

popular to create a market for a new issue at \$150. Here is the table of net revenue account for six years:

1902-3.....	\$15,836,846	1905-6.....	\$22,973,313
1903-4.....	14,213,105	1906-7.....	25,303,309
1904-5.....	15,475,088	1907-8.....	21,792,363

A company with an annual profit of these dimensions should not find it difficult to secure new stock subscriptions. The higher the price at which the stock is sold, the lower will be the freight rates charged. This is where the public is vitally interested. It is of more importance to this country that the freight rates between eastern and western Canada should be lowered than that the private fortunes of Lord Strathcona, Lord Mount Stephen, Sir William Van Horne, Sir George Drummond and Mr. R. B. Angus should be considerably increased. If the C. P. R. can afford to distribute twenty-five million dollars, there are a few thousand farmers in Western Canada who would appreciate a reduction in their freight bills. That enormous sum would carry 250,000,000 bushels of wheat, or say three years' export, from the elevators on the prairie to the elevators at Fort William.

ONTARIO AND THE WHITE PLAGUE

MR. H. C. HAMMOND, treasurer of the two Sanatoria for Consumptives at Weston, Ontario, has recently been obliged through illness to resign that position. In the form of resignation he has addressed to the People of Ontario as remarkable a letter as Canadians have ever read in the public press. Mr. Hammond has a Carlylian hatred for cant and empty profession and the downright manliness of the writer speaks in every sentence of what is too stern an epistle to be called an appeal. There is no use in going into statistics once more with regard to the White Plague, save to remark that in the decade, 1896-1906, the deaths from tuberculosis in the Province of Ontario were 36,700, or about eleven per cent. of the total number. If this mortality were the result of any other disease, there would be a tremendous outcry; but, with almost Oriental passivity, the public seemed for years to assume that it has pleased Providence to afflict the community with this plague.

Mr. Hammond refers to the large meeting of municipal representatives of Ontario, held in Toronto in March last, on which occasion many pretty promises were made by mayors and other magnates. The result has been disappointing to all who realise the seriousness of the situation and Mr. Hammond very properly calls upon the people and the Government to do something adequate towards stopping this "annual slaughter of wage-earners." He states emphatically: "If tuberculosis is to be stamped out in this province, as it can be, it must be done in a wholesale way; no little picayune grant of \$100,000, but let it be started at \$1,000,000, with more to follow when needed, and the money will return good dividends in due time." There is provision in Ontario sanatoria for looking after two hundred and eighty cases, which is not a large proportion in twelve thousand. Most of those who are afflicted in Ontario are of Canadian birth but a few are cases of immigrants who have escaped the easy inspection of the Ontario Government. Mr. Hammond reiterates what all tax-payers will readily agree with, that Canada should not be made a dumping-ground for diseased paupers.

Ontario faces a stern duty in this fight against the White Plague and there is much wholesome suggestion in the advice: "You plume yourselves and expand your chests and pat yourselves thereon and think you are IT, and if you exalt yourselves you must accept the responsibilities." These are straight-flung words from a citizen who evidently believes in "rugged maxims hewn from life." We are too fond of catch-words and sounding phrases, without realising their accompanying obligations. Premier colony and banner province come readily to the lips but it is well that we should hear occasionally, from one who knows whereof he speaks, concerning the duties we are neglecting.

READY FOR REBUILDING

THE town of Fernie is showing the vigour in rebuilding which is characteristic of a young and ambitious community. An observant visitor to Canada from an older land recently said that nothing is more striking on the northern half of this continent than the air of hopefulness breathed by the aspiring citizens. Fire, epidemics and even earthquakes do not go far towards depressing the inhabitants of new towns and cities, which have a *Mark Tapley* facility in coming out strong the day after the main street and the best

residential districts have been reduced to ashes. Fernie has not lacked for assistance, but the spirit shown by its own people is the best assurance of a town's future prosperity.

The buoyant belief in "our town," characteristic of Western America, whether in Oregon or British Columbia, has often been ridiculed by citizens of more sedate communities, but it has taken a big belief to lay railroads through mountains and make a metropolis on the prairie. It takes the spirit of a nation-builder to sit down among the ruins to plan new streets with town hall, opera house and new hotel, strictly fire-proof. Canadian cities have their share of the year's disasters but they have so far shown a cheerful disposition to go the phoenix fable one better.

THE GRAIN IS MOVING

THOUGH perhaps too much importance is attached to news about the western grain crop, it is encouraging to know that it is moving. During the first two weeks of September there was a great advance as compared with the two weeks of last year:

	1908	1907
Cars of wheat inspected	3042	413
Cars of oats inspected	128	92
Cars of barley inspected	123	36

This increase in the shipments is due to the earlier harvest as well as improved shipping facilities.

The grain is threshing well. Both wheat and oats are of a better grade than last year and the price per bushel will thus average higher. This, with an increased yield, should make the West a very comfortable and cheerful district after October's shipping is completed. In November there will be a general liquidation of debts and a widespread cancellation of interest-bearing notes of hand. It is to be hoped that when the West has paid its debts, it will be a bit more careful about incurring fresh liabilities. Uncanny speculation should also be sternly repressed wherever it shows its head.

PLAYING THE GAME UNFAIRLY

SUSPICION must naturally rest upon a political party which plays the game unfairly. Because Mr. Sifton owns the *Winnipeg Free Press* and can afford it, is no reason why he should sell his paper at one dollar a year in an attempt to ruin his competitors. If he is doing this solely for political reasons, he is doing something which the public should resent. Mr. Sifton is able, clever, and influential. He does not need to stoop to such tactics. Because Mr. Pugsley has wealthy friends in New Brunswick is no reason why he should encourage them to purchase the *St. John Sun* and the *Telegraph* and leave the Conservatives in that district without an organ. The *Globe*, under Senator Ellis, has always been a Liberal paper. Three Liberal dailies and no Conservative daily in a city like St. John is not advisable. It looks like an attempt to stifle criticism and prevent debate. This is not playing the game fairly. Surely the great Liberal party, which has a magnificent history, extending back three-quarters of a century, is not in such a condition that it fears public discussion!

CAMPAIGN COMPLIMENTS

WE are a broad and enlightened people, possessing a press which is free as the winds that blow across the forests of this decidedly vast Dominion. Yet the reports and comments on the political campaign, appearing from day to day in the party papers, display a disparity which is enough to make a visitor from Mars wonder in what deep well, beyond the reach of political buckets, fair Truth may be hiding. Sir Wilfrid has immense crowds at Niagara, with such applause as makes the cataract a poor thing, says the great Liberal organ. There was a lack of enthusiasm, which must have been painful to Liberals of the old school, says the Conservative journal. Sir Wilfrid's oratory swept Strathroy like a whirlwind of eloquence and made the farmers of Middlesex look forward to another quadrennial of golden harvests, says the Liberal press of Western Ontario, while the Conservative pauses to drop a tear over Sir Wilfrid's failure to explain the unparalleled extravagance and unprincipled procedure of his rapidly-descending government. It is amusing or disgusting, as the reader is inclined to be philosopher or moralist. Meanwhile, it is consoling to reflect that by the first of November the country will have settled down to business again, the "also-rans" will be deploring the ease with which a majority may be financially manoeuvred, while the new M.P., in the midst of calls from office-seeking friends, will almost be regretting the result of the campaign.