

TELEGRAPHIC FACILITIES.

The Board of Trade had an interview the other day, with Mr. Hosmer, manager of the C. P. telegraphic system, and, in conversation with him, indulged, though with not much apparent success, in the Englishman's well understood privilege of growling. They very naturally and justifiably too complained of the comparative frequency with which the service was interrupted and the delays that often occurred somewhere in the transmission of messages. The public will be familiar with the almost stereotyped explanations that are given of this:—the wires are broken between Vancouver and Winnipeg or between Winnipeg and the east; they are working very slowly, we can't duplex, or there's something wrong just above Nanaimo. Now, so far, all this is accounted for by the fact of the company being dependent on one wire, they having abandoned the alternative route which formerly connected them with the Western Union system via Dungeness.

Mr. Hosmer, in connection with this, intimated that his company had under contemplation cable connection with Japan, whose construction would tend to improve the service with the Island of Vancouver. We must hope that, this being the case, the project will be speedily carried out; we require a more regular service, and, at the same time, a more speedy and better organized system of message delivery; for however the inadequate service may be accounted for and explained away, the fact remains that the work of delivery is a sort of haphazard matter performed at times by the company's own officials and at others by district messengers. We had supposed that with the flourish of trumpets with which the interview had been spoken of in anticipation the company's Victoria service was going to receive a pretty rough overhauling, but Manager Hosmer was fully equal to the situation, and, by demanding proof and not mere allegations, disarmed those who may have been termed his adversaries. There can be no question about it that very great improvements may be effected here, and, inasmuch as Victoria is one of the most important stations on the company's line, it is to be hoped that all that is required will for the future be provided in anticipation.—*Commercial Journal*.

NOT JUST RIGHT.

Here is a little story for which every reader may furnish his own moral. In a New England city a bright young woman who earns her own living had saved \$75 with which to go to the World's Fair. A few weeks ago a sensational Boston newspaper started a contest for free trips to the Fair. The young woman's friends thought they would surprise her with one of these free trips. They began buying the newspaper coupons and sending them in to be credited to her. Some indiscreet friend let her know what was going on. As her friends were spending so much money for her benefit she felt bound in honor to assist. In the end her \$75 went in the pool, and in the total over \$400 were spent, but this sum was not quite enough. The free trip went to

somebody who had 20,500 coupons against her 20,000. She gets nothing for the \$400 spent in her behalf, and she will not go to the fair. Hundreds more tried and failed. The newspaper pocketed thousands of dollars for which it makes no return. But did the newspaper get this money honestly?

DOES MACHINERY ROB LABOR?

There has been a great deal of anxiety and many objections raised regarding the employment of labor-saving machinery, coupled with the fear that machine work would deprive the poor working man of the opportunities of manual labor and subsistence. The same fear extends to the increased employment of females, who fill positions previously occupied by men. The fear in either case is probably much overdrawn, if not altogether groundless.

It will be remembered that upon the introduction of the sewing machine many poor needlewomen almost gave up in despair, thinking that surely their occupation was gone, and that starvation stared them in the face. Sewing machines rapidly multiplied, and so did woman's labor in needle work, and there are more women to-day than ever before employed in that branch of domestic art.

The same is true regarding the multiplicity of farming implements and agricultural machinery. During war time, the country could not have been maintained without the facilities for farm work machinery afforded. As machinery became perfected in this and all lines, the demand grew and rapidly multiplied, and the scarcity of male help was not felt in consequence.

At first farmers and laborers wanted to destroy the machines that they foolishly fancied were only robbing them of their bread, but the tide soon turned in their favor. Crops increased in quantity, quality and value. Demand increased proportionately, and labor was again at a premium. The female typewriters and typesetters and the type-casting machines were eyesores to male writers and compositors, who fancied they would be thrown out of employment; but that matter is fast regulating itself. The march of progress, once truly started, is forward and not backward. The world is wide, and new fields are opened up or old ones enlarged to accommodate all who are willing to work.

Some people are everlastingly looking for a job, and such generally fear that they may happen to find one, with no good excuse to prevent them taking it. The willing poor need scarcely fear, if they are worthy, since the same wind that is tempered to the shorn land is tempered for them, and it is an ill wind, indeed, that blows no one good.—*Detroit Herald of Commerce*.

Herb. Simpson, representing the well known house of Greene & Sons Co., Montreal, is in the city.

L. Godbolt, the western representative of J. & T. Bell, boots and shoes, Montreal, is on the way to the coast.

The result of the sugar season in Cuba, now practically ended, shows that the yield of the whole island will amount to between 750,000 and 800,000 tons, a yield considerably below the average total production.

KEEP UP YOUR SPIRITS.

The failure of success with which so many meet is often the fault of the one experiencing it. Some men are invincible by nature and overcome all obstacles. No failure can break them down. But there are thousands of men of superior intellect who are deficient in this glorious gift and who are never rid of worry and trouble. Which of us can not call to mind some individual of this class, who, after battling manfully against perverse circumstances for a time, at last gave up, acknowledged himself beat, and tacitly admitted that his life was a miserable failure.

Many a man has thus broken down, when one or more vigorous essays would have tided him over his difficulties, brought him into smooth water and enabled him to snap his fingers triumphantly at a world which scarcely bestowed a pitying look on him as he threw up his arms and ceased to struggle. No help is of any use to such persons, because it would require more effort to keep up their spirits by sensible advice and financial assistance than would be necessary to run two or three such establishments.

Certain dismal moralists tell us that we should never try to cheat ourselves; that it is unwise to view the world through rose-colored glass; that our surroundings are "all a fleeting show for man's illusion given." But we maintain that it is always best to look at the bright side of things, if they have one; and, if they have not, to believe that they will have, if we persistently try to lighten them up. This is the creed in which every boy should be educated. Let the young be taught to trust in Providence and themselves and teach them also to overcome adverse circumstances to the last gasp. In a large majority of such gladiatorial combats, he who thus "champions fate to the uttermost" wins the day; and, at the worst, it is a consolation to defeat to feel that nothing man could do to secure victory has been left undone. Never think of breaking down before any impediments. Think only of breaking over them. Let difficulty find you always ready to do your utmost to overcome it. Keep up your spirits under all circumstances and a lighter side of the embarrassment will always be found.—*Retail Grocers' Journal*.

HOW FAST DOES THOUGHT TRAVEL

Prof. Donders of Utrecht has made some interesting experiments in regard to the rapidity of thought. By means of two instruments, which he calls the "neomatachograph" and the "noernatachometer," he obtained some important results. His experiments show that it takes the brain .067 of a second to elaborate a single idea. Writing in regard to this Professor Donders says: "Doubtless the time required for the brain to act is not the same in all individuals. I believe, however, that my instruments may be perfected until we will be able to determine the mental caliber of our friends without our friends knowing that we are testing their aptness." The Professor further says: "For the eye to receive an impression requires .077 of a second, and for the ear to appreciate a sound .049 of a second is necessary. These curious experiments have established one fact at least—viz., that the eye acts with nearly double the rapidity of the ear."