

**CRIMINAL STATISTICS.**—There is no doubt that while crime is on the increase in the United States and in many European countries, statistics prove plainly that the number of criminals is not greatly on the increase in Canada. In 1891 there were found to be 8.20 convicted criminals to every thousand inhabitants, and in 1892 the number was found to be only 8.24 to the thousand. Encouraging as the showing is there is still much to hope for, and we trust that when the statistics for another year have been compiled it will be found that the proportion of criminals to inhabitants has been reduced. Eight depraved citizens to every thousand of our people is still too large a proportion.

**PRINCE OKER.**—Again we are to have a Prince within our Province—a genuine fish-eating Prince from Japan. Prince Oker is on a unique expedition. He is a roving commissioner whose duty it is to look up all manner of fish used as food in Canada, and to study the various ways of preparing it for the table. The Prince's tour of investigation has taken him to the Fraser River, where he has critically examined the fresh salmon, to the Great Lakes after trout and whitefish, and he now comes to Nova Scotia to examine the salt water fish. We rather envy Prince Oker his job, and if we can be of any assistance to him or to the Japanese people among whom he wishes to introduce the new fish foods we shall be delighted to do him a service.

**SOUNDS LIKE HIM.**—Our old friend Citizen Train has been induced we fear to flatter Chicago at the expense of New York and Boston. He is very unflattering in his opinion of New York, which he is confident will soon become the States prison of the world, and as for Boston—bean-eating cultivated Boston—he can only say that it is 223 centuries behind the times. Citizen Train is evidently of the opinion that the Western cities are the more promising ones, and he probably believes that if Chicago should once give her mind to culture that she would "get there with both feet." We do not wonder that Mr. Train has made a host of friends for himself in Chicago.

**POSTAL CURRENCY.**—An excellent bill is now before the U. S. Senate. It deals with the need of a postal currency, which is felt not only in the United States but also in Canada. Thousands of people are inconvenienced every day by the trouble to obtain money orders or in registering money letters which are to pass through the mails. In order to secure the safe transmission of money it is necessary to pay an exorbitant fee, and this, coupled with the amount of red tape necessary both on the part of the sender and the receiver of the money, has led to the careless enclosure of money in ordinary letters. The bill now before the Senate provides that fractional currency notes shall be issued and redeemed at all post offices, and that they shall be supplied and redeemed without extra charge. The one improvement which we would suggest is that it should be stipulated that the notes should be redeemed and destroyed after one use, so that the danger attendant upon the handling of dirty notes should not be increased.

**AN ANCIENT IDEA.**—The completion of the great Greek canal is an event of the greatest importance to southern Europe. The building of the canal has been long projected. Alexander the Great pointed out the need for it. Julius Caesar, had he not occupied his spare time with commentary writing, would probably have undertaken it. The Emperor Nero cut the first sod and the Corinth Ship Canal Co. has just completed the work which was begun so many centuries ago. The canal connects the Gulf of Corinth (or Lepanto) with the Gulf of Algeria (or Saronic Gulf) and opens up a new water-way not only to the Greek merchants but also to the traders of Austria, Italy, Turkey, Bulgaria and Roumania, while a large share of the shipping from France and Spain will also make use of it. The promoters of the enterprise, if so ancient a scheme is to be called by that name, are confident that Greece will regain in part her glory as a maritime country, and that as a consequence of the increased trade the classic country will again be prosperous.

**RUBBISH HOARDING.**—There is scarcely another habit so deeply engraven upon our people as that of saving odds and ends and lumbering up good rooms, closets and attics with clap-traps for which we may one day have a use. In every house there is a glory hole in which are stored the remnants of useful articles, from a broken wash stand to the last year's bonnet, and in most cases the collectors of rubbish feel that they are showing a spirit of economy by putting by these relics. It was doubtless true that in the early days of Provincial life there was a need to store all flotsam and jetsam. But that day has passed. It is no longer difficult to obtain new goods of any description, and it is poor economy to provide food for moths when many human beings would welcome our surplus garments. We no longer make rag mats, and the sooner the rag box is emptied and sold to the ragman the better for all concerned. The rusty old-fashioned stoves had best go to the old iron man, and the broken furniture, if past repair, will make good kindling wood. Torn books and odd pages of music had best go to supplement the kindling wood, and all readable literature should be sent to those who make it their business to distribute books and magazines among the lumbermen and miners of the Province. Many of us regret that we are not able to give as much in charity as we would like, but if we would but give from our stores of unnecessary articles we would find that it is possible to do much without feeling it as an additional expense. The hoarding habit should be broken up even if it is necessary for that purpose to hold an annual bonfire.

**THE DISHONEST APPLE GROWER.**—THE CRITIC has long advocated the appointment of a fruit inspector, whose duty should be to verify the marking of apples for the Canadian, the American or the English markets. There are dishonest fruit raisers among the Provincial orchardmen who are bringing our whole fruit business into disrepute. Even in our own city many of us have been badly swindled when purchasing apples. The mark on the head of the barrel and even the appearance of the first and second layers at either end of the barrel are not sure guides to the purchaser. The fruit growers who have adopted the system of branding their names on their barrels find that a certain protection is thus afforded them, although cases have arisen where their private marks or names have been branded upon ill-assorted fruit. The only remedy which we can suggest is that every barrel shipped shall be examined by a competent man and then marked impartially for the benefit of the buying public. A Government inspection of this kind would be popular among the reputable fruit growers, and would be wholly satisfactory to the apple-purchasing communities.

**HASTE TO THE WEDDING.**—Dr. Stark, a well-known Scottish scientist, agrees with the statement in Holy Writ that "it is not good for man to be alone," and it follows in natural sequence that it is best for women that they shall not spend their lives in solitary splinterhood. The doctor has been studying statistics on the subject both in Scotland and in France, and the conclusions which he reaches, though based on solid facts, are rather surprising. Taking the year 1853 in France he finds that unmarried men died in nearly double the proportion to married men, and that the years between the ages of twenty and thirty are doubly as dangerous to the unmarried as to the married men. Taking at random the years 1863 and 1864 in Scotland he finds the same proportions true, and also he finds that in both countries widows and widowers suffer in comparison with the married a heavy rate of mortality. It is on the strength of these figures that the doctor concludes, "that bachelorhood is more destructive to life than the most unwholesome trade or a residence in the most unsanitary region," and he calls upon all readers of his doctrine who desire to attain to a good old age to be constant to the estate of matrimony.

**ALSACE AND LORRAINE.**—After a wonderfully long period of comparative quiet Emperor William of Germany has exploded another bomb for the edification and instruction of his people. This time he is on delicate ground, but his action is as decisive as if there was nothing to fear. Alsace and Lorraine have never willingly belonged to the German Empire. They are French provinces and, although as a result of the Franco-Prussian war they were ceded to Germany, the people are still French in feeling and in custom. The late Emperor acknowledged the sentiment of the people and conferred many favors upon them by exempting them from laws common to other portions of his Empire and discriminating in their favor. It has long been the feeling throughout France that the day would come when the conquered provinces would be restored to the rightful owner, and when Bismarck recently made a boast that he had caused the Franco-Prussian war by falsifying a telegram there was a cry throughout France and in parts of Germany that the German Government should make amends for the unnecessary war by restoring the conquered provinces. This cry has roused the fiery William. He now announces his intention of further biending these provinces to the Empire. He proposes to annex Alsace to the grand duchy of Baden and to incorporate Lorraine with Prussia. The provinces when thus separated will be greatly weakened, and it will be to the interests of both Prussia and Baden to keep their new territories well in hand. There will probably be an outcry from France over this policy, but the Emperor can be deaf when necessary, and will probably have no serious difficulty in carrying out his line of action.

**FARMERS WANTED.**—Nova Scotia is a happy country for the practical farmer, and the man who finds his lot cast in almost any portion of the fertile valley regions of the Province is thrice blessed. There is perhaps no farming country in the whole world more beautiful than the low-lying regions of the Annapolis and Cornwallis Valleys. Two mountain ranges ward off the winds, and the sun's rays are caught and held on the protected farming country. Numerous streams water the valleys, and the marsh lands reclaimed by the French farmer many scores of years ago add greatly to the prosperity of the people. Along this wondrous stretch of fertile country there is neither poverty nor want. The humblest laborer is secure of his living, for nature will heartily second his efforts. There is a certain prospect of a comfortable livelihood and an almost certain prospect of affluence in the future, which should weigh with young men who are considering the advisability of leaving the country. There are still hundreds of acres of uncultivated or partially cultivated valley land to be secured, and this land is being taken up for the most part by Englishmen who are ignorant of practical farming. There is no reason why they should be allowed this monopoly. The young men of our Province have the first opportunity, although they are slow to take advantage of it. There is a need for them to betake to the ideal farm life. We need new blood among our farmers—well trained, scientific, vigorous men who are not afraid to work. When they have come to the front and gone earnestly to work we will no longer find our home markets supplied with produce from Upper Canada. We will need purchase no more of Ontario butter and cheese and of Ontario feed for our horses. The garden of Nova Scotia is quite capable of supplying the home market, and when it is thoroughly worked it will do so.

The Worst Disease—Dyspepsia  
The Best Cure K. D. C.

K. D. C. Relieves  
Distress after eating.

K. D. C. Cures  
Midnight Dyspepsia.

K. D. C. Restores  
the Stomach to Healthy Action.