Shopping Wednesday and Thursday

Roberts Bros. THIRD AND MORRISON

Our Store Will Be Closed All Day Friday New Year's Day

Remnant Sale of Odds & Ends

Especially Reduced Prices on Holiday Goods, Remnants and Odds and Ends
Here Are But a Few of the Hundreds of Special Bargains

A Magnificent Sale of Dress Fabrics

The items tell of fabrics of up-to-the-moment fashionableness—plain, fancy and mixed effects—every weave—every color—and at a wide range of prices—all reduced. The selling will be fast—some lots will be speedily exhausted—the whole huge sale assortment will not last long under the greatly reduced prices attached to them. For this reason we advise an early visit, if you contemplate purchasing. Come with or without buying intentions.

IN THE DRESS GOODS DEPARTMENT
An extra special showing of 52 inch broadcloth, fine all wool lustrous finish. This handsome material comes in colors, tan, navy, cardinal, brown, green, copenhagen, gray, steel, etc. Extra good wearing quality. Regular $1.25 grade specially priced for this sale. 79c

CHIFFON BROADCLOTH AT $1.25
A fine showing of 52 inch chiffon broadcloth of a very high brilliant finish, made of good quality, firm selected yarn. This material comes in all the desired shades of blue, brown, green, red, tan, copenhagen, etc. Regular $2.00 values. Specially priced for this sale $1.25

ENGLISH KERSEY CLOTH AT $1.49
An extra special showing of 56 inch genuine English kersey cloth, double weight, made of pure wool and best selected yarns. It comes in all desired colors, green, brown, marine, blue, navy, cardinal, red, maroon and gray and is specially adapted for jackets, suits, separate coats and rainy day skirts. Regular $2.50 grade. Special for this sale.. $1.49

BLACK VOILES ESPECIALLY PRICED.
All $2.00 grades at, per yard..... $1.39
All $1.50 grades at, per yard..... $1.19
All $1.25 grades at, per yard 99c
All $1.00 grades at, per yard..... 78c

19 INCH SILKS AT 48c PER YARD
A special offering of 19 inch French bengaline silk, a very desirable brilliantine, pliable and extremely durable. This handsome material comes in solid colors, black, brown, green, cream, reseda, navy, champagne, ciel, pink, cardinal and scarlet. Extra values at 48c

ENGLISH CORDUROY AT 59c
A showing of genuine English corduroy, full 27 inches wide, very durable, comes in all wanted colors, cardinal, scarlet, brown, navy, marine, castor, gray and black. This cloth is very suitable for jackets, riding habits and children's wear and is very best 85c to $1.00 grade. Special 59c

Clean-Up Sale in the Shoe Section

An after-Christmas sale of women's and men's slippers and women's shoes, odd lots and broken lines, priced for this sale at third and quarter less than real worth.

Women's fur trimmed Julietts, $1.50 kinds, at..... 99c
Women's leather Slippers, all sizes, $1.50 kinds at..... 99c
Men's Slippers, black and tan, $2.00 kinds at ... $1.49
Men's Slippers, black and tan, $2.50 kinds at .. $2.00
Women's shoes, latest styles, $3.00 kinds at $2.37

RARE OFFERINGS IN OUTING FLANNEL Underwear
MANY THINGS at About COST

This is one of the very best times in the year to pick up real worthy things for almost nothing. It's just the lull that immediately follows the Christmas rush, and all odds and ends are sweepingly reduced. We mention some:

WOMEN'S GOWNS
Values to $1.00 at 65c
Values to $1.50 at 98c
Values to $2.00 at $1.50

WOMEN'S SKIRTS
A line of women's skirts, made of excellent quality outing flannel in solid colors, white, pink or blue or neat striped effect, 75c value, at 50c

CHILDREN'S GOWNS
A line of children's gowns, made of good quality material, well made and neatly finished, regular 75c value, at 48c

CHILDREN'S SLEEPERS
A showing of children's sleepers, made of extra quality outing flannel, neatly finished; regular 75c value, at 48c

An After-Christmas Clean-Up Sale in the Men's Dept.

Decisive Reductions on Fine SMOKING JACKETS, SUSPENDERS, MUFFLERS, GLOVES

Now you can revel in bargains—now you can buy the longed-for garments. It is the beginning of the great movement of cleanup sales, and prices have crumbled. A hint to the thrifty: First comers get best choice. Here's the list:

THIRD OFF on all Smoking Jackets.
FOURTH OFF on all fancy Suspenders.
FOURTH OFF on all Mufflers.

$1.15—Men's gray kid gloves, English make, regular $1.50 values, special at $1.15
49c—Men's kid gloves in brown and tan, regular 75c values, on special sale at 49c
75c—Men's undressed kid gloves, silk lined in grays and tans, regular $1.50 values, for the cleanup sale price of..... 75c

Special Offerings In Knit Underwear and Hosiery

These lots to choose from.

WOMEN'S WOOL UNDERWEAR, $1.25 AND $1.50 GARMENTS AT 98c
A special cleanup sale of broken lines of Women's Wool Underwear in correct winter weights, perfect-fitting Vests and Pants in all sizes, hand trimmed garments that have always sold at $1.25 and $1.50; choice for this sale.. 98c

WOMEN'S STOCKINGS—35c VALUES AT 25c
A special offering of about 500 dozen Women's Wool Stockings—Burson fashioned, full seamless, good warm, durable stockings, always sold at 35c a pair, priced for this sale at..... 25c

CHILDREN'S HOSE—25c VALUES AT 17c
A special sale of children's fine, heavy, fleece-lined, cotton stockings, in winter weight, made in both 2x1 and 1x1 rib suitable for both boys and girls, all sizes from 6 to 10, best 25c values, on sale at 17c

Bargains in Blankets and Comforters, Tomorrow

Compare the following special values with any found elsewhere at the same price and you will readily see what we mean by "Best Values." The women of Portland have by their liberal patronage certainly signified approval of these clean-up offerings. You cannot fail to be impressed with the fact that this is an unprecedented offering and one sure to please. We know of no other store that places before you such inducements as these:

LOT 1—Full size gray and white cotton blankets, specially priced for the clean up sale at 90c
LOT 2—Full size tan cotton blankets, $1.25 value, extra wearing quality, special, per pair $1.00
Lot 3—A line of extra large 12-4 gray cotton blankets, $1.50 values, special $1.25
LOT 4—10-4 single gray wool blankets light and dark, specially priced $3.50
LOT 5—Full size 11-4 light gray and fawn colored wool blankets, good wearing quality, per pair $4.50
LOT 6—A line of new plaid wool blankets, full size, pretty colorings, extra good value, specially priced, pair $6.00
LOT 7—Full size comforts, extra heavy, dark colors, regular $1.25 value, special 95c
LOT 8—Full size comforts, filled with white cotton covered with good quality soft finish silkoline. Special $1.40
LOT 9—Full size extra heavy comforts, covered with best quality sateen, plain centers, pretty flowered borders. For this sale $2.90

Great Handkerch'f Sale

All Handkerchiefs slightly soiled or mussed, at less than half price.

Our regular 7c handkerchiefs, in the new cross-bar or plaid effect, plain white with neat quarter-inch hemstitched border, special 3 for 10c
Our regular 15c kind, special, 3 for 25c
All 18c to 25c fancy bordered swiss handkerchiefs, special at each 10c
All 25c to 30c linen and Shamrock lawn with fancy embroidered corners, also cross-bar effects, special at 14c

EXCURSION

The Spokane, Portland & Seattle railway, "The North Bank Road," has authorized the sale of round trip tickets at a very low rate during the holidays.

The tickets are sold on basis of one and one third of the one way fare for the round trip. Sale dates are December 23, 24, 25 and 31 and January 1.

The return limit is January 4, 1909, sufficient to give patrons along the line of "The North Bank Road" an opportunity to visit summer homes and families over the holidays.

Concession is made between all points 200 miles or less apart.

For tickets and Parlor Car reservations, call at City Ticket Offices, 3d and Morrison sts., and 122 2d st.

Trains leave Portland, 11th and Hoyt st. station. Take "S" car.

Do it Now

Tomorrow A. M. too late. Take a CASCARET at bed time; get up in the morning feeling fine and dandy. No need for *sickness* from *over-eating* and *drinking*. They surely work while you sleep and help nature help you. Millions take them and keep well. 894

CASCARETS 10c a box for a week's treatment, all druggists. Biggest seller in the world. Million boxes a month.

CLOSING OUT
Going Out of Business

To wind up our business quickly, we have decided to sacrifice our entire stock of Furniture, Rugs, Linoleums, Carpets, Stoves, Ranges, Mirrors, etc., regardless of cost. It will decidedly be to your interest to call on us and get our prices before buying elsewhere. Hundreds are taking advantage of this opportunity.

Independent Furniture Co.
104-106 First Street Bet. Wash. and Stark