

relic from a land where the weather had no effect upon it to a country where it seems doomed to perish in a comparatively short period if left exposed, something should be done to stay the ravages of the atmosphere. So much at least they owe to antiquity as well as to posterity. The excitement connected with its transference to England was very great; the cost was enormous; it has been erected on the embankment without accident or injury; and now it becomes their duty to preserve one of the most precious relics in the world from having its writing obliterated. Archaeologists are probably ignorant as yet of the injury which the monument has undergone, but the popular interest and ingenuity are great enough to ensure adequate means being taken for its preservation, and the money required will not long be wanting.

A correspondent asks for a cure for bashfulness. It must seem strange to the young men who have been accustomed to society's ways from the beginning of their careers, that any one of the masculine gender should feel at all nervous when exposed to the gaze of a large assembly; but they should have more consideration for their bashful associates than they generally accord them. Bashfulness is with many an infirmity, and it often takes years to overcome it, especially if the subject of it be of a nervous temperament. A great many amusing articles have been written upon the nervousness betrayed by bashful men, most of them probably exaggerated, but there is no doubt that in early life a great many are deterred from entering society by the lack of confidence in themselves. To overcome this drawback to enjoyment in fashionable circles, it becomes necessary for the sufferer from bashfulness to exert his will power and resolve not to be intimidated by the company he has to confront. He may not succeed at first, but in a comparatively short time he will find that each trial makes the following one easier to bear, until at last he feels provoked with himself at having been so foolish as to give way to any feeling of timidity while mingling with those with whom he had a right to be on terms of undisputed equality. Take my advice, then, and nerve yourself for a new departure. Determine to feel at ease in any gathering you may enter, and the result will be as surprising to yourself as it will be gratifying to the friends who have been chagrined at your failure to shine in society, knowing your superiority in intellect and accomplishments to others who have hitherto been in advance of you.

According to press reports, Mayor

Teague has received a letter from Messrs. Earle and Prior enclosing another from the Department of Agriculture, relating to the introduction of smallpox from China by the Chinese steamers. A perusal of the letter from the Department reveals nothing new whatever in the regulations, the new ones not differing the slightest in effect from those that have been in force since the quarantine station was established here, except in the fact that the luggage of the Chinese and Japanese passengers is to be disinfected on arrival at Williams Head, as a protection against the Black Plague. The new regulations should have gone further and protected the country from the introduction of smallpox, a danger which exists at all times while steamers come from those infected ports. As is well known, smallpox has been introduced into this country by the passengers on these steamers on several occasions, and while the old regulations are in force, the danger will still continue. What is needed is vaccination of the Japanese and Chinese passengers and disinfection of their luggage before leaving Chinese ports. This should be brought about by the C. P. R. authorities; but failing in obtaining their co-operation, then the Government should step in and disinfect these passengers and their luggage. And here it might be said that the great danger is from the luggage. Smallpox has no danger for a Chinaman. He rolls his baggage up in an infected house, takes his ticket for Canada, and this baggage is not touched until opened up at the port of destination, and so soon as the customs officials or others undo this baggage the smallpox virus is permitted to escape to start, it might be, an epidemic. This is the point the health authorities of the city have been trying to impress upon the Government, but without avail, as the new regulations are nothing but a blow of trumpets.

The *Commercial Journal* thus speaks of the electric lighting question which has been agitating certain Victoria ratepayers the past week or so:

"Elsewhere reference is made to the air of mystery which characterizes some of the aldermen of Victoria when the subject of electric lighting is broached. Other people—some of them directly interested—have come out since those remarks were written and forced some of the aldermen to explain, each one being particularly anxious to relieve himself of all connection with the business. There would appear to have been a bait held out by some one to somebody in the shape of a real estate agent's commission; but in the confusion that has been created, there does not appear to be much probability of the bottom facts being got at, the general endeavor being to stir up the mud.

There is also declared to be something very strange about the contracts for electric wire for the use of the city. The matter appears to resolve itself into something like this—that in some way or other the lowest obtainable offer for the material was not secured, and that there are those who are anxious to sell it to the city at very much less than has yet been talked of. This, too, is another topic that will bear looking into, the allegations in this case, as well as that of the building site, suggesting the necessity of Diogenes being called into service to search by the aid of his lantern for those who really possess the high attributes essential to the position of a city father. There is this much to be said—that no community however well regulated appears to be so far above reproach as to preclude the possibility of some one questioning the motives of those whose duty it is to discharge important public duties. Sharp tongues will always wag, and the only reply is to have matters fully looked into and the business itself carried on in as open a manner as possible."

SOUNDS AND ECHOES.

DURING the month of June the Union Mines appear to have exceeded in their exports of coal those of the greater institutions, the Nanaimo and Wellington collieries, the figures standing, Union, 27,855 tons; New Vancouver, 24,193 tons and Wellington, 21,928 tons.

FOR a series of years the Atlantic coast mackerel catch has been a failure, but estimates this year serve to show that for long such a large body of fish has not been present in the Gulf of St. Lawrence as there has been this year. Already some good catches have been made and the prospects are that this delicious fish will not continue to be the fancy article which it has been.

THE great railway strike and the trouble in the colliery districts are calamities of far-reaching magnitude. They will require most skilful handling; already they have paralyzed the most important industries and interests of the United States. The worst elements of society have been let loose carrying with them pillage, incendiarism and murder, and the end is not yet. The crisis is a terrible one.

SIR WILLIAM VAN HORNE, who as every one knows is well posted on the subject, has been discussing the fast Atlantic steamship service. In his opinion it is a necessary and natural supplement to the enormous expenditure which Canada has made for the development of her railways and canals and at this date it would be folly to start with a second rate line. The C. P. R., he says, is not in the question; but would like to see the service furnished that there ought to be.