

A famous lawsuit which has been running, or rather sauntering for nine years, has recently been settled in the Parisian courts. Sarah Bernhardt, the defendant, was sued for expenses connected with the upholstery of her special box at the theatre. The box had been fitted at great expense, the materials and designs being selected by the wily actress, who well knew the value of a back-ground for her peculiar style of beauty, but her lawyers have won the case, on the ground of an established custom in Parisian theatres of providing a box worthy of the "star," and by the claim that the jewel case in question was none too rich for the charming Sarah, who among actresses is held to scintillate as brightly as does the kobinoor among ordinary diamonds.

The farmers of England are in a serious position, which is daily growing worse. It is no longer possible for the small farmer to make his own and family's living by cultivating the soil. The price of wheat per quarter actually fell twelve shillings during the past year, leaving the growers with an absolutely profitless margin. The free importation of foreign grains has paralyzed the small grain growers, who find the lotting of their farms as pasture land slightly more profitable. The ancient farm lands are passing out from under cultivation, and the farmers' sons and daughters are being absorbed in the factories of the Island. With the exception of the cases of dairymen, market gardeners and poultry keepers in the neighborhood of the large cities, there are no thriving husbandmen in the country. Canada is ready to welcome these men as settlers. They are fitted by habit and training for farm life, and if they will but come to our shores they will obtain their coveted privilege of working their lands with the profit which has been denied them in the mother country.

The unemployed masses of London took part in a gigantic but most orderly demonstration on November 13th. Trafalgar square at an early hour was thronged with processions and brass bands. Vigorous six-minute speeches were made, banners were flaunted, on which such mottoes as "Workers of the world unite and sow the seed, but do not let the tyrants reap," were emblazoned. But the whole affair went off without riot or bloodshed—a fact which was due perhaps to the fact that several hundreds of mounted police were, although out of sight, yet within call, and an ambulance corps with stretchers and other paraphernalia was kept constantly before the crowd. The trade unionist population of London severely criticises the policy of the local government in its endeavors to modify the distress which is becoming so prevalent by employing the "out-of-works" in the construction of roads and sewers. The government is also endeavoring to create a labor exchange with branches in all manufacturing cities, so that the work and the worker may be brought together, greatly to the displeasure of the union men.

Many cattle dealers are watching with interest the action of the British Government on the subject of the so-called infected cattle of Canada. The fiat has gone forth—our cattle are to be slaughtered immediately on their arrival, but although they are pronounced to be diseased they are yet considered marketable in the form of beef. Our British brothers evidently are not so fussy as Canadians on the subject of diseased meat. The last examination of the cattle resulted in a disagreement of the authorities. Principal Williams, of Edinburgh, agrees with the Canadian authorities that the disease is Cornstalk, and not Pleuro-pneumonia, but his views have not been allowed to weigh in the decision. This has been a serious blow to the cattle dealers, but a suggestion has been made which may bring about a much-desired benefit. The cattle have, up to this time, been fattened for market in Great Britain. Why should they not be prepared for market before leaving our Canadian shores? Protectionists and freetraders agree in the doctrine that the more labor is expended upon Canadian products before exportation, the better for the country. Therefore, if as a result of the fiat the cattle are reared or fattened in Canada, the restriction will have wrought us not evil, but good. If the Canadian farmer can reap two profits, first by the purchase by himself of his hay, grains and vegetables, and can then export the finished product to Great Britain, he is to be congratulated on his improved position.

Several of the school teachers of Gloucester County, N. B., have not only proved themselves to be highly intelligent citizens, but they have also won for themselves a popularity which has accorded them seats on the County Council board. While the successful candidates are to be congratulated on their elections, there is also a reverse side to the situation, which both teachers and parents will do well to consider. That schools should be kept free from political strife, in order to concentrate the attention of all concerned on the welfare of the pupils, is an accepted fact. Yet if teachers are to exercise a twofold life and vary their teaching hours with election matters, the political feeling will be at once reflected in the school. The county politician will lose the confidence of his opponents, and his influence will be impaired in the community as well as in the school. The schools of the United States have suffered severely from ward politics, and the lesson which they have taught should be accepted here without again giving the subject a practical illustration. Our Canadian teachers are too valuable, and too fine a body of men to be destroyed in ward politics, and the man who trifles with the assured influence which his position as an instructor of the young gives him, has been untrue to the responsibility entrusted to him. With all earnestness and sincerity we ask that all teachers shall consider the twofold aspect of the question, so that should they be invited to active partizanship in a county campaign they may be firm in their determination to be true to their chosen vocation.

Notwithstanding all prophecies on the subject no appointment has been made to the vacant laureateship of England. The poet Swineburn, who for a time seemed first in the race, does not covet the honor, and although there are many lesser men to choose from there is not a single master singer in the whole world of British poetry. Many critics think the laureateship should be abolished, others claim that an immediate appointment should be made, but Prof. Max Müller, with much quiet good sense, maintains that "no greater honor can be paid to the dead laureate than to leave the place vacant until it is the wish of the nation to honor some great singer."

The Chicago girl, for so long the butt of journalists, is to have her innings next year, when the "distinguished furriners" are to be captivated by her charms. Before being served up to the "crown heads" the Western maid is, however, to undergo a refining influence not unlike that which her papa may find to the advantage of his business in the purification of—lard. Eastern social ideas are to be implanted in the short interval of six months—the favorite Mother Hubbard street gown is to be banished—skirts are to be lengthened until they succeed in hiding the too generous pedal extremities—gloves are to be *en regle* for the street and for evening entertainments—the soup-spoon is not to be used in conjunction with a tilted soup-plate—and the knife is to be discarded as a food-conveyer in favor of the fork. Naturally, these abrupt changes come severely on the Chicago girl, who may no longer chew gum with impunity, or indulge in the off hand salutation of "slap us your slipper, old fellow." In short Chicago is to have a bran-new aristocracy for use at the World's Fair. That fairly over, the maidens who have not succeeded in capturing *Egyptian* counts or other European potentates will probably return to their primitive condition.

The recent terrible fire at Milwaukee has done immense damage to the city, the financial loss being estimated at some five million dollars. The fire originated in an oil storehouse and spread at once to the adjacent building, where both oil and liquors were stored. Although the fire brigade is an excellent one, a large force could not be summoned, as the brigade was distributed about the city engaged in quelling the three smaller fires, for which alarms had previously been sounded. A strong wind fanned the flames, the wooden houses of the city burned like tinder, and it was not until the flames lapped the shores of Lake Michigan that the conflagration died. Although not yet fifty years old, Milwaukee is a thriving Western town with a population of two hundred thousand, with well-established industries. Twenty-one years ago Milwaukee stood that test of a new town, a colossal fire, but she rose again from the ashes as speedily as did Chicago, Sacramento and San Francisco. The last fire is, however, not an unmixed evil, as it betokens the end of the days of frame houses within the city limits, and it will also give rise to city regulations, preventing the storage of such inflammable commodities as oils and liquors in the business centre of the city.

Many of our Nova Scotian school teachers will heave a long sigh when they receive the new simplified registers which are now being sent around. At the first glance they seem even more complex than those lately discarded, but in a short time they will be found to be much more satisfactory, both to the teachers and to the inspectors. The *Educational Review* gives a few timely hints on the subject, advising teachers to carefully read the explanations before making entries; to answer each question at as early a date as possible, for by so doing the inspector will be aided in his work, and the teacher's interest in the school fully proven. The *Review* asks teachers to pay particular attention to the fact that at the end of the year a statement will be required as to the exact time spent on each subject mentioned in the time table, and to remember that careful and definite instruction must be given to the teaching of hygiene and the effects of narcotics on the human system. The requirements of the new register, when carefully complied with, will be of advantage to the whole community of young schoolable persons, and the teachers who take up cheerfully with the innovation will find themselves much benefited by it, as it decreases the responsibility of the teachers and widens the sphere of their usefulness.

Temperance workers and liquor dealers in the United States are alike displeased at the innovation lately introduced into U. S. A. circles—the establishment of the military canteen. The temperance workers claim with reason that the "canteen system" has been found demoralizing to the soldiers of Great Britain—that the temptation to drink is constantly before the men, that idling and loafing will be increased four-fold by its introduction. The liquor dealers remonstrate because they will no longer be allowed to supply that army pariah, the sutler, with the accustomed cheap and vile mixture. The Government proposes to buy good liquor at wholesale rates and retail, without profit, to the soldiers, a plan which effectually shuts out the middle men. It is interesting to note that in many British regiments where coffee and recreation rooms have supplanted the canteen, the highest morality prevails. The regiments which carry with them their own temperance lodges are found to be the best conducted in the corps. The war ships known as "temperance ships" have almost no occasion to post men as deserters. The late disturbance in the "Life Guards" at Windsor is directly traceable to the drinking habits of the men. The endorsement of the new canteen policy by President Cleveland will do much to injure his popularity with two sections of his people who differ widely in their methods of thinking and acting.

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