

hands had found employment. The most noticeable feature of these conflagrations was that while most of the buildings were from four to six stories high, the firemen were not able to throw water higher than the windows in third stories, because of insufficient water pressure and the lack of steam fire engines. The fact is, Toronto has no such engines. Toronto has long been cursed by an inefficient government who have refused to recognize the necessity of adequate fire appliances; but it is promised, now that more than a million dollars worth of property has gone up in smoke, that a number of steam fire engines shall be procured. But they have not yet been bought.

American capitalists propose to establish a million-dollar pulp and paper mill at Kakabeka Falls, on the Kaministiquia river, Algoma. Should the mill be built, and the poisonous refuse from it allowed to drain into the river, then good-bye to fishing in that stream from the mill to the river's outlet, and for some distance around the outlet.--The Empire.

This is an evidence of how great intellects grasp important questions. The Empire is a strong advocate of the National Policy and at all times desirous of seeing the manufacturing industries of Canada built up. But at the same time it can't tolerate the Yankees. All that the average Canadian knows about the Kaministiquia river is that it is in Algoma, and that at certain seasons of the year anglers resort thither for sport. And the fact that the refuse from a pulp mill if built there might interrupt this amusement is sufficient reason to The Empire to discourage the erection of such a mill there at a cost of a million dollars. Canada could well afford to have a hundred fish-

ing streams thus ruined on such terms, even if American capitalists were the investors.

Speaking of the recent civic investigation had in Toronto, Don, in Saturday Night, has this to say:—

I think it is quite proper to designate the investigation as an extraordinary court. Anything born under the sanctity of law and bearing the name of a court and doing the duties that citizens should perform for themselves, and yet having power to hold midnight sessions and stop men on the streets in order to give evidence, is a spectacle so anomalous and startling in this nineteenth century that we must award proper praise to those conducting it who have refused to abuse their great powers. The country must be in a strange state of disturbance that necessitates the delivery over to any tribunal of the preposterous jurisdiction given to our civic court of enquiry. Had this civic episode, in which the Street Railway Company was the disturbing figure, been in the time of the French Revolution, it would have been easy to imagine the methods adopted to repress those who were exercising a corrupt influence upon the men chosen by the electorate. If Fouché had been chief of police we could imagine him keeping "tab" upon the people, and the people as represented by contractors keeping track of him, and detective shadowing detective and public officials being under surveillance. But near the close of the nineteenth century, in democratic Canada, it is startling and disturbing to know that both citizen and public servant were under the hand of a tribunal which finds its greatest power in the evil opinion that will be held of a man who refuses to testify, even if he incriminates himself while being examined on general lines rather than testifying in a particular matter. That this tribunal has been successful is no satisfactory warrant for a repetition of the experiment. Nothing should replace the trial by

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