

**The Tammany Chiefs Income Tax.** The celebrated, but most unsav-  
 ous, Mr. Croker, chief of the Tammany conspiracy, New York, was charged a large income tax in England. He protested vigorously against this, hoping to find the British officials as amenable to his style of influence as those in his "private preserve," for such New York is to Mr. Croker. The assessors and collectors declined to give way, and called on Mr. C. to either pay or be "investigated." Now, of all inquisitorial proceedings, the examination of the income tax commissioners in England beats the band. The person who is bent upon concealing the amount of his income is ushered into a private room, there he is introduced to an exceedingly polite commissioner, a barrister skilled in cross-examining. He is first asked to state that his income does not exceed a certain sum. Question after question is put as to his domestic arrangements; his expenditures on these are thoroughly sifted. The self-deluded victim soon discovers that the examiner knows his habits thoroughly and the ways of his household. If he has taken a summer trip, its cost is known. After the ordeal is over, the items elicited are added up, and he is confronted with the fact that, after swearing that his total income last year was, say, only \$5,000, his expenditure had been \$7,000 or \$10,000! The interview ends by his being condemned to pay considerably more income tax than he had protested against, accompanied by a gentle hint that he may be prosecuted for perjury. Mr. Croker was cute enough to "come down," like the famous coon, when the commissioners gun was pointed at him. He paid his income tax without even a formal protest.

**Toronto Police Statistics.** The French cynic, Talleyrand, said, "There is nothing so false as figures—except facts." Though this sounds absurd, it has a certain element of truth. Figures which are correct in themselves and facts beyond dispute may be so misused as to convey falsehood, or to mislead. An instance of this has been afforded by the police authorities, Toronto, who have recently issued their annual report. According to one statement, as quoted in the Toronto "World," "5 per cent. of the population of the Queen City passes through the hands of the police annually." This would be alarming, if it were true, it would ruin the character of "Toronto the Good." Now the figures and the facts upon which this statement is based are, no doubt, authentic, but their use as a basis for such a deduction is not justified. The five per cent. referred to seems to have been arrived at by comparing the number of summonses issued or offenses committed during the year with the total population. The total may amount to five per cent. of the population, but, whether so large a proportion of the citizens of Toronto pass through the

hands of the police annually is quite another matter. In the first place, one year's statistics are altogether too narrow a basis for such a general conclusion as is implied by the word "annually." Then, before we can judge how many citizens got into the hands of the police, we must know precisely the number of individuals who had this fate, and the number respectively of each class of offense. Confusion in handling statistics is seen also in the official criminal returns of the Dominion, wherein persons summoned for such trivial offences as, having goods on the sidewalk, non-payment of licenses, delay in clearing the sidewalk of snow, are classified as "criminals," and their offences go to swell the records of crime in Canada. Compilers of civic or national statistics should simply give the figures relating to the business of their department, leaving those to draw deductions therefrom who are expert statisticians. The worst feature in the Toronto police reports is the evidence given of the wide prevalence of gambling. The able and very energetic Chief of Police, Lt.-Col. Grasett, says in his report:—

"Apart from the amendments to the law that might be introduced with advantage or other measures that may be taken, I am of the opinion that, if the names of persons found by the police in these houses were furnished to their employers, parents, etc., gambling would largely be confined to the professionals and strangers, and, therefore, unprofitable."

#### A New Pastime.

The ingenuity of German scientists has given the world numerous inventions more or less useful. Some of them are more likely to advance the fame of Germany for chemical skill than for commercial honesty. The noted phrase "made in Germany" means usually "made to sell, not to wear." When, many years ago, a new metallic compound was discovered that looks like silver, it was called "German silver." German manufacturers are seeking trade by cutting prices below English ones, which they are enabled to do by supplying inferior goods made to look like the best. Success so won is not lasting, hence the recent decline in German trade, while that of England is highly prosperous and advancing. An eccentric German scientist is said to have discovered that yawning is a healthy pastime, as, he declares, it sharpens the intellect, stimulates the appetite and prolongs life. Life assurance companies should attend to this, they might encourage policyholders to listen to discourses which promote the yawning habit. A point in favour of a new applicant should be an affirmative reply to such a question as, "Do you attend service where the sermons have a soporific influence?", or, "Do you subscribe to a newspaper that makes you yawn?" The German has opened up quite a new field, but, in calling yawning a "pastime," he shows the German's preference of somnolence to activity as a pleasure.