Efforts are again being made to establish the Contagious Diseases Hospital on Fletcher's Field which forms part of the people's most frequented park and is the most popular play ground for the young men and youths of this city. This scheme is a painful and revolting exhibition of insensibility on the part of its promotors, to some of whom the sight of their fellow mortals enjoying themselves seems to be offensive, and to others there is evidently something worthy only of contempt in the shrinking from contact or association with dangerous sources of contagion. Medical men stand calmly, they chat and smoke and joke in a dissecting room when surrounded by objects that would fill lay persons with horror, their opinion, therefore, as to whether there is anything objectionable in a Contagious Diseases Hospital being placed in a public park is worthless.

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The yield of corn in the United States is estimated by the Department of Agriculture, Washington, to be 2,542,516,000 bushels, which is 1,020,000,000 more than in 1901. The yield of wheat is put at 620,895,000 bushels, against 748,460,218 last year. Oats show an increase of 2,501,000 bushels, barley an increase of 24,200,000 bushels, rye, 3,-200,000 bushels, potatoes an increase of 95,110,000 bushels. Hay, tobacco, rice fruits, also show increases over 1901. Such enormous crops, so greatly in advance of those in 1901, must bring proportionately increased returns that, ere long, will have their effect in providing some of the needed money for the United States.

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The point was recently made in our article on the currency system of the United States to effect that, if a bank buys bonds to enable it, to the extent of such purchase, to increase its note issues, the operation may have some measure of convenience, but it does not enlarge a bank's resources. This view which is generally overlooked, has been taken by a prominent American contemporary. No wonder that the National banks refrain from acquiring bonds to increase their circulation, when, in order to make such acquisitions, they must part with as much money as they will gain by the additional note issues based on those bonds.

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The dinner to be held in this city on 18th inst., in honour of the delegates of the London Chamber of Commerce will be a very interesting occasion. The names of the delegates include Sir Alfred K. Rollit, D.C.L., M.P., ex-president and vice-president and chairman of the Commercial Education Committee of the London Chamber, ex-president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom and of the Hull Chamber of Commerce, and chairman of the delegation, also, Sir Vincent H. B. Kennett Barrington, chairman of the South American Trade section of the London Chamber of Commerce. Lord Dundonald, and several members of the Federal Cabinet will be present.

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The John Eaton Company insurance litigation is reported to be in the last stage, a final settlement being in sight after seven years' legal proceedings and seven years' legal harvests. The Bank of Toronto which carried on the suit until it got judgment for a considerable amount, claims to have paid $54,634 to the law firm of Beatty, Blackstock & Co., and $9,750 to Hon. S. H. Blake, K. C. Over the amount payable to the liquidator, there has been a long dispute, and it is announced that terms of settlement have been arrived at. It would be interesting to know how much this affair has cost in litigation in addition to the $64,384 law costs stated to have been paid by the Bank of Toronto.

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The treaty negotiations between Newfoundland and the United States appear likely to result in such arrangements as will place that colony more directly under American influences that will not be desirable in the interests of Canada or of the Empire, nor, in the long run, of advantage to Newfoundlanders. "Will your walk into my parlour said the spider to the fly," is evidently the policy of the United States Government. It is strange that so little interest is taken by our rulers at home and the Imperial Government in the question of including the Island in Confederation, a policy that, if consummated, would be highly advantageous to all concerned and put a stop to the very questionable proceedings of the United States.

The Relation of Companies and their Agents to Policyholders.

At the National Convention of Life Underwriters, recently held at Cincinnati, Mr. Haley Fiske, Vice President of the Metropolitan, read a paper on, "The relation of companies and their agents to policyholders." For a report of this we are indebted to the "Insurance Field" He commenced by remarking upon the more intimate relationship which, years ago, subsisted between these parties to an insurance contract in comparison with what now exists. He regarded the almost entire elimination of chance and substitution of scientific methods as having brought about the change. In regard to dividends, annual and referred, and surplus, Vice-President Fiske said:—

"The reservation of dividends, even when the retiring member is not wholly cut off from his share of the reserve, still separates in interest the general body of policy-holders from the management. The date of settlement is still long postponed. The large loading which enters into the mutual premium is still in the control of