Although the boy king Alexander of Servia is not yet fifteen, his marriage is already being planned. He stands in such a peculiarly lonely position, without a relative at hand, that the regents are anxious for him to form family ties as early as possible. Princess Xenia, of Montenegro, sixth daughter of Prince Nicholas, is the bride in prospect, and should the negotiations succeed, the Princess will come to Belgrade to be betrothed to the King on his fifteenth birthday. As, however, the little Princess is only ten years old, the betrothal would not be made public for some time. This alliance would be important from a political point of view, as Prince Nicholas has long hankered after the Servian throne.

The Quebec *Chronicle* gives the particulars of a clever newspaper hoax which originated in Scotland, and which most comically deceived the great English papers. The *Evening Despatch* of Edinburgh gave what purported to be a report of a meeting of medical men who had decided to strike for higher fees. The meeting was said to have taken place in Dowall's Rooms. The physicians were described as being very much in earnest. Some were for "striking" at once, and the speeches put in their mouths were highly amusing and clever. Of course those editors who took the matter up did so seriously, and they were indignant to think that educated medical men could act in this way. The *Lancet*, the London *Observer* and the *Daily Chronicle* made most serious comments, the following paragraph from the *Lancet* being a fair sample of how completely the editors were gulled:—"A largely-attended meeting of medical men, as reported in the Edinburgh *Evening Despatch*, was held in Edinburgh, to debate the grievances of overwork and under-pay, so long felt and hitherto so patiently borne. A strike was advocated very plainly by some, but a strike of medical men is not to be thought of seriously. Apart from their number and their competition, there is something in the very nature and property of medicine to forbid it. But the public may be shamed into better recognition of our labors and our lives." The chagrin of the editors when they discovered a day or two after that they had been hoaxed can be more easily imagined than described.

We wonder if we shall ever have good, or even fair, sidewalks in Halifax! The topic has been brought up often enough, and each individual who has done so, after saying what he could to induce the authorities to make more progress, has retired disgusted with the immovability of great bodies. We have certain sidewalks which are really credits to the city—notably that round the post office—but when we see the uneven brick ones which disgrace some of the main thoroughfares, we bring to mind and recognize the truth of the scriptural saying which asserts the uselessness of putting new cloth into an old garment, for thereby the old detracts from the utility of the new. Let all the sidewalks be seen to throughout the city, and no more nonsense about it. Although our citizens have become cautious and somewhat accustomed to the unevenness, yet strangers note the defect very quickly. Perhaps the authorities will meet us by quoting Scripture to the effect that the right way is that which is narrow and wanting in smoothness. That, however, "has nothing to do with the case," for no one can hope to meet St. Peter at the end of any of our streets, although they do answer so well the biblical description of the road which conducts to absolute happiness. The paths of Halifax lead but to—with quotations still in our head we were about to write "the grave," however, we shall not say as much just yet, but at any rate the paths of our city lead to still more wretched roads within the suburbs, which require more impartial supervision than is at present bestowed upon them.

The question of better rail accommodation in Halifax has, we think, been wisely determined in favor of the extension along the water front. The Cornwallis Street scheme is a very expensive one, and should the property be acquired, lying as it does on a steep hillside, it would cost a fabulous sum to level it for railway purposes. This alone seems an insuperable obstacle when compared with the reasonable sum required for an extension along the wharves, and the much greater accommodation furnished by the latter plan. The present passenger depot is too far removed from the centre of the city, and a station at the Ordnance Square would be a convenience the public would at once appreciate. The present passenger depot could then be turned into a freight station, and this additional room would be sufficient to allow Windsor and Annapolis freight to be handled at North Street, a much needed concession to the commercial public. Small dealers with no storage room on their premises seem to think it the duty of the Government to erect warehouses or storehouses at or near North Street for their convenience. That is, that by the expenditure of public money they shall be placed in a position to compete with merchants who have at their own expense built warehouses in the city on which they are heavily taxed. This we think would be an injustice and unwarrantable interference with private enterprise. The extension along the wharves would be free from this obligation, and in fact would increase the facilities of private owners of wharves and storehouses in handling freight. Looked at from any stand point it seems the correct plan, and we hope that divided councils will not interfere to prevent its speedy carrying out.

There has been a most extraordinary treasure trove discovered in Rio Janeiro, and the story of it reads like a page in "Monte Christo." A few contractors' men were busy last May pulling down the castle of San Antonio, when they came suddenly upon unknown subterranean passages, and carefully hidden in these a rare amount of treasure. A hundred and twelve oak chests clamped with iron, four iron boxes, and sixteen sacks—these were filled with old gold coins from the Spanish mint to the value of at least 70,000,000 francs. But this was only part of the wonder, for there were documents that revealed further treasures that could not be far distant. There was a receipt signed by the Superior of the College of the Jesuits for twenty millions in gold destined as tribute for John IV., King of Portugal, on the occasion of his visit to Brazil. There were jewels and precious stones of great value. There was an inventory that mentioned ingots and bars of gold, there was another that mentioned gold dust—it all read like a page in a romantic novel. But the little touch of modern life came in promptly enough, for the question at once arose who was to own the property. All the different original claimants were represented. The Society of Jesuits still exists. The present King of Portugal is the nearest descendent of John IV, and the Republic of Brazil represents the government of the old dynasty. Gold is not so plentiful in Rio, but that the "find" has made a great noise, and there will be much litigation before matters are finally settled.

The Gardens Commissioners have made a mistake in again raising the price of admission to band concerts to twenty five cents. Should there be fire works or other extra attractions the fee might be placed at that sum, but ten cents is sufficient for a simple band performance. The concerts are undoubtedly popular, and whole families would like to attend, but twenty-five cents per head is staggering, and so hundreds who would go at ten cents admission stay at home or take in the concert by a promenade outside the fence. With the fee at ten cents and frequent concerts—say at least one a week—citizens and strangers would flock to the performances and a large sum would be realized for the garden fund. There is no more delightful way of passing a warm evening than in strolling around the beautiful grounds of the gardens listening to the music of our exceptionably good military bands, and it is a shame to deprive hundreds of poor hard-working citizens of this pleasure by exacting too high an admission fee. Make the concerts popular by adopting popular prices should be the motto of the commissioners.

The dog days are upon us. The dog days last from the beginning of July to August 11. The popular theory is that they are so called because dogs then go mad; but the notion is etymologically false, besides being untrue in fact. Dogs, strange to say, are rather less liable to rabies then than at other times. "Dog days" is really a translation of the Latin "dies caniculares"—the twenty days before and the twenty days after the heliacal rising (that is, appearance in the morning just before the sun) of the star Sirius, whom the Romans called "canicula," or "little dog." The ancients attributed a most malevolent influence to this star—our "dog star"—and sacrificed a brown dog to it to appease its rage. If this were not done they thought that the sea would boil, the wine turn sour, and dogs begin to grow mad, the bile increase, and all animals grow languid. In the course of ages Sirius will rise at mid-winter instead of mid summer. Perhaps some wise-acres, like those who are ready to believe in dog-days, and new moons changing the weather and similar impossibilities, will then give him credit for the frost and snow.

Mr. J. Lowry Whittle's Report on "Profit Sharing" has caused considerable interest in Great Britain. The report shows that the introduction of the system has been attended with marked success in several cases, and that its extension to new industries has of late been far from inconsiderable. In France it had an earlier start, and has gained a more firm footing. There are many forms of profit sharing, but the principle common to all of them is that the workmen engaged in the business, or some appreciable portion of them, shall receive, in addition to their fixed salary or wages, some pecuniary advantage, prospective or immediate, to be paid out of the net profits of any year in which net profits are made. The sum thus paid, or set apart for the workman's benefit, varies as a rule according to the net profits of the year. The gain to the workman is thus direct and obvious. To the employer the advantage is that his working hands have a clear interest in making the profits of the year as large as possible, that they will work heartily and willingly and do their utmost to guard against extravagance and waste, and that permanent good relations between employer and employed are more likely to be established under this system than under one of fixed wages. The extra payments to the workers may thus be regarded as the products of the system itself. The employer loses nothing, because the year's profits are larger than they would otherwise have been. The relations of the two parties may in other respects remain unchanged. The entire management of the business is, as a rule, retained in the capitalist's hands. In Great Britain the system has been started in some instances with success, in others it has been tried and has been given up. The system, we are told, requires much time and pains to produce substantial results. It is no magician's wand to bring about a change all at once in the ways and character of the workpeople. The French firms, whose final success has been most conspicuous, all tell the same story of the initial difficulties with which they had to contend. One of the best known and most frequently cited instances of profit sharing is that furnished by the Maison Leclaire. From its first establishment in 1842 to 1889 no less a sum than 5,513,142 francs was shared among the workmen in addition to their yearly wages, the rate of increase being as high in one year as 23 27 per cent, and for the past nine years it has been maintained steadily at more than 20 per cent. Cash payment to labor is now generally recognized in profit-sharing schemes as necessary to interest the workers in the place. The establishment of a provident fund against sickness or old age, or any prospect of benefit at some future or contingent date, does not give the needful immediate stimulus. Cash payment must come in as some part of the scheme.