

THE INDUSTRIOUS BELGIAN DOG.—There must be an immense lot of dog power going to waste in Nova Scotia when the number of dogs in the Province is brought up for consideration. In European countries where the dog is used as for draught or for tread-mill purposes, the animal has a distinct financial value quite apart from his breed. In Belgium the dog is rated as possessing 500 pounds of power which may be turned to account. Natives of Belgium on visiting America are invariably struck by the little attention which is given to the animal here. One expert asserts that there are no less than 7,000,000,000 pounds of dog power going steadily to waste.

PAPERS FOR PRISONERS.—The Chaplain of the Kingston Penitentiary is making an earnest appeal to the public to support him in furthering his efforts with the Minister of Justice to secure newspapers for the use of the criminals. He contends that the perusal of proper papers will have a civilizing effect upon the men, and that it will keep them informed as to the doings of the world at large, and that the result of this will be that not only will the minds of the prisoners be given proper occupation, but that when the term of sentence is up they will not go out into the world under the disadvantages which the newly discharged so keenly feel. It appears to us that the idea is a good one, and that the privilege of reading the papers might be made a valuable means of prison discipline.

NO RUBIES FOR SHAREHOLDERS.—If people would but consider before they risk their hard-earned money in wild-cat speculations in distant countries, there would be more money to be profitably invested in the development of home industries. The great Ruby Mine Company of Burmah is now about on the verge of a collapse, and thousands of shareholders who risked their money without looking closely into the nature of the enterprise, will find themselves greatly out of pocket. The shareholders have also the comfort of knowing that the native Burmahese laborers have alone made money out of the enterprise, for by paying a nominal sum they obtained the right to search for rubies in pockets which the company had abandoned, and they have been markedly successful in their search. It is hardly probable though that the bursting of other and similar oriental bubbles will deter the foolhardy speculator from his love for putting his money into well-sounding investments.

THE BERING SEA SEALERS.—The commissioners who will have to decide some of the nice questions arising from the Bering Sea Arbitration will need to be clear-headed men. The claims of our own Pacific sealers already amount to over a million dollars, and under the terms of the modus vivendi for 1892 and 1893, the Government of the United States is bound to make good all just claims. It has now to be decided whether the sealers are to be compensated for the value of the seals which they have not caught, or whether the fact that though shut out from Bering Sea they have been without inconvenience profitably engaged in the seal trade elsewhere, is to be considered. A goodly array of arguments on each side can be shown, and we cannot wholly sympathise with the sealers who claim, that although they are in pocket because of the arbitration restrictions, yet it is still the duty of the United States Government to make good what might under other circumstances have been a loss of a million dollars.

QUACK TREATMENT.—We have no doubt that our Provincial cattle-owners suffer an unnecessary loss each year by the death of valuable animals, and it is our firm conviction that this death list might be greatly shortened did our people but understand more (or less) of the principles to be employed in treating diseased animals. Too often when sickness is shown the owner attempts to treat the animal himself, and in nine cases out of ten he styles the disease by the all-embracing term "inflammation" and doses with aconite. When the animal dies he is confident that the treatment was not at fault, although he is still in doubt as to what special organ was the seat of the disease. It is not wonderful that so many animals perish each year, the victims of this cure-all or kill-all treatment, but the chief cause for surprise is rather that even a small percentage of the animals recover, notwithstanding the treatment. There is an economy in employing a good veterinary surgeon which our people are sometimes slow to grasp.

AN ISLAND PRINCIPALITY.—The simplicity of Republican life does not always satisfy the more ambitious adopted sons of the Goddess of Liberty, but it is seldom that an ordinary citizen makes a demand for a kingdom in which he may be the monarch of all the surveys. The Bawn Harden Hickey, of New York, is, however, one of the latter ambitious souls, and he has arranged to have a compact little nation of his own. He proposes to purchase the island of Trinidad the lesser, which is now almost uninhabited, with some of the gold which his father-in-law, the famous John H. Flagler, laid aside out of the profits of the Standard Oil Trust. Intending settlers for the island will be carefully selected, and a money qualification will be required. Each settler who subscribes for ten bonds in value of \$200 each is entitled to transportation to the island and to maintenance for one year from the date of arrival; but the whole bargain may be nullified if the settler is not amenable to the laws of the island. The form of Government is to be that of a principality under military dictatorship, and insubordination or crime are to be declared punishable by immediate banishment. It is quite possible that the amateur ruler may succeed in his self-appointed task, for after all there are plenty of small nations ruled by men of capital and enterprise to be found both in the United States and in Canada.

GLADSTONE OR ROSEBERY.—The conclusion of the miners' strike in Great Britain may be considered as a signal triumph for Lord Rosebery, under whose direction the quarrels between the capitalists and laborers have been adjusted. The Government, as a Government, has no right to interfere in a labor dispute, unless serious disturbances arise, and in no case has a British Government ever interfered in the settlement of a labor trouble. A valuable precedent has therefore been made, notwithstanding the unofficial character of the Governmental work. Lord Rosebery, whose popularity is great with both laborers and capitalists, assumed a unique position, and in doing so he risked what might have been an insult to the Government which he belonged. Fortunately, his interview was timely and in no sense obnoxious to the people, and his scheme for alleviating the prevalent distress by causing the wage-earners to work was accepted as an excellent solution of the difficulty. The question now is, to whom does the credit of the settlement of the dispute belong—to the Gladstone Government or to the personal popularity of the clever Foreign Minister.

THE DEADLY CIGARETTE.—There is far too much cigarette smoking among young lads in all parts of our Province. This attractive and deadly form of poison is forever tempting our young people who do not realize how vile and poisonous a thing is the cheap cigarette. The material of which they are made consists of nothing more nor less than the mud-covered, water-soaked cigar ends and stumps which are found in gutters. In all large cities there are scavengers whose duty it is to collect this material for the manufacturer of cheap cigarettes. To this choice material is added much foreign matter, and enough opium and toona bean to disguise the mixture. This flavoring is not unfrequently known as "Havana flavoring." The cheapest form of wrapper is then procured, and the majority of warranted "rice-paper" will be found on examination to be common paper bleached white with the third poison of the cigarette, arsenic. Cigarette smoking is decidedly on the increase. It is undermining the health and morals of the coming men of Canada, and in justice to their coming manhood, some steps should be taken to remove the temptation from our midst. It will probably take Acts of Parliament, stringent civic regulations, and the co-operation of the better class of citizens; but the evil is already so great that only the most vigorous measures will be found effectual.

DEATH ON THE FOOT-BALL FIELD.—An English athlete who does not believe in cultivating muscle at the expense of human life has some very vigorous things to say about the recent craze for the stirring game of football. In order to render his arguments the more effective he has backed them up by statistics on the sport which embrace the deaths recorded between the months of September and March of last year. He styles his list roughly but graphically as "the butcher's bill." No less than twenty-six young and promising men met their deaths in the game during that period, and in the majority of cases the deaths were horribly painful, the victims lingering for a few hours in indescribably agony. Those whose necks were broken or who died from sudden heart failure are to be esteemed far more fortunate than those who received fatal internal injuries, or who were kicked during the scrimmages until it was impossible to preserve the vital spark. The compiler of this record was unable to obtain the set of statistics which would have greatly increased the list of fatal accidents. This list would have dealt with those who died from the effects of injuries received on the fields, and it is probable that it would not have been shorter than the list of direct deaths. Manly and vigorous as the sport may be, these statistics may detract a little from its popularity, and the words of an aged divine may be echoed in many parts of our Dominion—"From battle, murder and sudden death," or from the combination of all three, the game of foot-ball, "Good Lord deliver us."

HEALTH PRECAUTIONS.—In two villages in the State of New York the health authorities have been attempting, without success, to prevent the spread of that scourge of children, diphtheria. The disease made its appearance about two years ago, and it is owing to the carelessness of the then health authorities that the present state of affairs exists. A young lady, a Sunday-school teacher in one village, died of diphtheria in New York, and her body was taken to her home for interment. Many beautiful floral tributes were sent to her parents, and after the wreaths etc. had been allowed to remain in and about the coffin, the flowers were distributed among the children of the Sunday-school. Almost immediately the disease showed itself in a dozen homes, and as the cases increased the disease assumed a most virulent type. In one family thirteen individuals are now suffering from the disease, and in many more the vacant chairs of the children are a sad reminder to the parents of the visit of the unwelcome guest. There should be no false sentimental feeling about diphtheria. It is the duty of the individual as well as of the community to prevent the spread of the disease, and all conditions that will tend to keep the disease in check will receive serious consideration. Hundreds of fatal cases of diphtheria have resulted from kissing the lips of dead persons, and in each case where diphtheria is contracted, there is a liability that the disease will again spread. The distribution of the flowers in the present instance was an absolute cause of disease, and the morbid sentimentality which allowed the distribution to be condemned. When people learn to co-operate with the health authorities and to listen to the mandates of common-sense, there will be less need for the Press to reiterate the well-known but little practised rules of health.

The Worst Disease—Dyspepsia
The Best Cure K. D. C.

K. D. C. Relieves
Distress after eating.

K. D. C. Cures
Midnight Dyspepsia.

K. D. C. Restores
the Stomach to Healthy Action.