

tiring from nearly thirty years' service on the New York Bench, has recently made interesting public comment upon the jury system, declaring himself convinced that jurors ordinarily are alive to the importance of their office, and do their duty with fairness.

The "Gazette" sagaciously observes with reference to the Niagara power question, that: "The danger the power companies see in the socialistic propaganda now being waged is the probability of being compelled to compete with a Government and municipally managed undertaking able to make good its losses, at the expense of the non-benefiting tax-payers." It is a good rule for Governments of every kind to keep out of trade of every description. They should let the business go to those to whom it legitimately belongs. The moment a Government tries to regulate the prices of groceries, dry goods or other commodities it is going outside of the functions of government.

The \$175,000,000 which the San Francisco Fire. fire insurance companies have been called upon to pay in connection with this disaster, has had far reaching effects and has limited the resources of a large number of good companies. No doubt this has also had its effect upon the money markets of the world. It is really difficult to realize where the value came from in San Francisco especially when it is considered that the insurance carried was rather light, for the city had been so free from fires that people got careless, and did not insure for more than one-half, or a little more, of the actual value of their property.

The Militia in Strikes. The Militia Council has decided that the City of Hamilton shall not be called upon to pay for the services of the militia during the recent street railway strike. It would be interesting to know upon what principle the Dominion of Canada should be asked to pay for an expenditure incurred through the neglect of the municipal authorities to properly discharge one of their legitimate responsibilities? The less police duty the militia are called upon to do the better for them and for the country. If the cities were to take prompt action in such cases, there would seldom be any necessity for the intervention of the troops. If the cities call out the troops, they should pay the cost. Our citizen soldiers should not, except in very serious cases, be called upon to do police duty at all.

Once more the holiday season is saddened by the number of serious railway accidents which occur with such deplorable regularity and frequency at this time of year. Cannot something be done to prevent these terrible calamities? We are afraid that the majority of them can be put down to carelessness or negligence. It occurs to us that at this season of the year traffic is so heavy that employees are overworked until they cannot stand the strain. Surely the railways ought to take steps to provide sufficient assistance for these special occasions. They can afford to do so, for the profits which accrue to them are enormous. Nor are the governments free from responsibility in this connection. Men who are paid extra wages for overtime are only too willing to connive at their being overworked not only to their own hurt, but to the great risk of the travelling public. There should be a searching government enquiry into every accident of this sort with a view to finding out whether it is due in any degree to overworked employees.

The Police and the Public.

It is reported in the daily press that the police have adopted a new system of dealing with the question of clearing the sidewalks from ice and snow. They no longer call the attention of the householders to the necessity for action, but report every case at the City Hall. As a result it is stated that hundreds of fines have been imposed in the Recorder's Court this winter and that during the last three weeks, no less than eight hundred cases have been reported at the City Hall. If this is even approximately true it is enough to condemn the new system. A law which cannot be carried out without dragging respectable citizens into the Recorder's Court by hundreds, is condemned by the mere fact as bad law. Could any more absurd system be devised for cleaning the sidewalk, than one which deliberately contemplates the treatment of many hundreds of householders, as misdemeanants? No one is safe from prosecution. A man may be scrupulously conscientious habitually in attending to his sidewalk and yet get caught by a change in the weather during the night when he is asleep, or during the day when he is away from home. A sudden frost, a sudden thaw or a sudden snow-storm, may subject him to fine and humiliation.

In a city like Montreal the citizens should not be asked to do such work, which properly appertains to the corporation. To begin with all experience shows that individual effort will never make the sidewalks safe. A small snow plough under the control of a Road Department employe would do more work in a day than could be done