

THE "HERALD" DID IT.—The strong fight made by the *Halifax Herald* against the Whitney coal deal has borne its fruit. The *Herald* so magnified the value of the franchises of the Dominion coal company, and so strongly urged that it would be a ruthless, money-making corporation, that upwards of a quarter of a million of Nova Scotia money was invested in the enterprise, a large proportion of which was subscribed by supporters of the Liberal Conservative party. If the investment falls short of that which the *Herald* has pictured it to be, that paper will be held responsible for having misled its readers.

WEATHER PERMITTING.—At the hour of writing there is every prospect that the weather is making preparations for St. Patrick's Day. Slush, mud, rain and easterly wind are not calculated to improve the effectiveness of a street parade, but as our uncertain weather was not taken into consideration at the birth of St. Patrick, the sons and grandsons of Ireland will have to accept the inevitable and take the day as they find it. The march-out on St. Patrick's Day under favorable conditions was in former years something to be proud of, but of late it has been degenerating. Whether or not the weather is responsible for this degeneration, we cannot say, but we trust that the march of the 17th of March, 1893, will eclipse in numbers and in perfection of appointments any turn out that has been made for the last quarter of a century.

A HOPEFUL COLONY.—The speech of the Governor of Newfoundland recently made at the opening of the legislature of that colony is about as free from pessimism as it well could be. Hope and confidence stamp every paragraph, and even the recent St. John's fire is not regarded as an unmixed evil. A prosperous year's business is the keynote of the speech, and expectation of increasing prosperity as a result of the development of copper and coal mines is very pronounced. Newfoundland has great natural resources, but capital is required to develop the same. It is refreshing to hear of the prosperity of our sister colony, and sooner or later she will no doubt be identified as a member of our confederation, and as her interests are similar to those of Nova Scotia her union with the Dominion would strengthen our Maritime interests.

FRICTION.—The friction that has arisen between Great Britain and France over certain privileges claimed to have been obtained in Morocco by the diplomats of the latter country is likely to be very short-lived. Gladstone's Government, however it may differ from that of Lord Salisbury's with respect to home affairs, is following closely the lines laid down by the Conservative Ministry with respect to foreign affairs. The French hope that Gladstone's advent to power would speedily be followed by the British evacuation of Egypt has vanished into thin air, and the prompt action of the British Government in despatching Col. Sir J. West Ridgeway to Tangier with definite instructions to settle the difficulty which has arisen, should convince France that the Gladstone of to-day has no idea of weakening the position which Salisbury's able foreign administration has gained for Great Britain.

\$30,000 GONE!—Many precious dollars are doubtless worse than wasted in the drinking saloon, but it is curious to find our Dominion legislators calmly sinking \$30,000 in an abortive attempt to settle the drink problem. For many months past the members of a prohibition commission, appointed under the authority of the Parliament of Canada, have been hold-sessions in various parts of the country for the purpose of obtaining reliable evidence that might be of advantage to the people; but, judging from what we have read of the investigations of these gentlemen, the information, when formally submitted, will not be worth a tithe of the amount it has cost to collect, and it is doubtful whether any practical result will be the outcome thereof. Prohibition may have its zealots, but it is a pity to have money wasted for no good purpose.

A JUSTIFIABLE COMBINATION.—For many years past our people have enjoyed excellent refined sugars at very moderate prices, but so far as we can learn very little money has been made by the refineries in the manufacture of these sugars. It is true that occasionally raw sugars have been purchased under favorable conditions, and money has been made by the refining companies on its importation, but, as we have said, the margin of profit in the business of refining has grown steadily narrower. Competition is supposed to be responsible for this state of affairs, and as an offset it is now proposed to practically amalgamate the three refineries in the Maritime Provinces, situated in Halifax, Dartmouth and Moncton. The very suggestion of this combination excites the suspicion of monopoly, and those who are interested in carrying out the details of the undertaking are stamped as combinesters, and held up as objects worthy of public condemnation. It is time that the press of this Province should display a little more common sense upon these matters. It is plain that neither home or foreign capital will seek investment in Nova Scotia so long as our mining and manufacturing interests make no return for the capital invested. The wages of labor is not the only consideration in these enterprises. The interest of the capital invested is a legitimate charge upon the cost of manufacturing, and it is only when these two conditions are being satisfied that industries can be said to flourish. If the sugar combination would be satisfied with reasonable profits, we see nothing morally or commercially wrong in their forming a union in order to advance their mutual interests. No political economist would recognise the principle that a combination which enabled men to obtain a fair return for capital invested was an unfair or an immoral combination.

Your best chance to be cured of Indigestion
Is by Trying K. D. C.

A VEXED QUESTION.—In the United States the free coinage of silver has many strong and valuable advocates, but the proposal to make silver as well as gold a legal tender for the payment of all debts is little short of direct robbery. Better, far better, would it be to adopt the measure recently introduced into Congress by Mr. Harter, of Ohio, in which it is proposed to abolish all legal tender and to allow payments to be made by contract. Silver would then settle down to its absolute value, as the element of speculation would be removed. In the meantime this silver question keeps the banking and consequently the commercial world in constant trepidation. Discount rates rise and fall with alarming rapidity, and financial and business men are at their wits' end in estimating what the morrow will bring forth.

AN ENGLISH VIEW OF AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE.—The *London Investors' Review* makes a somewhat startling exposure of the methods of doing business adopted by American Insurance Companies. According to the figures given the "lapses" of policies consequent upon non-payment of premiums are about twenty-five per cent of the new risks taken. This, it is claimed, may be in the interests of the companies and of the agents, but it is not in the interests of the insuring public. The company, by annulling these policies, relieves itself from obligations, and the agents find that it is more profitable to their own pockets to get a large commission on a new risk than for a small commission to spend the time in looking after policy-holders. So far as the insured are concerned it is pretty evident that a majority of those who allow their policies to lapse have been influenced by the persuasive eloquence of the agents to carry an amount upon their lives far beyond their ability to maintain, and as a matter of course, after a few years, they allow the same to lapse, and thus help to enrich the Insurance Companies, who in turn boast of their rests as something to be proud of, overlooking the fact that these rests are but the aggregation of hard cash taken from the people, for which no adequate return has ever been made. The *Investors' Review* has no soft words for these great money-making Insurance Companies. For our own part we believe in the German system of government insurance. There, a man pays very moderate premium, insurance is within reach of all classes, and each person gets an equivalent for every cent paid in.

SHOULD A WOMAN VOTE?—Are we as a people behind the spirit of the times in not extending to the women of Nova Scotia the right to take part in political affairs, and to share with men in the full privileges of citizenship? We think not. It is true that for a quarter of a century the State, formerly the territory, of Wyoming has given to women the freedom of the ballot box, and that according to a resolution passed by the Legislature of Wyoming that State has few criminals, and poverty is almost unknown. This, it is claimed, is the direct result of the moral and economic influences which the women of Wyoming have been able to exert. This resolution may be a truthful representation of fact, but if it is so, it is passing strange that the movement which has borne such golden fruit in Wyoming has not been imitated in other progressive and enlightened commonwealths. We say that Nova Scotia is not behind the spirit of the times in this matter, but THE CRITIC would be glad to see this Province taking the lead in the enfranchisement of women. We see no reason why a woman who enjoys all the privileges of being taxed should not have the same right to a voice in the selection of those who impose these taxes as a man. Women are not inferior in point of intelligence, and while their training may have in a measure unfitted them for many things, their superiority to men in morals could not fail to elevate and purify political life. If through the agency of woman politics can be shorn of its obsequiousness, its unmanliness and its tendency to corrupt, better, a thousand times better, that we should take the radical step now asked for by the Maritime Women's Christian Temperance Union and thereby hasten the millennium.

ASSERTION NOT ARGUMENT.—In its issue of March 8th, the North Sydney *Herald* vigorously denounces the Whitney coal deal, and in this language it uses with respect to the men of standing, Liberal and Conservative, who have endorsed the enterprise:—"The Whitney syndicate has been successful in luring to its support a few men of some influence in Canada. We have yet to learn, however, of one supporter of the syndicate who has gone out of his way to speak well of the scheme, who is not directly interested." An assumption such as the above is not an argument, and unless the *Herald* has something more tangible to offer in support of its assertion than this suggestion of selfishness drawn from its own imagination, it had better seek a more profitable occupation than that of misrepresenting men well and favorably known throughout the Province. The North Sydney *Herald* attacks the Whitney syndicate from every side, but according to its estimate the vulnerable point in the undertaking is that "the foreign capitalists we hear so much about are risking nothing. They are simply getting possession of nearly all our valuable mining properties at less than a third of their value, and on a lease of not twenty years, but ninety-nine years." Can it be true that the Cape Breton coal kings have allowed their properties to pass out of their hands at less than 33c. on the dollar of their actual value. If it is true, Mr. Whitney and his associates are keen buyers, and the coal kings have shown a remarkable want of shrewdness. But after all everyone knows that the statement of the North Sydney *Herald* is mere irresponsible assertion, and that as a matter of fact most of the coal owners were glad to sell out, and were well satisfied with the prices paid for their properties.

K. D. C. Relieves and Cures.

K. D. C. quickly relieves and positively cures Indigestion.