

to mix in the milk he delivered to customers, the milkman confessed that he had done so, and that when he left his home in the morning the can of water was brimming full. His sole excuse was that he was an employee, and that his employer had directed him to act as he did. He was brought before Dr. Laberge, of the Board of Health, who ordered that the employer be proceeded against without delay for offering for sale diluted milk.

With this matter of the adulteration of food and drink every one is more or less concerned. The milkman is not alone in being less susceptible to considerations of public health than he is to those of his own profits. New ingredients and new processes for preparing and preserving food are continually being introduced, and the public may well be excused for regarding some of them with a good deal of suspicion. Until assured of their wholesomeness, means should be taken to restrain the use of all unfamiliar preservatives of meat and milk.

The sale of milk diluted freely with water is a light offence compared with that of the seller of adulterated foods and drinks, unless these are labelled with a statement of their ingredients. The public is entitled to know what it is eating and drinking, and if the compound offered for sale is not injurious its frank designation as such will not permanently defeat its use. It must not be forgotten that adulteration is a form of competition against which the public should be guarded at all times with the vigilance displayed by this Montreal milk inspector.

CANADIANS ARE READY.

Last week we had occasion to express the hope that, if the British War Office accepted the offer of the Dominion to send more troops to South Africa, Canadians would be found to be ready. The country is not disappointed. The summons has arrived and found us quite ready to share the duties and responsibilities of the Empire; and, also, we venture to think, willing to bear the burden of expense connected with the equipment and support of the men who are volunteering to fight for the freedom and protection of our countrymen in other colonies.

At a time when other European nations, as at present, were joining the name of Britain with words of shame and taunts of scorn, the English poet, Bryant, in some beautiful and patriotic verse, answered those who were revelling in what they termed the "signs of decadence" of a great nation.

He pictured the readiness of the children of that nation to rally round the "mother of a mighty race," and said:

Ay, let them rail—those haughty ones—
While safe thou dwellest with thy sons.
They do not know how loved thou art—
How many a fond and fearless heart
Would rise to throw
Its life between thee and the foe!

The "fond and fearless hearts" are beating high at the thought that the Empire needs their services, and

from every hamlet in the British Isles, and from the most remote corners of the English-speaking world, comes the prompt response to the call to arms.

Canada's second contingent for service in South Africa is to consist of cavalry and artillery, and we have no hesitation in claiming that the proposed composition of this force is such that no better or more serviceable body of men could be raised in any part of the Queen's possessions. The North West Mounted Police are splendid horsemen, skilled in the use of weapons, inured to exposure and hardship, and rendered by the very nature of their duties fearless and yet cautious to a degree. Even as they attracted attention during the Queen's Jubilee, so will they command the admiration and respect of any leader under whom they may be called upon to serve in the present serious war with the South African Republics. Those who have seen the Royal Canadian Artillery in garrison at Quebec, and elsewhere, will be delighted with the action of the Government in calling upon them for foreign service. There will be no fault found with the men or guns of the R. C. A., and when linked with the bronzed and stalwart men of the North West Police, and carefully selected troopers from the Royal Canadian Dragoons and other cavalry, the force will be one well-worthy to fight shoulder to shoulder with the flower of the British army.

THE CAUSES OF HIGH AND LOW INTEREST RATES.

One financial problem of which the true solution, in the minds of some who have considered it only from a theoretical standpoint, is whether there is or is not some fundamental principle which may be correctly styled the cause of fluctuations in the value of money, as indicated by the prevailing rate of interest? Before any intelligent step can be taken in considering this question, the value of money as a commodity exchangeable for merchandise must be left out, or treated as only one of the factors in the problem. What goods money will buy is one thing; it is quite a different matter what those will pay for its temporary use who wish to borrow money, for it is the borrowers who determine the current price of money, not the lenders, for, if all the borrowers ceased to ask for funds, money, as a loanable commodity, would cease to have any value. What would happen were every person possessed of sufficient capital to meet his requirements is a vain speculation. But it is manifest that, under such conditions, the main motive for saving would be no longer in force. Were all men capitalists money would have no value whatever, save for spending purposes, by which capital would be diminished until such inequalities in its distribution arose as would create borrowers, out of whose needs money would resume its value for loaning purposes, unless society was content to sink into universal poverty or barbarism. It was recently redeclared "a fallacy" that "abundance of money lowers the rate of interest," but, fallacy or not in theory, a condition is conceivable of money being so plentiful, and so equally distributed,