

it is—extremely reprehensible, but if under a "specific delusion," the case is quite different. The wife may or may not have offended the husband in the way he supposes her to have done, but if his delusion is specific, if he has no doubt as to what he thinks, the reality of his injury is of secondary consideration. He was under the "specific delusion" that he had been injured, and under those circumstances, it appears, he is at liberty to prescribe his own remedy. This is not so much a change of the law as a development of its meaning. It has been supposed that for all wrong the law provided a remedy, and that such being the case no injured person was permitted to usurp the functions of the law and right himself. But if a man—always supposing him to be under a specific delusion—may constitute himself prosecuting attorney, judge, jury, court crier, sheriff and executioner of his wife, some exposition of the law should be published for general guidance. Barristers desiring to bring themselves into prominence, sometimes publish books on a selected feature of the common or statute law; an opportunity seems to present itself for a brochure entitled, "Snooks on Specific Delusion." It is important also to know whether this new sword of the law is warranted to cut only with one edge of the blade. The law treats man and woman as amenable to the same restrictions, and a great deal of insecurity may be felt if the principle is laid down that a woman under a specific delusion is at liberty to shoot her husband. Undue intimacy between a married man and a woman who is not his wife may be a rare and almost unheard of thing at this end of the century, but women are apt sometimes to be hysterical and fanciful and some may fall into the dangerous specific delusion that they have been deceived. Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned as we have been eloquently told, and remembering the tendency to very specific delusion which characterize women wedded to a certain class of man, a distinct danger to the community has been created by the Brandon verdict.

According to the reports brought down from the Bella Coola country, where the newly arrived Norwegian settlers have taken up their quarters, the fruit and vegetable products of that section are really first-class. Mr. Farrell, the C. P. R. immigration agent, who accompanied the party to their destination, reports that they are well satisfied with their prospects, and it would appear certain from all we can hear, that the number of those who will join these pioneers will be even larger than was at first expected, the available land suitable for farming being sufficient to accommodate a much greater number of people than those

originally calculated upon. It is agricultural settlers that, in the meantime, British Columbia requires more than any other class, and with them properly provided for and prosperous, it may be expected the field to open for other classes of population.

The ordinary quotations for rough Douglas fur lumber for shipment being \$8 per thousand, let the reader estimate for himself, at a considerable discount, on account of the quantity, the value of the immense contract reported to have been recently entered into by the Ross-Maclaren Company, for shipment to South Africa. Then let him consider, as is most probably the case, that a large quantity of the lumber will be dressed, making it much the more valuable, and then he will probably appreciate to some extent of how great importance that undertaking will be to the interests of British Columbia, provided the reports concerning it are to even a moderate extent borne out by the facts.

The San Francisco *Argonaut* is of the opinion that the Pacific coast is to be afflicted with another invasion of tramps this winter. Already they are conspicuous upon the streets of San Francisco, and they infest the residence parts of the city with their pitiful fictions of want and suffering. The various railroads report that they are demanding transportation to the Bay City upon the freight trains, profiting by their experiences in the "Industrial armies" last year. It is evident that, unless steps are taken to prevent it, this habit of migration will become fixed, and the people of this coast may look forward to having these worthless rascals quartered upon them every winter. The *Argonaut* suggests that work be provided for those who are willing to work, but urges the city council to enforce the practice in rural towns with regard to idlers, viz., to arrest them for vagrancy and compel them to work on the streets.

The commission, by a tramp, of the most revolting murder in Canadian annals reminds the *Insurance Chronicle*, of Montreal, of the very grave risks to property involved in the existence of this dangerous class. It is well known to farmers and to occupants of isolated country houses, that these men literally terrorize the female residents of lonely residences—who are often left unprotected in the day time—by threats of violence or of setting the premises afire unless their demands are satisfied. But even then, there exists the grave risk of their setting a barn on fire by smoking in it, as such men are most reckless. On Scotch farms a "tramp shed" is often

provided for these wayfarers, in order to keep them from doing mischief. The phrase which occurs in reports of fire and losses in rural districts with extraordinary frequency, "causes unknown," might, in very many cases, be changed to, "caused by a tramp." As this class will not work, as they systematically plunder at every opportunity, as they prey upon and are a serious danger and annoyance to hard working people, it is much to be regretted that they are allowed to pursue their unlawful calling without restraint. The law is most clear in regard to these men; they are "vagrants," and, as such, liable to imprisonment for quite a lengthy term. Were the constabulary active, this class could be suppressed, and with their suppression would be a large diminution of crime in rural places, and a reduction in the number of farm fires.

A great deal has been said about personal journalism, and many astute newspapers pretend to deprecate the habit of indulging in such low-grounded ethics. To the ordinary mind, it will appear that the press which abjures this "unethical" diet does so through habit of policy, and, instead of being controlled by exalted motives and high principles, dare not tell the truth. This abstention from "personal journalism" often relieves the newspapers from telling the most disagreeable truths. Yet a keen and proper sense of responsibility to the public should compel publicity of facts where they border on the lives and property of honest men. Hundreds of illustrations might be cited of men engaged in various pursuits founded on an illegitimate base, if shown up in their true aspect, would spare the feelings and pocket-books of countless and unsuspecting individuals.

In compliance with instructions received from Ottawa, the suspended post office letter carriers were, on Saturday morning, notified to return to work, and after meeting in consultation among themselves and communicated with the Commissioner of Conciliation and Arbitration, concluded to return to work. This, we may observe, is a much more satisfactory outcome than there was reason to anticipate, owing to the brusqueness and arbitrariness of the Postmaster-General, whose high-handed action, but, it is said, for the interposition of Bishop Perrin and others—some say the Governor General interested himself—would have had a most serious effect. In fact, Sir Adolphe Caron will be called to account at the next session of the Dominion Parliament, and, it may be, taught a lesson that he will not soon forget.