

blushed; when it was placed on a blue cloth it turned blue; and on the grass it turned green. But when the unfortunate animal was placed on a Scotch plaid it simply went all to pieces. Some of our statesmen cannot even agree with themselves, much less with each other. With regard to the other matters spoken of, "the things that count," like social functions, dress, and eating, the writer is apparently correct.

Congressional Record.

Representative Taylor has introduced a bill to make every postmaster a subscription agent for the Congressional Record (the American Hansard) at \$1 a year. Far be it from us to criticise this great national American publication; but, in our opinion, that serio-comic and expensive publication, the Canadian Hansard, would have a very limited circulation at \$1 a year. Nor would it increase the revenue by doubling the price. The trouble with Hansard is that it costs so much more than it is worth.

Reindeer for Canada.

Dr. Grenfell, C. M. G., the Labrador Missionary doctor, advocates the transfer of a number of Labrador reindeer to some of the colder regions of Canada. A few years ago he established a herd of 300 reindeer in Labrador. The herd now numbers 1,200 and furnishes the inhabitants with meat, milk and fur clothing. The fact that they have done so well shows that they and the climate of Labrador, which is very similar to the climate of certain parts of Canada, are well adapted to each other. Reindeer might be of the greatest service in some of our far northern regions.

Persia's Finances.

The National Council of Persia has invested Mr. W. Morgan Shuster, the American financier who was recently appointed Treasurer General of Persia, with "direct effective control of all the financial and fiscal operations of the Persian government, including the collection of all receipts of every description and control of all government expenditure." Mr. Shuster is empowered to establish whatever departments and appoint all staffs that he considers necessary to the execution of his task. Apparently the position will be analogous to that occupied for so many years in China by Sir Robert Hart; although, of course, the finances under Mr. Shuster's control will not be nearly so great.

Noise and Smoke on St. James Street, Montreal.

If there is any means known anywhere on earth of minimizing the noise made by the riveting now in progress at the mammoth steel frame building on St. James Street it should be adopted. We believe they have a device in operation in New York for this purpose. The shindy is not merely distract-

ing; it is exasperating and maddening, and if it can be reduced the contractor should be compelled to reduce it at any cost. It is not difficult, however, to imagine a device that would greatly reduce the area of the vibrating surface and that would not cost much. We are assured that there is absolutely no necessity for the whistling, which could be obviated by substituting electric bells for the whistles. The soft coal smoke there is no excuse for. If the contractor does not voluntarily show a disposition to consider public comfort in those matters, he will probably have to do so under legal compulsion.

Uneducated School Commissioners.

There is a split among the separate school supporters of Kingston, Ont., over the question of having incompetent men on the School Board. It is alleged that for some time men have been serving on the Board, who cannot read or write. It is remarkable how naturally uneducated men gravitate towards school boards. Why a man who has little education should yearn to superintend the education of other people, can only be explained upon the assumption that he does not know even enough to realise his own unfitness for the task. So long as we cling to our present system of appointing school commissioners it would seem desirable to exact some educational test. Ability to read and write should be an irreducible minimum everywhere. If it were required that a candidate should be able to add two and two, without making the result either three or five, the test would not be too severe.

Religious Statistics.

At the Presbyterian General Assembly the Rev. Mr. Robinson, secretary of the evangelists' department, declared that the insane love of statistics, the counting of hands and the numbering of conversions were responsible for much of the feeling against evangelists. There is a great deal of truth in the charge. Statistics have their legitimate place and in certain connections unquestioned usefulness. For instance, it is impossible to imagine the insurance business on a sound basis without statistics. But they seem particularly out of place in dealing with certain aspects of religious life. The average man has a decided and in most cases well grounded distrust of statistics in such a connection. It is an ungracious thing to criticise anybody's religious methods, which have sincerity for their foundation, but coming from a man in Mr. Robinson's position the criticism cannot well give offence and will meet with much approval.

LA BANQUE INTERNATIONALE DU CANADA.—A meeting of the subscribers to the capital stock of this new bank will be held at 157 St. James street, Montreal, on June 26, at eleven o'clock, to elect directors, to determine the day upon which the annual general meeting is to be held, etc.