

The four hundredth anniversary of the sailing of Columbus has just been commemorated at Palos. Many warships of foreign nations took part in the naval procession in honor of the great navigator. All the officials and delegates of the squadron attended mass in the little chapel where Columbus received communion before his voyage. On the 3rd of August the *Santa Maria*, an exact reproduction of the largest of the Columbus caravels, passed through the lines of the assembled fleets. This antique vessel will sail for Havana in January and will probably arrive in New York in March, when many who are interested in ship-building will examine her curiously. A sight of the little caravel would bring one strangely near to the man whose faith was so clear that over thousands of miles of unbroken waters, he could yet discern in the distance the shadowy form of the new world.

A well-directed effort is being made in railway circles to encourage total abstinence among employees. This is most satisfactory to the travelling public who, if the truth were known, have too often been at the mercy of intoxicated officials and employees. It will raise the moral standard of both employers and employed on all lines where it is adopted. Clear heads and steady hands are needed for railroad work. Already 10,000 white buttons stamped with initials, signifying the Railroad Temperance Association, have been distributed among engineers and trainmen, and the demand for them has been so great that 50,000 more have been ordered. A white button is to be worn conspicuously on the uniform of every member of the Association. The "white button movement" promises to speedily become popular with the roadmen, and there is little doubt that it will receive both sympathy and support from the travelling public.

A new era in the history of the railroad will dawn with the completion of the Trans-Siberian Railway, which it is announced will be handed over this fall. The completion of this railroad will be of great advantage to Russia, for it will do away in great part with the ancient and expensive caravan trade. There are many large cities on the route which will willingly profit by the new arrangement—there are countless river steamers whose trade will be benefited by the change, and on the Pacific coast there is a pressing need for the railroad. Canada too can rejoice in the new road. With our Canada Pacific line and the steamships of Vancouver we are at once in touch with the new road, which is the natural continuation of our own great thoroughfare. Much trade will probably be diverted through Canada by the Siberian route, and the new terminus, the ancient naval port of Hadivostock, will shortly be as well known as our own Vancouver.

It is a strange thing that the man whose influence is felt in both the public and the private life of Nova Scotians should yet be without a fitting memorial. We owe much of our prosperity to the late Hon. Joseph Howe. His shrewd foresight, his clever pen, above all, his loyalty to this land of the Mayflower, have left a deep impress on Provincial life. The citizens of Truro are to be congratulated upon having taken the initial step in connection with the memorial. They proposed to change the name of their magnificent Park to Howe Park; and on August 9th, on the occasion of a great public picnic, the trustees of the Park brought forward their project for erecting a suitable memorial. The orator of the day, Principal Grant, of Kingston, was well chosen. We trust that he has succeeded in awaking the spark of patriotism which slumbers in the breast of every true citizen, and that, though his efforts and those of the Park trustees, the memory of our greatest Nova Scotian may be fittingly preserved.

An unpleasant characteristic of the United States Press is the freedom with which advice is showered upon foreign countries. We have already noted the critical state of affairs between Norway and Sweden, but we do not consider that any power outside of the two nations should interfere in the settlement of the trouble. The advice of an irresponsible press should not be taken seriously—we in Canada have not felt compelled to accept annexation because the press of the United States held it temptingly before us. Nor do we consider that following the advice freely given by the press to Brazil a year ago has born very valuable fruit. The mis-directed efforts which the press has made in endeavoring to maintain Balmaceda in Chili, and in encouraging the misunderstanding between Cuba and Spain, should be held in lasting remembrance. Indeed it's more than passing strange that with the Carnegie blossom of civilization and the prospect of a great election which will shortly shake the Union to its core, already on hand, that the press should assume to dictate the domestic policy of foreign nations.

The recent Carnegie troubles have attracted the attention of the public to the actual work of the modern steelmaker. A generation ago, the skilled manual laborer was the backbone of the steel mill—the absolute physical force of the workman counted for or against his success as a "roughing tongs man," a "buggle-man," "a hooker," or "a draw-out." Expert workmen were imported from Europe, men whose muscles must have been like the proverbial "iron-bands," as the test for employment, which was that each man would handle with ease a "bloom" weighing 600 pounds, would seem to indicate. Almost all these laborers, with their educated arms and trained muscles, were members of the Amalgamated Association, and in order to insure the continuance of business, it was absolutely necessary that employers should submit to the demands of the Association. Improvements in machinery were then introduced, which first reduced the number of workmen; then, by degrees, hydraulic power was substituted for muscular force; the mechanical engineer and the chemist became the two intelligent centers of the great establishments. Gradually the skilled steel-maker has been passing away. There is now no demand for his services. The

small boy with hydraulic lever equals a half-dozen of the last generation of workmen. The skilled laborer is no longer a requisite of the steel mill. Muscular force ceases to be the test of a man's ability. In short a moderate degree of intelligence and strength is all that is now necessary in order to make a successful workman.

The Funeral Reform Association of Great Britain have undertaken a very necessary work, a work which will require the most delicate handling. The Association takes exception to many of our most deeply-rooted funeral and mourning customs, condemning them as unwise, unfitting and unsanitary. There is but too much truth in these allegations. The Christian doctrines of Hope and Faith in the Resurrection are too often lost sight of in the face of the pompous processions—the mourners are by custom compelled to incur a heavy expense, not only in burying the dead with requisite honor, but in purchasing heavy and costly mourning apparel. The Association also takes exception to the use of hermetically sealed coffins, and advocates the simpler and more sanitary "earth to earth" burial, where the body quickly returns to its natural elements. Surely the more simply the last sad ceremony can be carried out the better for all the survivors. Public opinion is slowly coming to this conclusion. The uncovered head which was once thought necessary at every open grave, no matter how inclement the weather might be, is no longer demanded, and while every respect should be shown to the body of the departed, the health of those who remain behind should always be in urgent consideration.

Some curious and not wholly progressive qualifications of the Franchise of Cape Colony are now under consideration. There has never been a manhood suffrage in Cape Colony, but any person occupying (not owning) a tenement worth \$100 has been allowed to vote. It is now proposed to limit the Franchise by raising the property standard, that is no person occupying a tenement of less value than \$300 is to be allowed a vote. The standard for illiterate voters is also to be made higher. The South African Kaffir or Boer must be able to write his name, address and occupation before he can claim the privileges of a citizen. And yet this standard of illiteracy is set in the face of the fact that any citizen of Great Britain or Ireland is allowed to vote if his education has been carried far enough to enable him to read the names of the candidates and to make his mark. We are exceedingly doubtful that this apparent zeal for the education of the Kaffirs is genuine. Rather, we incline to the view that the disenfranchising of the natives is desired by the Dutch party who are feeling the effect in each election of a colored vote cast solidly against them. The disenfranchisement of so many who have kept for the most part with the body of the English settlers, will leave the governing power almost wholly in the hands of the Boers.

Our attention has lately been called to the fact that there is an immense amount of preventible misery in our Province. In the country districts specially, where the houses are isolated, where at best it is but a struggle for existence, and among the families of the fishermen of the coast, there is too often neglected disease. Two instances of its neglect have recently come to our notice. The first a tongue-tied lad of twelve, who through his infirmity was fast lapsing into idocy, becoming the laughing stock of the few children of the neighborhood. It is probably too late to operate successfully on the boy—it is certainly too late to restore what should have been his birth-right, a happy childhood. The other instance was even sadder. In an isolated home reached only by almost perpendicular hills on the one side, and by a stretch of decayed country road on the other, a little girl had grown to her eleventh year. At the age of two years her eyes showed a cloudy film, which the well-meaning but ignorant parents supposed would soon pass away. By her third year she had become blind. Nothing has been ever done towards removing the cataracts, and the operation which would in all probability have been successful if performed nine years ago, is now impracticable. But for the merest chance the child would have been left to grow up in ignorance. We fear that these cases are but two of many. There is preventible misery in too many isolated homes—if we mistake not there is preventible misery among the poor of our city. The Government provides for free medicine, free medical attendance and a free hospital. There are special schools and institutions for those who require a special training because of their deprivations. But still there is a need. There are numbers of our people who, through prejudice or from fear of "lowering themselves" by accepting charity, will not make use of the advantages which the Province offers. There are numbers who do not know that such advantages exist. There is a great need for some benevolent agency whose business it will be to look up the ignorant and sick of the sparsely settled portions of our Province, and to put them in communication with the proper authorities. There is no reason why the Government which supports or aids in supporting so many of these institutions should not go a step further and appoint the agent. In connection with our Medical College for instance there are few students who would not be benefited by a year of conscientious travelling and searching for cases of preventible misery. There is no doubt that much suffering could in this way be saved our people. There is no great expense connected with the plan, and we ask that our people who have shown in so many ways a broad humanitarian sympathy should carefully consider the matter.

Owing to the rapid increase in trade and the demand for K. D. C. across the border, the K. D. C. Company, Limited, of New Glasgow, N. S., have opened offices at 127 State St., Boston, Mass., from which to supply their United States customers. Their offices, formerly occupied by the British Consul, are commodious and well suited to the needs of this pushing and energetic Company, who seem bent on pushing their Dyspepsia Cure, deservedly called the "King" to the uttermost parts of the earth. The remedy will be sent postpaid to any address in the United States on receipt of price, one dollar a bottle. Free sample to any address.