

as all his own. If he is accompanied by one or more companions, the faster is the driving; for he has a peculiar notion that there is some extraordinary "virtue" in fast driving, which he delights in displaying to his companion in the conveyance, forgetting that, if there could be any virtue in fast-driving, it is the horse who possesses it, not the driver. The restraint of fast driving is a much-needed reform.

The second reform which our civic fathers should effect is to instruct captains of the different police stations to prevent gangs of hoodlums congregating at street corners. More complaints of this evil come from the streets leading from Craig and St. Antoine streets than from any other parts. These are made almost daily by young girls, but even women and married couples are insulted by these street-corner loafers. Occasionally, the police captains display a disposition to perform their duty in this respect, the details of which are duly laid down in the "Police Manual." But the performance of the duty is of short duration. Why is the duty not performed as a rule rather than as an exception? We hope that the Police Committee will take these important matters into their serious consideration.

The Wicke Fire. New York. A few days after the conflagration in this city, the city of New York had a disastrous explosion followed by fire, the total loss from which is estimated at \$1,500,000. The following firms are stated by "The Spectator" to be the principal sufferers:—

"The Wicke Co., cigar boxes; the J. B. Colt Co., acetylene machines; the Miller, Du Brul & Peters Manufacturing Co., cigar molds; the Innovation Trunk Co.; F. C. Buckhout, lumber; the Jackson Architectural Iron Works, and H. S. Brown, dry goods, were the principal losers, most of the losses being total. Almost all the admitted companies were caught to a greater or lesser extent. There was an explosion about 2 p.m., which started a small fire, the latter having been extinguished, and at about 7 p.m. there was another explosion, followed by an exceptionally fierce fire." The disaster had somewhat similar features to the one last year by an explosion in a drug warehouse. Our contemporary considers that, some nice questions, as well as over a million dollars of insurance appear to be involved in the destruction of the plant of the Wicke Company at New York last week. The first explosion was followed by a fire in the ruins. Officers of the fire and building departments then took charge, and the second explosion occurred just as the shaving tower was pulled down. The fire then developed large proportions so quickly that it will be exceedingly difficult to determine the value of the insured property immediately after the explosion. As this is the basis for the settlement of insurance, the adjustment is likely to be long drawn out, and may result in a compromise or lawsuit. The

Central Labour Union, indignant at the alleged negligence of the city officials in not preventing the second fire, suggests that the insurance companies should refuse payment of claims on this ground. It is scarcely probable that the companies will follow this advice; but it will do no harm for them to take subrogation against the city on any claims which they may pay as a result of this fire. An official report declares that the supply of water was inadequate, and organized action is called for to secure an auxiliary pipe system.

The "Daily News" at Fault. The "Daily News," of London, England, made a slip in a recent editorial which shows that in spite of all the discussions about this country and allusions to its services to the Empire, which have appeared in the English press, there is still room for lessons being given to even leading journalists in regard to Canada. The "Daily News" in an interesting editorial on British Columbia, the spirit of which is excellent, said: "There is room in the Columbias and the Canadas for peaceful British expansion during ages to come." Our contemporary needs to read up a little, there is only one British Columbia, which is a Province of Canada, and the day passed over thirty years ago when "Canadas" could be spoken of. In 1868 the "Canadas" were made one country under the title of the Dominion of Canada.

Protection to Mining Enterprises. The principle of protection to native industries and interests being now accepted by both political parties, the only questions relating to it open to discussion are, as to its application in particular cases. Attention has been drawn by Col. Topping, a Kootenay expert, to the desirability of encouraging the establishment in Canada of enterprises by whose operations the lead mined in this country would find a profitable home market instead of the ore being shipped across the line to be smelted and worked up. The United States places heavy duties on lead bullion in order to favour the native mines. As the Canadian mines have to ship their ores across to the States, owing to lack of smelters and absence of industries for its consumption, they have to sacrifice from \$14 to \$30 per ton of the value of the lead they have mined in order to realize upon it. Were works established in Canada for making lead paints, pipes, litharge, sheets, etc., the native product would be consumed by such industries so that the miner would have a better market, and the mining industry would be so encouraged as to develop largely. Col. Topping is reported to have recently said:—

"A large amount of Canadian ore goes to the United States for treatment. More than half of Rossland's output is smelted in Northport, Wash., where there is expended a pay-roll of \$40,000 per month, which Canadian workmen and business men should have.