The Colonist

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THE DAILY COLONIST

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AGNOSTICISM AND CHILDREN.

The attitude of agnosticism is one which cannot possibly be adopted by the childish mind. This is admitted by agnostics themselves, and it raises for them the important question, of what answer they are to give the questions of their children on the deepest problem of existence, the purpose of existence itself, and for others, the important question of whether agnosticism is in any sense a reasonable attitude to adopt towards the universe. Our questions are as insistent as the child's. Relatively to the great mysteries of life are our minds any better satisfied with negation of belief, or any whit more able to assign the limits of faith, to say that what we do not know through the use of reason upon the material provided by our senses, is unknowable? The most unfathomable mystery of Christian teaching, on the other hand, the fatherhood of God, is accepted by the childish mind at once as the very corner stone of faith. It is congruous with the child's idea of the universe. External power is represented to the childish mind by the discipline of a father, often apparently unreasonable, capricious, or even cruel, but justified by a tie of nature to the child's intelligence, and generally illuminated by an enduring love. Brought face to face with the consciousness of a greater and more awful external power, the child's mind grasps it at once as the authority of a Heavenly Father, and rests in that conception with a faith that is touching and serene. No pain nor suffering nor sorrow can shake the faith of a child. Everyone must have noticed how while children may resent injustice and cruelty on the part of parents, they never question the right of their parents to inflict them, until they begin to grow up. But it is true nevertheless that a parent who ill-treats a child by any form of injustice, blurs the image of God in its mind, and murders a human soul. But does the most mature human intelligence ever delve further into the depths of things than the apprehension of the mystery of God revealed in fatherhood, which the child unhesitatingly and without difficulty accepts? Our notions of God may change from the crude authropomorphism of the savage to the highest ideas of cultured intelligence, we may quarrel every day of the week as to the method and manner of revelation, the expression of religious faith, and the status of religious duties, we may even slay and torture human beings by the thousand for daring to inculcate doctrines we do not believe to be true, or in these later days, under the same devilish inspiration, we may persecute dissenters from our particular orthodoxy in endless, less material, but just as agonizing ways, but as to the central fact of revelation, do we ever go beyond, can our great adult minds take us beyond the simplicity yet profundity of the lisping child's confession, "Heavenly Father"? Was that what Christ meant when he said, "Except ye become as little children"? Many agnostic fathers and mothers simply abdicate the function of the religious instruction of their children. They turn over their religious education to nurses or governesses or teachers. "We do not believe these things," they tacitly say, "but we do not know what to teach you, so we will pass you on to those who think they do." And the work they make of it! The jumble of half-heathen and half-Christian notions which get into the mind of a child exposed to the tender mercies of volunteer religious teachers is something to make one alternately laugh and weep. Such abdication, by the way, is not peculiar to agnostic parents. Too many nominal believers allow ignorant or rash hands to sow all manner of strange seeds in the soil of their children's minds, which they themselves leave religiously uncultivated. But the especial disaster of the unbelieving father who surrenders his child's religious teaching to another is that a wholly unnatural element is thereby brought into family life. Childhood reposes a touching and beautiful confidence in the absolute wisdom of parents. Therefore, for them to stand aside, in presence of the deepest things of life—to say, "We cannot talk to you about all that; you must believe what so and so tells you, though we cannot"—is to introduce rupture and self-repression into the lives of children, most unwholesomely. Still, the absence or presence of formal religious teaching of children is not nearly so important as many people suppose. Children are far more influenced by their daily association with their parents than by any formal teaching they receive. If that association reflects upon the childish mind love, justice and proper discipline, as the image of its natural relation to the Ruler of the Universe, the soil of an enduring faith is fitly laid. The verse of an old poem suggests itself as illustrative of this relation between parents and children, although it was not written in that connection, nor with Christian faith in view:

"And 'twas dess naught
To leave gods in profession and in thought,
Than in her love and life; for therein lies
Most of her duties and their dignities.
And, rail the brain-bald world at what it will,
That's the grand atheism that reigns in it still."

FISH TRAPS.

The announcement made by Mr Aulay Morrison, M. P., that nothing would be done to alter the conditions of the salmon fishing industry in British Columbia this year, is in line with the supposition that the Laurier government intends to appeal to the country in the fall. Mr. Prefontaine is to come West after the session to investigate the situation. What does that mean? Has a commission not already investigated the situation? Has the government not now got all the information that could be reasonably required to deal with the subject? Certainly, but politics demands that fish traps should be kept dangling both as an inducement to vote for the government and as a threat if the government is opposed. In one portion of British Columbia the people all favor fish traps. In another portion of British Columbia the feeling is by no means so unanimous. The argument will be used to the one set of people that if the government candidate is opposed, the introduction of fish traps will not be prevented. And there are many peple in British Columbia so subservient and silly, as to allow themselves to be "whipsawn" politically in this manner. It is quite evident that so far as the attitude of the government towards fish traps is concerned, British Columbia would be in exactly the same position if no government candidates were elected as if none but government candidates were elected. Any advantage to be derived by any who are influenced by such an argument depends entirely upon the supposition that those who think differently will not be influenced by it. So that everyone who succumbs to it in so doing, directly nullifies its effect. Apparently then, it will seem to some idealists that the government takes a very low view of policy, in placing political exigency before the benefit of the country. As a matter of fact, it only seems to do so in order, if possible, to influence the votes of weak and venal electors. Having got their votes, or failed to get them, it would probably decide its policy on the merits of the question. The delay and the attempted undue influence upon electors are the only real injuries. They, however, are bad enough.

DO TRADE UNIONS HELP THEIR MEMBERS?

It is significant that the trade unions of the United States, with possibly an exception or two that proves the rule, make no pretence at any endeavor to develop the crafts either by providing for the careful training of apprentices, the promotion of efficient workmanship or the elevation of the intellectual and moral plane of the workingmen. The unions exist for the purpose of driving bargains, for obtaining the greatest pay for the least work. There is the further purpose of a mutual beneficiary association, the payment of sick and death benefits, but this is confessedly an expedient for holding unions together during times of industrial depression when they are powerless to prevent wages from falling. That is, when the supply of labor exceeds the demand wages will fall regardless of any action the unions can take. When a factory that has employed one hundred men has a falling off in orders for a considerable period of fifty per cent., it is obliged to give the one hundred men employment at but half time or to dispense with the services of fifty men. To force it to do otherwise would be to force it into bankruptcy. The question then arises, to what extent can the action of a union obtain increasing wages in a time of prosperity. When the orders of a factory increase, work at full time is resumed. A further increase of orders means an increase of prices and an increased demand for products, that, affecting correlated industries, quickly extends throughout the manufacturing and commercial organization. At once there is an increased demand for help of all kinds; wages rise, producers are in competition for workmen, and under the working of economic law, which is as certain as the laws of physics, ages rise to the highest level which the selling prices of the products will allow. This has happened since the industrial revival of 1899, and the trade union leaders have taken all the credit, although the wages of unorganized day labor have advanced in greater proportion than the wages in any branch of organized labor; and the wages of domestic servants, for example, in the vicinity of busy Pittsburg have jumped in the last three years from twenty-five to one hundred per cent., notwithstanding that there is no Union of Hired Girls. This unorganized labor has been liquid, freely moving; organized labor has been made viscid and clotty by the injection of the unassimilable element of the labor demagogue. What the labor leader accomplishes during such a period has been of frequent chronicle during the past three years. He hampers the employer of labor in operations which the community requires, the prosecution of which brings food and clothing to the workmen's family, a result never attained by any trades union activity. He excites unrest and turbulence in his constituents, leading them to demand conditions that are preposterous and wages that cannot be paid. By hampering industrial activity he tends to check industrial progress and to bring a return of industrial depression. For one example: The plasterers of New York who were being paid $4.50 a day last autumn, an amount that exceeds the average earnings of the professional man, struck for $5.50 a day, with the result that plasterers from all over the country flocked to New York, and the goose of the golden egg was killed. The trade unions frequently war between themselves, and are then absolutely regardless of either the comfort, the interests of the rights of their employers or of the public as a whole. Because of friction between different unions o carpenters the operations on five buildings in process of construction in Philadelphia were recently suspended. Because of strife between two rival unions of clothing makers which did not involve wages, hours of labor or any other question with their employers, a branch of the tailoring industry of Chicago was forced to undergo total suspension for several weeks at a loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars. The status and the claims of trades unionism and the foundation therefor were well brought out at a recent meeting of the American Economic Association, which had invited both employers of labor and officers of labor unions to participate in a discussion of the trade union question. The secretary of a state federation, a man who for years has been prominent in the councils and the organization of labor, with the manner of a prize ring bully and the voice of a bellowing bull, told that scholarly audience that the shorter hours, higher wages and greater ease workingmen now enjoy were wrested by the coercion of trade unions from grasping and truculent employers, and that the coercion would continue until the workingman, regardless of color, or grade, or creed, would be in the possession of the privileges that are his due by the fact that he lives. This rampant champion was followed by a mild-mannered elderly gentleman, the manager of a widely known New England factory, who said it was quite right the workingman should squeeze from capital all that he could, but that he sometimes tried to squeeze out more than had been put in. The farmer has now a far more comfortable home than when he and his family worked from dawn to dark for mere existence as they did a generation ago, but the farmer has not belonged to a trade union. He continued, saying that the operatives in his mill receive from six to eight times the weekly wage of a previous generation, and with that wage can purchase ten times the amount of the product of the mill that they could then. But they had not been "organized" until long after this advance had been largely achieved. The decrease in the burden and enhancement of the ease of living had been caused in greatest degree by the advance in machinery, the improvement in appliance and method that will make further advance possible, but the application of which the trade unions are doing their utmost to prevent. The following anecdotes, the truth of which can be readily substantiated, afford some further evidence that the attitude of trade unions is not fair either toward the workingmen, the employers, or the public at large. A professor in a Western university, during a recent investigation at first hand, found in the ante-room of a local union in New York a craftsman who ten years before had gone into business for himself, but had lately failed. He then applied to the union to restore him to its ranks that he might find employment, but it was insisted that he bring a card from the union to which he had belonged ten years before. This he could not do, because that union had long been disbanded and its records scattered. He was willing to pay multiple the initiation fee of $50, and there was no blemish upon his record, but in the absence of the impossible card, the union allowed him to plead in vain. At a subsequent meeting the professor asked why the man had not been allowed to earn sustenance for himself and his family at the trade at which he was competent. The secretary, shrugging his shoulders, said, "Oh, we don't care for him. You see we have nice work at $4 a day, and we don't want too many to get in on it." Not long ago the architect of an office building under way in Pittsburg called the attention of a contractor to the fact that a stairbuilder had placed but two steps during an entire morning, although the material was ready for adjustment when he received it, and that six or eight steps could reasonably be expected of an ordinarily efficient workman. The contractor replied that although the stairlayers were paid $5 a day, this was their normal performance; that they would not adjust more than four steps a day, and he was powerless in the hands of the union. During the last fall the superintendent of construction was trying to rush the work on an electric line in Washington to completion before frost. After unsuccessful efforts to increase his force, he offered a generous bounty to the men at work to accelerate their speed and work over-time. They scornfully refused to listen and continued to throw down their tools at the stroke of five. The usefulness of a man in this world is in proportion to his zeal and ability, and the trade union rules are by no means free from aiming to repress both of these qualities to the end of equating each workingman's usefulness.

SOMETHING WRONG.

By the evidence of Mr. Dunsmuir yesterday before the Parliamentary committee a very strange complexion is given to the series of events which led up to the passage of the now famous Bill No. 16. The passage of an order-in-council authorizing the preparation of certain land grants to the Canadian Pacific Railway, was carried out by the government of which Mr. Dunsmuir was the head, under the impression that while these lands were valuable to the Railway Company the country was receiving concessions of equivalent value. Before the transaction was completed, it occurred to Mr. Wells that the value of the lands was perhaps greater than was generally supposed, and that a better bargain might be driven with the Railway Company, the Columbia and Western Subsidy Act having apparently given to the government the power to deal with the railway grant in this way. Mr. Wells, accordingly was sent to Montreal to treat with the railway company for the extension of their system to Spence's Bridge and other things as a consideration for the transfer of these lands. The Railway Company apparently refused to grant this concession. Then, as has been now declared on oath, Mr. Wells was approached, not by the Railway Company, but by the agent of a land company, apparently about to become the purchaser of the lands from the Railway Company, with the offer of one-twentieth interest in the lands. Whether this offer was an ordinary business transaction, whereby the promoters desired to secure Mr. Wells as a co-partner in their enterprise, or whether it was made as a consideration for the delivery of the grants, it was enough for Mr. Wells, and he thenceforward refused to surrender or hear of surrendering the grants. He suspected something wrong as he well might. He returned to Victoria and at a later date, when the matter came up, he divulged his suspicions to Mr. Dunsmuir, and gave his reasons for them. That was enough for Mr. Dunsmuir, he had the grants cancelled. As regards Mr. Dunsmuir, it is enough to say that the country owes him a very great debt of gratitude, not for being honest no man is owed anything for that, but at a critical time for having protected the country from wholesale plunder, and having had the courage not to be misled by the ingenious sophisms, which give an appearance of virtue to such transactions. This debt the province of British Columbia has paid in the usual currency in which countries discharge such obligations. Whether Colonel Prior has been ever apprized of the equivocal position in which an attempt was made to place a member of the government in the person of Hon. Mr. Wells, we do not know, but the policy of his government and of himself has been steadfastly in the direction of protecting the interests of the country, and the good name of the government from any besmirching through the alienation of this land to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. We feel deeply impressed with the gravity of the revelation that has been made. The whole transaction, and the circumstances surrounding it must be sifted and probed to the bottom. The public life of this country must be saved from demoralization. The people of the country are at Colonel Prior's back in the position he occupies, and they will feel encouraged to think that the government of the country has been able to resist corrupt and corrupting influences under circumstances of no little difficulty, and when these presented themselves in the very specious guize of just and honorable treatment of an influential railway corporation.

The Stock Exchange walking race to Brighton is said to have been carried on at the Bank Rate speed.

According to a Jacobite authority, only one drop of King Edward's blood is estimated pure English—that which he derives from Margaret Tudor, wife of James IV. of Scotland. Two drops of French blood come from Mary Stuart, five drops of Scotch blood from James IV. and Darnley, Queen Mary's husband. Of the rest eight drops are Danish, and four thousand and forty are German. By the same method, every king or emperor could be proved to be entirely foreign to the country he rules over.

We have not enjoyed a very forward spring in Victoria, but by comparison with Great Britain, we have nothing to complain of. In one district in Scotland the rainfall during January, February and March of this year was 24.4 inches, as compared with 24.1 inches for the whole of 1902. A correspondent speaks of "torrents and gales for three months with hardly a break." We notice also that in the neighborhood of London enjoyment of Easter Monday was seriously interfered with by blinding snowstorms.

CRIMINOLOGY.

The ancient theory of crime was that people committed crimes for the same reason porpoises come to the surface of the ocean, because they felt like it. Human nature was supposed to be something practically uniform among all individuals, and the idea of the energies of certain individuals being determined in certain specific directions, was not generally admitted. It might be more true to say that instead of an erroneous theory of crime being held, no scientific theory of crime was attempted at all. Now, however, the scientific method has invaded everything, and criminology is becoming a well reeognized branch of the larger science of sociology. So far, in this department science is merely groping towards results. Many people are familiar with the work of Bertillon and Lombroso, to the extent at least of having heard their names. The former's study has been largely amongst criminals, the latter's among degenerates, some of them criminals in the ordinary sense of the word, and some not. The object of such investigations has been to discover a criminal diathesis visible in the constitution of the body, from which the commission of crime could be safely predicted, provided the occasion of crime presented itself to the individual studied. The leaps taken by science, or we should say, by scientific men, from the particular to the general are sometimes amazing to the ordinary mind, but they are nothing at all to what is accomplished by the popular imagination in that way under the influence of the modern popularity of so-called science. It is firmly embedded in the popular mind that science has discovered, or is about to discover, a means of accurately diagnosing a presumptive criminal by the shape of his ears, his skull, his teeth, his palate, or his left hand. This supposition is strengthened by the popular and quite correct recognition of a criminal cast of countenance. But there is a question whether that criminal appearance is not a result of criminal intentions or of criminal actions. Is it acquired through crime or, a very different thing, where it exists, accompanied by crime? If this criminal appearance is inherent in the body, it should be visible in babyhood and after death. We know of course that to some people very young babies all look like criminals of the deepest dye, but that is not the point. Even if there were a scientific astrology which could mark for the gallows or the cell, the babe in arms, it is quite certain that the popular recognition of a criminal appearance would not support such a scientific analysis. And we rather imagine that after death had stamped the lineaments with that strange, severe, but peaceful masque death brings, the popular intelligence would hesitate to say with certainty, "Here lies a self-betrayed criminal." To popular recognition, criminality stamps the features through the consciousness of crime on the part of the criminal. No doubt certain crimes are more common among human beings of low mental development. But it may be asked whether such crimes are not more common among such people, because the ordinary restraints against crime are less binding upon them, and whether, given a stronger motive and more favorable occasion, persons of a higher mentality are not as often guilty of the same or similar crimes. Students of criminology recognize four variations from the normal type of human beings, dependency, delinquency, defectiveness, and genius. In the first class are willing paupers, tramps, and so forth. In the second, criminals, in the third, insane people, and in the fourth, men of genius. This classification is very convenient, but science has not yet discovered any certain method of determining whether a man is normal or abnormal in any one of these directions. Some persons can be placed without hesitation in one or other of these classifications, but the line of demarcation between the normal and the abnormal is not a sharp line of cleavage, but a gradual and imperceptible variation. In the study of crime, science has to get over the fact that the greater proportion of specific acts of crime are performed by apparently normal people, so far as physical diathesis is an indication, and that a great number of abnormal people never commit any crimes at all. For instance, quite a few criminals are ambidextrous, and a still larger proportion, left-handed. But all criminals are not either ambidextrous or left-handed, and by no means all ambidextrous or left-handed people are criminals. The only conclusion is that among people who vary from the normal, crime is more common than among those who do not. Being ambidextrous or left-handed is admittedly a variation from the normal. A variation from the normal presupposes a weakening of conventional restraints, because convention is simply the outward expression of normal human existence. But this weakening of conventional restraint may result in beneficial initiative, it is not necessarily determined towards prejudicial initiative. If an examination were made, it would probably be found that among heroes, world leaders, and reformers, quite as large a proportion were ambidextrous or left-handed as among criminals. The world has not waited for modern science to acquire the knowledge that people who vary from the normal are more potent for good and evil than those who do not. They are more potent for evil for the same reason that they are more potent for good, and their partial determination towards evil is due to the same causes, whatever these may be, to which the partial determination towards evil of other people is also due.

THE BRITISH PREFERENCE.

First Sir Wilfrid Laurier would not stoop to ask for a mutual preference from Great Britain; then he did ask for it; now he threatens to withdraw preferential treatment unless it is granted. Thus we see the evolution of the preferential tariff question in the Liberal party. This chameleon-like government which we have today changes its color with every change in its environment. It is never the same for any length of time. What body of public opinion and what principles of political action are governing Canada today? What currents affect the course of the government, and by what compass is the country steered? There certainly appears to be no measure or opinion which a Liberal advocates today, which he may not be obliged to combat tomorrow, upon the penalty of ceasing to be called a Liberal. The policy of the Liberal party used to be an anti-national and anti-imperial fiscal incorporation in the United States, by means of so-called reciprocity. Persistence in this policy, which was utterly antagonistic to the whole genius of the country, led the Liberal party into apparently irretrievable ruin. But by abandoning it, and adopting a different attitude towards national development, the Liberal party was resuscitated, and in a very short time victorious. Decrepit as the Conservative party had become by 1896, Canada would never have entrusted her destiny to the Liberals had they not recanted their trade heresies and abjured their disloyal attitude. It looks now, however, as if the Liberal party was about again to reconstruct its ideas, and to resurrect the policy of reciprocity with the United States, which has been decently buried for some years. If the danger to Canada were not greater than the certainty of defeat to the Liberal party on this issue, we could wish for nothing better than such a suicidal policy on the part of political opponents. But we do not desire to see Canada humiliated, even by a government with which Canada is not in sympathy. To our mind, it is terrible to hear men in the House of Commons invite Canada to become the ivy upon the noble tree of United States industry, discanting upon the height and luxuriance to which we would thereby reach. No height nor luxuriance is attractive to us reached in the attitude of a parasite and dependent. The Canadian nation is a tree of good stock and sturdy growth, planted in a noble soil. It is no vine to crawl along the ground, or only to upraise its head when it finds a monarch of the forest to which it may cling. Its opportunity of best development lies in independence, both political and fiscal, save in those Imperial relations where interdependence does not predicate subserviency, and brings no modifying influence to bear upon local and internal development.

THE FRANK DISASTER.

The occurrence at Frank is one of those sudden, overwhelming and complete catastrophes which occasionally remind men that they do not altogether control the forces of Nature. The cause of the disaster will never probably be accurately determined, but it is quite certain that it was not in any way due to volcanic activity. It was evidently a breaking away of the shell or surface of the mountain, and not an eruption in the centre of the mountain. If any proof of that were needed apart from the well known geological character of the formation, it would be found in the fact that the interior workings of the coal mine were undisturbed. It is impossible to conceive of an eruption which would leave a mile long tunnel uninjured and undisturbed except at its mouth, and would permit of miners in those workings escaping to the open air with impunity. But although the situation was relieved of the awful dread which men very reasonably entertain of seismic disturbances, the catastrophe must nevertheless have been terrible in the extreme to those in its immediate neighborhood. Those who were killed were swept away in one instant of uncomprehended horror, and those who were not killed, did not know at what moment the destruction they had seen overtake their fellows, might overwhelm themselves. Fear and pity and awe must have been present in a paralyzing degree, giving place only to that spleadid human quality which catastrophe brings out, the desire to succor and relieve others. No incident of this disaster more affects the imagination than the sudden and unexpected appearance of the entombed miners. Without warning, in the twinkling of an eye, a whole community was devastated by a catastrophe, of which it could neither assign the cause, interpret the meaning, nor foresee the limits. Equally without warning, eighteen men, given up as lost, appeared to the gaze of their friends and relatives as from an ark of safety. It was like a rainbow in the heavens, a sign that the Hand of God was stayed, a reassertion of the normal, bringing the swift relief of tears to the horror-stricken people. History and literature might be searched in vain, for any alleviation more tragically grand, of the terror accompanying an unforeseen and unavoidable catastrophe. The sympathy of all will go out to the survivors of this mysterious occurrence, and particularly to those who have lost house and home, children or parents, breadwinners, or those for whom labor is a duty and a pleasure. Whatever can be done in relief, help and encouragement will be done freely and from the heart. Nor will the province or people of British Columbia be backward in coming to the assistance of a community of our neighbors who have suffered so severely.

HAD NERVOUS PROSTRATION

Mrs. S. W. West, Drayton, Ont., states "I got terribly run down, and finally became a victim of nervous prostration. I had no appetite, seemed to lose interest and ambition, and could scarcely drag myself about. Hearing of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food I used three boxes with great benefit, gaining eleven pounds. It made me strong and well, and I had such an appetite that I wanted to be eating half the time."

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There are 145 Mormon missionaries at work in Germany. Their expulsion has been ordered on the ground that their teaching is incompatible with the laws of the state and public morals. They are all American citizens.

The Massachusetts State Board of Arbitration in investigating the strike of cotton operatives at Lowell, has found that only one mill is earning enough money to pay ten per cent. increase of wages, and has also declared that the cost of living has not increased twenty-five per cent. while wages have remained the same. We imagine that none of the members of the Massachusetts State Board of Arbitration are either candidates for political office or have any intention of becoming such.

"J. A. B." desires an answer to the question, why tram cars are allowed to cross Point Ellice bridge at a higher rate of speed than hacks? We never gained a prize for answering conundrums, and we never expect to gain one.

The reason why crop prospects in the United States will be keenly watched this year, according to one authority, is that the New York stock market cannot stand reverses. This is rather a stronger reason for hoping for a bountiful harvest.

In 10 days silver rose 2½ cents an ounce. Heavy purchases by the United States for Philippine currency purposes, and a good Oriental demand are the moving causes. A rising market in silver would be a great boon to our sorely tried silver-lead mines in British Columbia.

Bradstreet's, after noticing certain serious symptoms of competition between the Northern Pacific and the C. P. R., involving incursions by the former into Manitoba, and by the latter into Dakota, goes on to say: "The prospects at present therefore favor a renewal of railroad building of a competitive character in the Northwest. In fact, railroad authorities are somewhat alarmed lest the movement should result in a serious tendency to cut rates and destroy the existing harmony among the Western railroad systems. It will be recalled that the Canadian Pacific management has shown its ability to fight strongly, and, in the main, successfully, for what it deemed to be its rights in respect to traffic and rates, and that but for the extremely large proportions of the tonnage carried by all the Pacific lines in the last two or three years, this conflict would not have been terminated so peaceably. The position of the "Soo" road and the threatened invasion of the Canadian Northwestern provinces by the Northern Pacific at this time seem to be clouds on the railroad horizon which may in a short time develop into a genuine storm." As the people of the West are shippers and therefore railway dividend producers, and not railway shareholders, and therefore dividend consumers, they will hail the prospects of such a storm with entirely different feelings from those which inspire Bradstreet's comment.

The scratch of a pin may cause the loss of a limb or even death when blood poisoning results from the injury. All danger of this may be avoided, however, by promptly applying Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It is an antiseptic and unequalled as a quick healing liniment for cuts, bruises and burns. For sale by all druggists and dealers.