

**Senator Mason
Again.**

The Illinois Senator, who, in the antebellum days, requested the people of the United States to "awake to glorious war, a war that seeks no gain for us in treasure or territory, but a war to drive the oppressor from the continent and to set the Cuban flag in the sky forever," is now being attacked by a prominent New York newspaper for publicly stating his willingness to compound a felony. It seems that the Senator's house having been burglarized, he, in an advertisement addressed "to the gentleman who robbed my house," offered a reward for the recovery of the stolen goods, and pledged his honour that he would not prosecute. The Chicago *Times-Herald* asks: "How shall the laws command obedience and respect if they are so ruthlessly held in contempt by those who make them and are sworn to uphold them?" The *Evening Post* is unkind enough to say: "The worst feature of the incident is that there is nothing in this action of a United States Senator to cause the slightest surprise, so thoroughly is it in keeping with all that was previously known of his character.

**Insurance
and the
Cigarette.**

It has been made to appear from the reports of the doctors conducting the examinations of volunteers for the United States army that the man who habitually surrounds himself with a cloud of cigarette smoke is thereby ensuring his freedom from envelopment in the smoke clouds hovering over the field of battle. The comment aroused by the large number of rejections has been followed by the astounding statement that the examining surgeons of the cigarette-smoking applicants for service against the enemies of their country rejected ninety per cent. of them. A Dr. Benjamin King, of Philadelphia, who is said to have been examining surgeon during the years of the Civil War, is reported as saying that the average rejections during 1861 to 1863 did not exceed thirteen per cent. The average is now almost forty per cent. and habitual smokers of the deadly, insidious cigarette are credited with furnishing the increase. Weak hearts and impaired vitality are given as the reasons for the cigarette smoker's failure to qualify for military duty. The war has revealed nothing more regrettable (if true) than this impairment of the health and strength of the vigorous, athletic American youth by excessive cigarette smoking. Some of the insurance companies could not do better than conduct a campaign against the injurious habit by inducing the army medical department to use their influence with the young men most concerned. The recently published statement of the examining physicians is calculated to do much towards checking the consumption of cigarettes. Ninety per cent.! This startling statement (if it was verified by certificate of the army surgeons) of a sound basis for promulgated belief in the injurious effect of cigarette smoking ought to be published far and wide. Canada is equal-

ly interested with the United States in the good work of inducing her stalwart sons to abandon the practice of swallowing the smoke and nocotian impurities of the dust filled cigarette, and of inducing them, if they must use the soothing weed, to take to contemplative puffing from a well-kept pipe.

The regrettable rejection of these youthful volunteers for service in the United States army would serve to set many excellent youths a-thinking about the hearts which, in time of war and possible exposure to danger and fatigue, must beat high and strong and true with life and hope, and not prove too weak from cigarette smoking, or anything else, to stand the test of an examining physician. But, before we pin our faith to this story of the war, we want further proof of the truth thereof, and, in the meantime, we'll smoke the calumet of peace.

**Railway
Accidents.**

The Board of Trade return of Railway Accidents in Great Britain in 1897 gives the following information regarding accidents for the year 1897:—

	KILLED.			INJURED.		
	PASSENGERS.	SERVANTS OF COMPANIES.	OTHER PERSONS.	PASSENGERS.	SERVANTS OF COMPANIES.	OTHER PERSONS.
Accidents to trains, rolling stock, permanent way, etc.	18	9	7	324	140	12
Accidents to passengers, from causes other than accidents to trains, etc. *	630	.....	.....	1,637	.....	.....
Accidents to servants of companies or contractors. ....	.....	501	.....	3,989	.....	.....
Accidents upon railway companies' premises, in which movement of trains was not concerned	2	56	32	586	10,273	415
Passengers	650	.....	.....	2,574	.....	.....
Servants	.....	566	.....	.....	14,402	.....
Others	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	427

*Including accidents from their own want of caution, or misconduct, persons passing over level crossings, trespassers, and others.

Of course, this record of death and destruction includes every form of fatality or accident occurring during the twelve months at every railway station or crossing in Great Britain; but the only thing that makes the return less appalling is the thought of the enormous population contributing to the list of victims. Considering that some parts of the British Isles are traversed by a perfect network of rails, the most significant feature of the table is the very small number of passengers actually killed or injured by accidents to trains.