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Topics of the Day

FOUR farmers, varying in age from fifty to sixty-six years of age, and one younger man, were recently tried at Lindsay for counterfeiting and were sentenced for terms ranging from three years to one month. Charles Burk, a clever but shiftless man was the leader in this clumsy quintette, and he was given three years. Robert Logie, a farmer with a mortgage on his homestead, and for that reason led into this trouble, received two years. Two old men were given one month and the young man allowed out on suspended sentence. It was a strange case and indicates how men who have led blameless lives for many years will occasionally fall by a most foolish temptation.

An almost equally foolish proceeding occurred at Toronto last week. Ten young men went out on Lake Ontario in rough weather, and only one survived the unexplained capsizing of their frail gasoline boat. All were residents of Toronto Junction — a goodly-sized town which might be termed a suburb of Toronto. It is strange that young men should be so careless of their lives, and old men so careless of their reputations. This might be termed the Careless Age.

Judge Clement has raised the question at Vancouver as to whether divorces granted in Nova Scotia and British Columbia since Confederation are legal. By the B.N.A. Act marriage and divorce are placed among the subjects in which the Dominion has exclusive powers, but no one has questioned the status of these courts in the two provinces mentioned, these courts having been constituted before 1867. A stated case may go to the Privy Council.

The city of St. John, N.B., is to be the port of the Allan Line next season. The announcement is also made that the weekly service to Liverpool is to be more thoroughly equipped than ever before. Such vessels as the "Victorian," "Virginian," "Tunisian" and "Corsican" are to open the service and later on the turbiners will be taken off and the "Grampian," a lately launched Clyde vessel, and the "Ionian" takes their place. The Allan Line will have a monthly steamer to London and Havre.

Mr. A. Kelly Evans, secretary-treasurer of the Ontario Fish and Game Protective Association, recently read a paper on international regulation before the American Fisheries Society at Erie, Pa. He pointed out that since 1890 there has been a decrease in the annual fish crop of seven million pounds. He favoured a conference of representatives from the two governments and from all the states and provinces on the great lakes for the purpose of drawing up uniform regulations which would preserve this great industry. His resolution was carried unanimously.

The mining engineers from the United States and Europe who visited Cobalt last week seemed to have come away enthusiastic. This should not lead the small

investor into buying six and ten cent shares in worthless prospects. Only a few will make money out of the great and valuable camp, and those few will be insiders and those with money enough to have special reports by experts before investing. A few speculators may win; but most of them will lose. The stock that is most widely advertised is probably the most worthless. The Hon. Mr. Cochrane, Minister of Mines, was right when he said: "I believe over-capitalisation and the putting of mines on the market before there is any development to warrant it, has been the curse of the camp."

The Canadian Bisley team has sailed for home after a none too successful expedition in search of cups and honours. The Ontario and Quebec Rifle Association meets will open shortly. After these come the Dominion Rifle Association meet at Ottawa and an international contest for the Palmer Trophy. The militia artillerymen from Great Britain are now at Petawawa.



A Temagami Guide.

The urgent need of increasing the salaries of public school teachers was never more apparent than at the present moment. In Cape Breton for instance, according to a writer in the "Halifax Herald," no less than eighty-six schools are now closed for lack of teachers and the cause is not far to seek. Many people knew the situation was pressing, but few probably were aware that things were as bad as that. Male teachers, the same writer says, have practically disappeared from the schools. Nova Scotia is dependent upon 2,500 female teachers, 2,000 of whom cannot be engaged for one year at a time if they can help it.

After a legal controversy which has been waged almost continuously since 1904, when the Act was passed, the Privy Council has issued judgment confirming the action of the British Columbia Legislature in giving the coal rights to settlers on the E. & N. land belt on Vancouver Island. At the time the Act was passed, fifty Crown grants were issued by the government, and against one of them the E. & N. railway entered an appeal by way of testing the validity of the Act. The judge decided that the province was within its rights in passing the legislation. Before the Fall Court, however, this judgment was reversed, and then the case was taken to the Privy Council. The Crown was represented before the British tribunal by Sir Robert Finlay, Mr. Simon, M.P. and Hamar Greenwood, M.P.

The announcement that the Hon. Edward Blake is to retire from the British House of Commons cannot surprise many people. It was never a place for his activities; he was more sorely needed at home where great men are fewer and where the battle for the right is greater. If he will come back to Canada and spend his declining years here, the people will pay him that tribute of respect which is his due.

Canada, according to a certain poem of tender political association still "needs men" and Blake is yet a name to conjure with in this Dominion.