

been greatly exercised at these periodical incursions of pugilists and their following into their neighbourhood; and have urged the Mayor and the Chief of Police to put in force the stringent by-law against prize-fighting which has been on the city statute book for over twenty years. No attention was paid to them, however, and they were obliged to take the law into their own hands, as invariably has to be done in this city for the righting of any wrong of this nature. On the afternoon of the last fight the Citizens' League swore out a warrant and had the two principals arrested on the charge of arranging a prize-fight, for which, under the Criminal Code, there is a heavy penalty. The enquete has been postponed until next month, but the defence is going to be that neither the Criminal Code nor the by-law applies in this case as it was not a prize-fight, but a sparring match. If the case is dismissed, we shall without doubt have an epidemic of fights. There was even talk some time ago of having the Corbett-Fitzsimmons battle here; and so far as the city authorities are concerned they could, doubtless, meet here without disturbance.

The gas question to which I have made several references in these letters has been settled. There has been something of a compromise, the city, however, yielding the most. The new rate is \$1.20 per thousand for fifteen years; but the city has the option of buying the company out at the end of the first ten years. If the city does not do so the Gas Company is thereafter to pay 3 per cent. of the gross revenue to the city. There is a good deal of objection on the part of those who want dollar gas and won't be happy until they get it; but, all things considered, the rate is not an unreasonable one. It is a reduction of twenty cents per thousand on the tariff in existence during the past decade. Mr. King, the representative of the Whessoe Works, is back in the city, however, more than ever convinced that sixty cent gas is a possibility.

Mr. John Macfarlane, of this city, has now in the press a volume entitled "The Harp of the Scottish Covenant," being a collection of poems, songs, and ballads relating to the Covenanting struggle. In all there will be nearly one hundred pieces included. A preface has been written by Prof. Clark Murray, of this city, and the book will be dedicated to the late J. Stuart Blackie, who approved of its design. Mr. S. R. Crockett also wrote to Mr. Macfarlane warmly approving the plan of the work. It will be published in Scotland by Alexander Gardner, of Paisley; and in Canada by W. Drysdale & Co. Only a limited edition will be printed. Mr. Macfarlane is an authority on Scottish literature; and is the author of "Heather and Harebell."

At Street Corners.

NOW that the "Pan-American" Congress is over, we may take the lessons that it affords against the attempt to produce entirely by artificial means, movements that are nothing if they have not some roots of spontaneity. While saying with gratification, "all's well that ends well," I could not help being sorry for some of those who were captured by the astute and commercially-disposed engineer of the enterprise.

Of all bores the worst is the retired veteran who presumes on his former standing to inflict himself on those who are now bearing the burden and heat of the day. A man who is no longer in the team ought not to stand around offering advice and saying what he did years ago. He never understands the problems of to-day, and he is frequently a maddening obstruction to men who want to do their work without hindrance and find it hard enough to do at that.

The so-called "war of the poets" in the *Globe* and *Sunday World*—the latter title by the way is a misnomer—is wearing itself to an ignominious end. While it has, perhaps, lowered the niches of the three Canadian poets concerned, in the estimation of the few, it has advertised them to the many, and this is an age in which advertising seems to be the thing. I was—by the way—very much amused in the course of the ebullitions to see that some raillery I had addressed in this column to one of the hangers-on of the fight was taken by him as being unmitigated praise. What a secret fund of self-commendation such a man must have always at disposal. It forms a rhinoceros integument against attack.

Among educational people that I honour in Toronto, is Mr. Thomas Parker, till recently principal of the Winchester street Public School. I do not know at present whether his former post has been filled by another incumbent. Mr. Parker has suffered from chronic and pronounced asthma, and has had a long leave of absence. I understand that he is now at Winnipeg, to try whether the air of Manitoba will be any better for him than that of Toronto. As a conscientious and painstaking instructor, and one who was able to impress his pupils with high ideas of rectitude and honour, he will be followed by the good wishes of all who have come into contact with him during his residence in Toronto.

Mr. H. A. Englehardt, the well-known landscape gardener, holds the opinion that no fence should be erected around residences on Centre Island, but that a park-like appearance should be aimed at. The park-like appearance is all very well, but I cannot believe that every body would be willing to throw down his fences. The Anglo-Saxon likes a fence, whether of personal reserve or of wood. I am afraid that Mr. Englehardt's suggestion that leases should only be renewed on the no-fence condition, is a little too drastic.

Dr. Sheard's work as the Medical Health Officer of Toronto cannot be too highly commended. He has brought to the task a remarkable amount of ability and determination, and he should receive the hearty moral support of all citizens in any labours he engages in for the welfare of the city. There is too much of a tendency on the part of the City Council to ignore the services of science, and, of course everything depends on whether scientific precautions are properly carried out or not. Pseudo-scientific inspection is of little use, but a system of daily bacteriological examination of the city water, such as is carried out at the Medical Health Office under Dr. Sheard's direction, by Prof. Shuttleworth, the eminent bacteriologist, is worth everything it costs, and a great deal more. It is surely worth something for the citizens to feel—day after day—that the water supplied to their household taps, and on the purity of which their health and the health of their families depends, is subject to a keen microscopical investigation that would reveal at once the presence of typhoid germs if they existed, and lead to measures being taken to put an end to the source of impurity.

The winning of the Queen's prize by Private Hayhurst, of the 13th Battalion, is an honour brought to Canada by an immigrant, but it is none the less welcome on that account to some of us, seeing that the immigrant is a son of the dear Old Land. Hayhurst will no doubt receive a fine ovation when he returns, and the City of the Mountain will have good reason to jubilate.

I do not know whether any of my readers have ever been so perplexed as I have sometimes been by the defective way in which the names of the streets are put up in Toronto, but if they have, they will sympathize with my wish that the system could be improved. When one goes into a new part of the city and is anxious to know where he is, it is distressing not to find the name of the street legibly inscribed. Surely this little matter might be attended to in such a way as to make it easy for even strangers to find their way about. At night, the difficulty is greatly increased, especially in some parts of the city.

Alderman Lamb, who is an exceedingly honest and useful member of the City Council, is, I am glad to hear, recovering from the injury to his foot which has kept him in doors for many days.

The studio and residence which are being built near Queen's Park for Mr. A. Dickson Patterson, R.C.A., under the superintendence of Messrs. Darling, Sproatt and Pearson, the architects, will, I understand, be in every way complete and artistic. Mr. Patterson will be in such close proximity to the Ontario Legislature, that he ought frequently to attend the sessions of that body, so as to be prepared to paint a great historical picture of them all when they do anything particular. Conversely, it ought to be the aim of the legislators to do something worthy of being painted at once,