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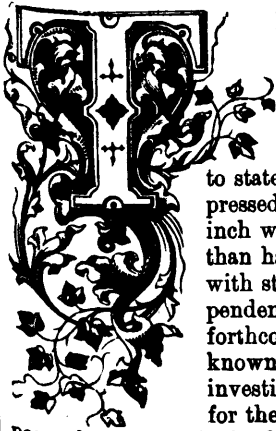
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NOTE AND COMMENT.



HE problem of the economical storage of power is likely to receive a practical solution before long according to Col. Frederick Beaumont, who writes to the *London Times* to state that air is now being compressed to 1000 lbs. on the square inch with far less cost and difficulty than has hitherto been accomplished with steam at high pressures. Independent proof of this will shortly be forthcoming from a body of well-known scientific gentlemen who have investigated and tested the matter for themselves. For locomotive purposes the results obtained from the storing of electricity do not approach those obtained from the storage of air in the amount of force actually available for traction or propulsion. For tramways there is no doubt of the cost of air being considerably below steam, and air engines could be used on the Underground Railway at a cost in capital expenditure somewhat in excess of that for steam engines, but in daily working expenses very little, if at all, beyond the present cost of steam, while it is obvious that the difficulties of ventilation and deterioration of girders would vanish.

THE daily press of New York has reported a meeting of milkmen, called for the purpose of giving expression to their sentiments on the subject of skimmed milk. Although there were some fifty dealers present, it was very apparent that the meeting was in the hands of one man. This person in his remarks, stated the object of the meeting as follows: "We are here to find whether the milkmen in this city have any rights which the Board of Health is bound to respect, and if we have we propose to have them respected, even if we have to go the trouble of a lawsuit." It is proposed to sell skimmed milk in the city in spite of the Sanitary Code which prohibits its sale, although there is some talk of selling it as skimmed milk and at a lower price than the genuine article. We presume the Board of

Health will stop the sale of skimmed milk even though it is advertised as such. It is not a poison and never killed any one directly, but milk is the one article of food for young children. The lower price would lead to the use of the inferior article by many of the poorer classes, and the little ones suffer from a lack of proper nourishment. If people are unable or too ignorant to protect themselves public policy requires that they should be protected. What is true of dangerous burning oils is to a certain extent true of skimmed milk. If the price is a temptation to buy dangerous or unwholesome articles, their sale should be prohibited. If the dealers in skimmed milk object to the Sanitary Code as in any way oppressive, there exists in the State of New York an act to prevent the adulteration of food which will completely cover their case.

"PROVERBIALY slow" is an epithet which may be applied once too often to the good citizens of Halifax. Like every maritime people it is true they appreciate the importance of ballast; but the reputation of the possession of great wealth augurs enterprise as well as caution. If they have in the past been dilatory, they are now redeeming the time by many new enterprises. Not to mention the sugar refinery—a story of the past, as the cotton mill is of the future—one has to report the construction of a long pier or wharf which is being extended into deep water to accommodate the largest steamships in the discharging of cargo, as well as in coaling. A switch of the Inter-Colonial Railway is run down to this point, for the transfer of freight and passengers without any delay. At this locality also is to be erected a large grain elevator, a necessity to every extensive shipping port. A dry dock of 600 odd feet is also in hand, calculated to accommodate the largest vessels undergoing repairs. These are some of the improvements now going on in the harbour of Halifax, which is admittedly the best upon this continent, and accessible at all seasons. The depth of water is said to be sufficient to float with safety the largest ships of the British navy, and that for miles up the harbour into Bedford Basin. Halifax, and we may add St. John, situated on the extreme eastern coast of the Dominion of Canada, cannot fail to command more and more attention; and till the problem of navigating the river St. Lawrence in