

Such gluttony is repulsive and should be stopped.

Although the bankers and brokers of Montreal will doubtless sympathize with their brethren of Wall Street in this novel affliction, yet we find this pavement blocking story harder to digest than a succulent but slippery banana. Moreover, as if realizing that the mere selling of fruit would hardly justify a special ordinance, the petition of Wall Street includes, as nuisances, the costers' cries, and the yelling of the sellers of War "Extras." The police proclaim themselves powerless without a special ordinance. Yet it opens a peaceful train of thought if the liking of the habitants of Wall street for bananas blocks that busy thoroughfare. But, instead of this new devilish scheme to hurl an ordinance at the owners of push-carts, why not try to obtain a plebiscitum and abolish the cheap and filling fruit of the banana bush, in the same way that Canada is attempting to stop the sale of—cider. A plebiscitum's the thing.

#### **The First Fruits.**

The Workmens' Compensation Act is likely to bear fruit of a somewhat unpleasant taste if the result of a recent suit for damages brought by the heirs of a workman is accepted as a pointer to future occurrences. The contention of the representatives of the plaintiff that he died from the effect of a strain was upheld by the jury, regardless of the evidence of a doctor, who stated death was due to consumption, from which the victim had suffered for some time.

With the recognized predisposition of British juries to sympathize with suffering, added to their very hazy conception of what constitutes an accident, the insurance companies will, until a thorough understanding of the new law is arrived at, have a sorry time of it.

Altogether, the Hon. Joseph Chamberlain would have been wiser to have remained content to watch the working of his measure without posing as an actuary and attempting to dictate to the insurance companies a scale of charges for these new risks, which, in addition to genuine accidents, will evidently include trifling injuries due to carelessness or, in some cases, cupidity, and death from any disease to which the appearance of accident can be given by needy heirs.

However, we can trust to any defect or weakness in the employers' liability law in Great Britain being remedied, and, when the Act is made perfect, it will doubtless be adopted in the Dominion of Canada.

#### **A Pointer for Politicians.**

A London doctor is credited with having advised a life assurance company to charge an additional rate on a risk submitted, giving the following singular reason for the recommendation. It seems that the gentleman applying for the insurance had contested several elections, and his political aspirations would necessitate further fighting of the same kind. The doctor reported that

when parliamentary honours could only be won by a contested election, he thought the mental strain and attendant excitement was likely to shorten life. Hence the recommendation to his company for an increased charge for politicians.

The doctor referred to in English exchanges must have been examining a very nervous and excitable member of the British parliament, when forming this opinion of the effects of political strife. Electioneering is certainly not injurious in all cases. Mr. Gladstone is the best English illustration to the contrary, and our own Sir Charles Tupper is seventy-seven, and as hard as steel, having, only two years ago, "exerted himself in a manner hardly short of wonderful." To such men, the exposure and excitement of canvassing and the ballot box would seem to promote longevity, and, unless this cautious medical examiner can produce good evidence of the baneful effects of contesting elections, men will not be frightened out of this or the political world by his opinion, and will probably decline to have an extra premium placed upon them when elected as members of parliament.

#### **Our Daily Bread.**

Disturbing stories of the supposed adulteration of flour have been passed from paper to paper during the last few months. Among the many ingredients said to be favoured as a "mixer" with the flour of the family, talc, described as a soft magnesian mineral, of a soapy feel, and French chalk, another far from nourishing substance, always figured. Reiterated statements of the increased sale of these adulterants made the lives of honest millers and bakers miserable, until the Board of Health in the State of Massachusetts conducted an enquiry into the charges. The result re-establishes the character of our daily bread. Analysis of flour said to have been obtained from 100 towns in the State, and from grocers' shops patronized by the poorer classes, only showed two cases of adulteration—some healthful and harmless corn-starch and gluten being mixed with the dough.

#### **An Esteemed Manager**

That Mr. W. P. Clirehugh should be honoured by the officials of the assurance company he created, and has for so many years successfully managed, is not surprising to those who know the kind and courteous gentleman who visited Montreal in September last.

As will be gathered from the report of the proceedings published elsewhere, the much-esteemed manager of the London & Lancashire was invited to that place of many pleasant dinners, Holborn Restaurant, and there presented with a mark of the affectionate regard of those associated with him in business.

Among those present at the dinner to his chief was Mr. B. Hal Brown who, in responding to the toast of "The Colonial Branches of the Company," is credited with having given an interesting and graphic description of this great country.