

CIVIC EXPENDITURE.—Previous to the late Civic election, the City Council was suddenly seized with a fit of economy and voted down several proposals looking towards the expenditure of large sums on various city improvements. Now that the elections are over, a change seems to have come over the spirit of their dream, and they are beginning to launch out in a most extravagant style. The schemes proposed are undoubtedly for the benefit of the city, but the Council would do well to bear in mind that hard times are still upon us and to see the benefit of making haste slowly. To most the present rate of taxation is a burden hard to bear, and any increase will be seriously felt.

ANOTHER ELECTRICAL WONDER.—We have now to wait for the introduction of the Telautograph, a new electrical invention of Prof. Gray's. The machine, if so intangible an affair can be so called, is to transmit signatures, letters, pictures and diagrams, to places far distant from the transmitter. By its assistance a man may communicate with his friends or business colleagues without stirring from his fireside; and as the communication will be immediate, business operations will be greatly facilitated. It is quite probable, however, that the telegraph and telephone may be deemed sufficient for this generation, and that the telautograph will be reserved for the benefit of the coming man.

THE TINS MUST GO.—American firms are becoming quite common in Canada, and, as a rule, they are rather beneficial than hurtful to our people. A new line of business, which is shortly to be introduced by an alien company, is now attracting much interest. The company propose to manufacture aluminum kitchen utensils, and will at once begin work either in Toronto or in Montreal. Canadian capitalists have already subscribed for half the stock, and there is every prospect of the venture being a successful one. Housekeepers will be delighted when the new utensils are put upon the market, for aluminum is particularly light in weight, is not easily damaged, will stand a heat of 1300 degrees, and has never been known to rust.

CANIBALISM IN CANADA.—A horrible story comes from the Province of Quebec, where it is reported that an Indian had killed and eaten the body of his sixteen year old daughter. The details show that the Indian and his daughter had been with a party hunting near the head of the Lake St. John. They secured no game and started on their return home in a starved condition. Sixty miles distant, the father, to the dismay of his half-frozen companions, suddenly plunged his knife into the neck of his daughter, instantly killing her, when he appeased his wild appetite by drinking her blood. His companions ran from him, horrified at his inhuman act, refusing to have anything to do with him, and reached home in safety, but the Indian did not return, and has so far not been captured.

WELSH SUSPENSION BILL.—The Established Church in Wales is threatened by the Welsh Suspension Bill, and the clergy both in Wales and England are up in arms in opposition to it. A great demonstration was lately held in London, where the Bill was vigorously assailed, and this was preceded by most imposing ceremonies in St. Paul's Cathedral, presided over by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The tendency of the age is decidedly towards separating church and state, and no doubt many abuses have crept into the church in the giving of valuable livings to lazy and most unworthy rectors. These are the exceptions, and it is sad to see a church that has accomplished so much, and which is so dear to its worshippers, in danger of being shorn of its ancient privileges by meddling politicians. Many of its best friends, however, believe that it will be really benefitted by disestablishment, and it now looks probable that the Welsh and then the English church will be placed in the same position as the church in Ireland.

A wise policy on the Intercolonial might at once be made to yield that road very profitable returns, but while St. John is treated with some consideration by being provided with night and day trains stopping at its suburbs, Halifax has no outward-bound passenger train after 6.30 p.m. in winter and eight in summer, entirely too early to accommodate suburban residents who may wish to visit the city either on business or pleasure. This want of accommodation alone deters very many who are desirous of spending the summer at either Rockingham, Bedford, or Lake View, from carrying their wishes into effect. The facilities now provided by the Truro Accommodation and the Bedford Express for getting into town in the morning and returning at evening are all that could be wished, but there should be a mid-day train stopping at Prince's Lodge and Lower Bedford, and the St. John Express, both inward and outward bound, should also have orders to stop at these places for passengers. Some thirty years ago, when Hyde Park was a sparsely-settled suburb of Chicago, the Illinois Central R. R. ran a dummy engine and car hourly out and in during the day time, and the business increased so rapidly that it was soon replaced with a regular train. If the officials of the Intercolonial would adopt a somewhat similar policy, put in a turn-table at Bedford and run the Bedford Express up and back four or five trips a day and once at say eleven at night, we believe that the train would soon prove by its receipts that there is plenty of business to warrant the accommodation. At any rate, the experiment would not cost much, and the train might soon be withdrawn if suburban residents were too apathetic to make it a financial success.

K. D. C. acts as a Cholera preventive, by restoring the Stomach to healthy action.

SPEEDY TRIALS IN CIVIL ACTIONS.—Reforms in legal procedure tending to facilitate and simplify the bringing to trial and deciding of civil actions while greatly reducing the costs of litigation, are characteristics of recent legislation in Nova Scotia, and speak well for the enlightened and progressive attitude assumed by bench and bar, by whom the reforms are first instituted and put in shape for the Legislature. Trial by jury in civil actions, except by request, has been for some time abolished in Halifax County, and works to the satisfaction of all. The Judicature Act on the basis of the English Act, completely changing the old practice and largely minimizing the effects of mere technical defences, was a sweeping reform, and has hardly yet been brought to perfection in practice. The progressive spirit of our legal lights, however, is not yet appeased, and now, through a conference of bench and bar, reforms are to be instituted by which all actions will be brought to almost immediate trial and appeals be heard without delay. The old reproach of the law's delay is even now not fairly applicable in Nova Scotia, and with the proposed reforms in operation, it will be no more heard.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.—While England, the United States and Australia are undergoing a period of financial depression, made notable by the failure, more especially in Australia, of numerous banking concerns, it is so far to the credit of the Dominion that not one of our banking institutions has been in the slightest degree unfavorably affected by the unsettled money market. This fact speaks volumes for the stability of our monetary institutions, and for the wisdom and conservatism of the financiers who manage them. Our railroads also stand the shock well, and with the exception of the Grand Trunk, which never seems able to do much in the way of paying dividends, are favorite investments. During the mad run in New York and the break in the United States railway securities in London, the Canadian Pacific's had a temporary drop, caused, it is stated, by some large holder in Montreal unloading, but they soon rallied and are now on the upward list. We undoubtedly feel the effect here of the stringency of the money market, and business is decidedly dull, but while nearly everyone will perhaps have to suffer more or less from the hard times, there is every reason to believe that we shall escape any widespread or crippling disaster. We will not, however, shout too loud until we are certain we are out of the woods.

SUBURBAN REQUIREMENTS.—No city on this Continent has more charming suburban resorts than Halifax, and nowhere else can be found a place where so little attention is paid to providing adequate transportation facilities for reaching them. Dutch Village, in the lovely valley between the Arm and the Basin, is a locality where men of moderate means might build snug homesteads and find recreation in cultivating the soil which in that section is rich and well adapted for gardening purposes. It is only three miles from the centre of the city, too long a distance for tired business men to walk regularly, and is so inadequately supplied with facilities to reach the city quickly and comfortably that very few are tempted to build in that locality. A bus line making the round trip two or three times a day does hardly a profitable business in carrying passengers to and from the city by way of Quinpool Road, and morning and evening the Intercolonial takes passengers at Fair View. An electric road running out Quinpool Road to Dutch Village, to the Basin and back to the city by the Old Bedford Road, thus taking in the suburb of Willow Park, would rapidly cause the whole route to be built up, and in a few years would prove a very profitable investment. A branch of one mile would connect with the growing suburb of Rockingham, and in time this might be profitably extended to Prince's Lodge and Bedford.

CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT.—The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States upholding the constitutionality of the Geary Act will bring consternation to some one hundred thousand Chinese residents who are liable to forcible expulsion from the country. Strong dissenting opinions on the legality of the Act were expressed by Chief Justice Fuller and Justices Brewer and Field. The latter, who is considered one of the ablest judges on the bench, very clearly argues, that while the Government have the undoubted right to prevent obnoxious foreigners from entering the country, the constitution gives it no power to banish foreign residents who have established homes in the country by consent, and who have committed no crimes. In closing, Justice Field denounces the Geary Act as brutal, inhuman and cruel. "As to its cruelty," he says—"nothing can exceed a forcible deportation from a country of one's residence and the breaking up of all the relations of friendship, family and business there contracted." And as to its brutality, he says—"According to its theory Congress might have ordered executive officers to take the Chinese laborers to the ocean and put them into a boat and set them adrift, or might have ordered executive officers to take them to the borders of Mexico and turn them loose there, and in both cases without any means of support; indeed it might have sanctioned towards those laborers the most shocking brutality conceivable. I utterly repudiate all such notions, and reply that brutality, inhumanity, or cruelty, are not elements in any procedure for the enforcement of any laws of the United States." What the Government of China will do if the law is carried into effect remains to be seen, but it is reported that the end will be the exclusion of citizens of the United States from China and the breaking up of the flourishing missions established there. In our opinion the law will never be rigidly enforced.

Cholera threatens Dyspeptics. K. D. C. cures Dyspeptic, and makes them Cholera-proof. Try it while Cholera threatens.