

**CHINA AT SEA.**—It has long been considered a marvellous thing that woman should be "mistress of herself, though china fall, but it would be still more marvellous if the gentlemanly directors of the ocean steamships should express neither surprise nor chagrin when the chief steward sends in his weekly list of breakages. On a recent trip of a well-known liner 900 plates, 280 cups and over 400 saucers were smashed; 1200 tumblers, 200 wine glasses, 30 decanters, and 60 water bottles were also shattered, and a nice little bill for replenishing was speedily run up when the steamer reached port. The great floating hotels are doubtless hard on china, and the fact may comfort the careful housekeepers who relapse into gloom over a chipped dish.

**OF INTEREST TO BOTANISTS.**—Mr. A. T. Drummond has for some time been examining the colors and tints of flowering of 539 of the wild plants of Ontario and Quebec. He states that one-third of the entire number of blossoms are white in color, and that white is the chief color seen in April, May and June. In July, August and September, one-fourth of the entire number of plants bear blossoms which are for the most part in some shades of yellow. Purple and blue flowers scarcely show themselves until the latter part of September and during the month of October. They comprise but a ninth and a tenth respectively of the season's blossoms. An analysis of the plant life of Nova Scotia would probably give similar results, with the exception perhaps of a percentage of both pink and purple blossoms in the spring.

**AN ECONOMICAL MOVE.**—Notwithstanding the high rents which prevail in the great cities of the United States, a large number of people manage to occupy comfortable homes at little or no expense. The scheme is a smart but honest one. The families keep on the lookout for new department houses or new rows of dwellings. As soon as the buildings are ready to be occupied, an application for the position of caretaker is at once sent in. The duties of the caretaker are to look after the houses and to show them off to prospective tenants. This work the wife can easily perform during the day, and the husband can relieve her in the evening. As a row of houses will often stand only partially occupied for from one to two years, the caretaker's family are comfortably housed during that period and a large outlay in rent saved.

**JUSTICE NEEDED.**—The end of the Borden murder trial is not yet. The fact that the suspected girl is set at liberty after nine months of confinement does not completely satisfy lovers of justice. Since she is proved to be not guilty of the terrible charges preferred against her, should she not have the privilege of obtaining redress for the unnecessary imprisonment, the unspeakable mental strain, and the slanderous utterances of the prosecution for the State. If Miss Borden had been the victim of an accident—if she had simply suffered the loss of a limb, she would have been entitled to obtain damages, but, on the contrary, although her life has been jeopardized, her liberty as a citizen denied her, and her health shattered, she can make no remonstrance. It is doubtful whether the laws of our own land are more just, the wrongfully arrested man or woman is not awarded justice, and there is pressing need for serious thought on the subject. Who is to find the solution of the difficulty?

**A POINTER FOR CANADIANS.**—There is a lesson for the working people of our Province in the present condition of their workmen in the United States. Hard times have come to many of the factory hands and mill workmen. The majority of them have already begun to suffer, and the prospect of a winter without work and wages begins to stare them in the face. The American workman spends as he goes. There is none of the frugality of the French laborer or the thrift of the German workman in his composition. It is not in his nature to lay by against a rainy day. Consequently, in dull times he and his family suffer severely. It is true that the wages of some working people compel them to live from hand to mouth, but the majority of laboring people either in the United States or in Canada can, if they will, lay by some amount of money. This is a lesson that should early be impressed upon our young people, who should be taught and encouraged to save. Habits of thrift and frugality cannot be too early formed, and our Dominion will be the more prosperous when our people have thoroughly learned the lesson.

**A SIDE ISSUE IN FARMING.**—Many of our farmers have yet to learn that there is money to be made out of raising cranberries. The comparatively few men who have experimented in this line have made handsome profits, and although this year's crop will not be so large as the crop, the acres that are laid down with the acid berries will still pay well. There are many strips of waste land that our farmers might use for cranberry-growing. The bog lands are especially valuable, but the excellent yield from the top of North Mountain demonstrates that high, dry and sterile land may be used to advantage by the berry-grower. The bog lands surrounding Aylesford were long considered valueless, but recent experiments have shown that they will speedily become valuable cranberry ground. A veteran grower at Auburn has fifteen acres of bog planted with vines, and in the great harvest of 1891 he actually obtained 100 bushels from a single acre, and last year a car load of berries sent by him to Montreal cleared him the sum of \$1000. The cranberry market is not over-stocked. The local market alone will absorb the entire output, while a constant demand from Upper Canada and England is maintained. There seems to be no reason why our farmers should not profit by the experience of their more adventurous brothers and supplement their incomes with cranberry money.

**A WORD FOR OUR FISHERMEN.**—We are all at times apt to overlook the enormous wealth which our Dominion is possessed of in her fisheries. The Atlantic and Pacific coasts, the vast inland lakes and rivers teem with fish of all varieties. The total catch of last year was valued at nearly \$19,000,000. Over 63,000 men are enrolled as "toilers of the deep." The Atlantic fisheries, in which our own fishermen are so deeply interested, did not thrive last year, yet the catch was valued at \$11,000,000, a sum which is by no means to be laughed at. Our fishery population are a steady set of men who deserve well of their land-living compatriots, and the public money spent in defending and restocking our fisheries should never be begrudged.

**CANCER NOW CURABLE.**—There is good reason to believe that an actual cure has been found for the dread disease of cancer. Not long ago a patient at the New York Cancer Hospital became by accident inoculated with erysipelas. As the erysipelas progressed the condition of the cancer improved marvellously, and a number of experiments were at once made of inoculating cancer patients with the virus of the lesser disease. In every case the condition of the patient was improved, 25 per cent of those suffering from ordinary cancer were reported cured, and 40 per cent of those suffering from malignant cancer were taken off the sick list. The dangers attending the patient because of the repeated inoculations of virus are not great, and although there is temporary discomfort, no serious objection can be raised. The discovery of a positive cure of the painful disease will be hailed with delight by the whole medical world.

**OCEAN DERELICTS.**—There are other dangers for travellers on the deep than the more common ones of wind and wave, and the great storm of last week will probably succeed in adding to their numbers. Several newly deserted and drifting vessels have already been heard of as a result of the late gale, and many of them may wander like spectres over the ocean tracks for months or even years to come. There is marvellous vitality in deserted vessels—they will drift for thousands of miles in absolute safety, caught by ocean currents they traverse seas that are almost unknown, yet they avoid rocks and reef as skillfully as though they were thoroughly manned. In the Atlantic Ocean forty-five derelicts are afloat. They traverse for the most part the route of the trans-atlantic steamers, and are a constant menace to the safety of all ocean crafts. It is more than probable that many unexplained wrecks in the open seas have been caused by collisions with hidden derelicts.

**SUSPECTED FRUIT.**—It is probable that within two or three weeks there will be a great scarcity of lemons in the fruit markets of the United States. The importation of the said fruit has been forbidden by the Government as a precautionary measure against the spread of cholera. The Italian and Sicilian lemons have long been established as summer favorites, and there seems to be no solid reasoning connected with this sudden prohibition. It has never been found that lemons were used as a vehicle of disease—in fact many scientists agree that fresh lemon juice will actually kill cholera bacilli, and in all modern treatment of the disease lemon as a drink and as a cleansing agent has been widely used. The action of the Government in discriminating against lemons, while admitting many other articles more liable to be infected, is difficult of explanation. It is, however, an ill-wind that blows no one good, and our Australian friends may do a big stroke of business if they can but forward a consignment of fruit in time.

**THE LITTLE BILL.**—We believe that Great Britain is shortly to receive an offer from the United States for the purchase of British Columbia. California is the moving State in the business, and backed by the federal Government is prepared to bid \$100,000,000 for our Western Province. The fact that the Province is not for sale will not prevent the offer being made, and it will then remain to be seen whether the offer is an insult or a compliment. The United States made a good bargain when Alaska was purchased from Russia for \$7,000,000, and, although the annexed territory has not yet been developed, there is no doubt that there is an ample supply of natural wealth in minerals, natural products, and in the fisheries. It is therefore only a logical conclusion that, if Alaska has turned out so well, British Columbia will turn out still better, although the proposed sum of purchase is much larger. That is the way Canadians feel about it. They too have faith in the future of the coveted Province, and since Canadian money has aided the Province in the past it is but right that Canadian pockets should profit by it in the future. It is noticeable that although the matter has been under consideration for three years that an offer has not been made before; and that, at a time of commercial depression, when all the Western States of the Union are enviously looking at the comparative placidity of Western Canadian life, when Vancouver by honest competition has obtained a half control of the Pacific trade, at such a time an offer should be made. The one hundred million dollars may be regarded as a tempting bait, but we have no pressing need of the money, especially the silver money, which they propose to pay over. We have already spent a hundred millions connecting British Columbia with the Eastern seaboard, and may hundreds of thousands have been spent in building steamship lines to the Orient. The natural wealth of the Province in gold mines, fisheries and timber is already valued far in excess of the proposed purchase money. In short, there is neither rhyme nor reason in the offer from the British and Canadian point of view. Our American friends must prepare themselves for disappointment, and learn that there are things which even money cannot purchase, and that Canada has no wish or desire to part with any portion of her people or her country.

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