

THE RAILWAY EXTENSION.—The City Council has decided not to widen Lockman Street, and nothing definite has been accomplished in regard to the purchase of the block between North and Cornwallis Sts. by the Government for the purpose of railway extension and the giving of adequate terminal facilities in Halifax. It is now rumored that a compromise measure is proposed that should satisfy all parties. Half of the block, the Water St. half, between Water and Lockman Sts., is to be expropriated, and the line extended along the wharves, crossing Water St. above Cunard's and below Roche's, thus avoiding the wharves whose owners are opposed to the extension.

SIGNS OF SPRING.—After the long and severe winter that we have experienced, every indication of an early spring is a source of pleasure to us. The captives of coastwise, fishing and trading craft, report that very little snow is now to be seen, and navigation in the rivers and deeper harbors is already possible. Steamship communication east and west of Halifax is now advertised to commence for the season, and the fact that the Yarmouth Steamship Company and the Canada Atlantic and Plant Steamship Company have resumed their regular sailings to Boston proves that we have quite come out of our winter quarters and are making preparations for an active year of business.

SOME BIG THINGS.—The past month has been noted for some unique and curious developments in the department of mechanical invention. A locomotive of almost stupendous power has been placed upon the railways of England, the greatest dredger in the world has been launched at Harrow, and an immense steam shovel has been put to work in the phosphate mines of South Carolina. Canada has not been behindhand in this competition for the construction of mammoths, as the Gurnoy Foundry Co., of Toronto, have just produced what is claimed to be the largest heat-radiator in existence. As the radiator contains 130 square feet of heating surface we fancy that it will easily eclipse in size any former structure.

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION.—We trust that many of our Provincial farmers will avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by the Government Experimental Farm at Ottawa to secure a thorough test for the varieties of seed which they desire to plant. Poor seed or seed aged by long keeping is always in the market, and the farmer who wishes to protect himself against future loss will do well to mail a test package of about an ounce in weight to the head office. As a report on the quality of the seed will be made about ten days after its reception there need be no trying delay to the sender, who will also, in case his sample is found unpromising, feel the truth of the homely proverb that "forewarned is forearmed."

THE OUTCOME UNCERTAIN.—The rebellion in the Brazilian Province of Rio Grande do Sul has assumed very serious proportions. The majority of the inhabitants are strongly opposed to the present government of Brazil, and they have taken up arms in consequence of the unjust and tyrannical action of the central government. So far they have been signally successful, and, as their cause is warmly espoused by Argentina and Uruguay, it begins to look as though serious complications, if not general war, might be the result. Many persons familiar with South American affairs believe that the map of that country will undergo great changes before the several independent countries will settle down to follow the lines of modern civilization. Be this as it may, Brazilian statesmen will have to look alive if they desire to preserve intact the territory which Don Pedro so successfully ruled.

NOVEL LEGISLATION.—The double-barreled Franchise Act, which the Legislature of Prince Edward Island is now considering, is a compromise between modern Liberalism and old-time Toryism. The main object of the Bill is to abolish the Legislative Council of the Island; but in doing so provision is made that one-half of the members of the House of Assembly are to be elected by voters who hold their Franchise on the strength of property qualifications, while the balance of the members are to be elected by the people, who are entitled to vote when they reach twenty-one years of age. This double-barreled Franchise is intended to please both parties, but as is generally the case in any such attempt, it pleases neither of them. To cap this legislation, a clause has been inserted making it unconstitutional to repeal the Act without three-fifths of the members of the House be in favor of so doing.

THE WORST KIND OF A LIE.—The recent scandal in high life, the DeWalden Divorce suit, has developed some startling features in the Divorce Court. In the first place the lady in question was at once cleared from the calumnies which her husband and his probably paid witnesses heaped upon her, and secondly, the cruel conduct of the husband towards the woman he had sworn to comfort and cherish was amply proven. The two chief witnesses in the case were the valet and ladies' maid, who claimed to have taken note of many disgraceful scenes, and who testified under oath to the blackness of the lady's character. Fortunately they failed in their object, for their stories were found to be dissimilar and contradicting as to dates. The decision of the jury at once cleared the lady, but the damaging work of the false witnesses had already been done. The unveiling of a set plan to secure false testimony is horribly suggestive of the possibilities in such cases. Damaging witness, that can yet not be proven as perjury, may be given, and the mischief-making liar may walk off scot free. It is a pity that a method of enforcing truthful witness could not be enforced.

K. D. C. acts as a Cholera preventive, by restoring the Stomach to healthy action.

VANDALS AGAIN.—For many years past it has been a standing grievance with beauty-loving travellers that advertisements for pills, patent medicines, etc., have been allowed to disfigure the most beautiful scenery. The staring placards have been most numerous along the "Palisades" or bold coasts of the Hudson River in New York State, but so much was said and written about their effect upon the scenery that many of the most obnoxious were obliterated during the past year. Some shrewd owner of river property has now discovered that the palisade can easily be blasted and the broken stone sold at a good rate for road material, and the magnificent parallel walls of the beautiful river have already been much defaced by explosions. A famous rock, known as Washington's Head, was destroyed in the last blasting, greatly to the indignation of the River Steamship Companies, who have a certain claim to consideration in a matter of this kind. The question now is, whether the private owners may be prevented from defacing their river frontages, or whether the State will eventually be forced to purchase the palisade front and so preserve the scenery for which the river is so deservedly noted.

SYSTEM NECESSARY.—The discovery of a woman with seven children living in a state of semi starvation in one of the most densely populated portions of Halifax is not calculated to make our citizens feel any great degree of pride. As a city, Halifax unquestionably does as much for its poor and needy as any city on the continent of America, and the very fact that the discovery of the starving condition of Mrs. Hubley and her family has awakened such general sympathy, is a pretty fair indication that such a condition as hers is very uncommon in the city. The fact, however, remains that from some cause the wants of Mrs. Hubley and her family were so far overlooked that the family were in danger of starvation, and were obliged to undergo great privations during the long cold winter. We have innumerable church and charitable organizations, many of the members of which devote their time to searching out and relieving cases of want and poverty. But the organizations to which these kindhearted men and women belong are all working independently of each other, and hence there can be and is no regular system by which the city can be thoroughly and effectively covered so as to make it practically impossible for semi-starvation conditions to exist. Could we but lay aside creed in our broad work of charity the results would be infinitely more satisfactory to all concerned.

THE PARLIAMENTARY BAROMETER.—The parliamentary session at Ottawa has closed after a very short and a far from note-worthy sitting. The Government, strong in its majority, has postponed the question of tariff reform for another year, and the Opposition has abandoned the unrestricted reciprocity plank in its platform, and have substituted for it that of tariff reform. It would thus seem that both of the great parties in Canada are pledged to the reform of the tariff. The reform must be in the reduction of the duties, which, on many articles, are certainly excessive. The protective policy has been given a fair trial by the people, and the industries fostered by it should now be in a position to compete successfully with similar establishments in other countries. While the people have been willing and anxious to encourage home industries, no one who can read the times aright will believe that Canadians are going to allow themselves to be fleeced by monopolies. The manufacturers can combine, if they see fit to do so, and if by so doing they can manufacture more cheaply, no one can complain. But if, relying on the tariff wall, they undertake to enrich themselves at the expense of the public, they will kill the goose that lays the golden egg, for the public will assuredly have none of it, and the tariff wall will come down with a run. Protectionists should see in the late session of parliament which way the wind blows, and be prepared for the consequences.

A REASSURING VIEW.—In a capital article in the *New Review* Dr. Ernest Hart asserts and explains his theory that water and polluted water alone is the cause of the spread of cholera. He contends that every past case of cholera is caused simply and solely by the use of the polluted water. The doctor has on hand statistics of the great plagues since 1866, and amply substantiates his theories by his figures. The great epidemics in Naples, Genoa, Marseilles, Toulon and throughout Spain were caused by the use of foul water. When the water was purified the plague died out. He especially instances the cases of the picturesque and unhealthy city of Naples, where the wells and cess-pools were in close proximity, and comments upon the surprise of the inhabitants who, when endeavoring to deodorize the cess-pools with carbolic acid, could not understand why the drinking water at once was flavored by a carbolic taste. The outbreak of cholera in Genoa, a city with a capital water supply from a high mountain source, was caused by a band of cholera-stricken Italians who had been cleaning their bodies and their linen almost at the fountain head. There is little doubt now in the minds of scientists that the poisoned water of the Elbe was responsible for the whole of the mortality in Hamburg. In short, to quote the able article closely: "Cholera travels just as fast as the people who convey it travel, and no faster. It has nothing to do with, and is not influenced by whirlwinds, monsoons, storms, or air-waves. I have elsewhere, and before, pointed out that when it came on foot or horseback with the caravans of pilgrims or of traders, and when intercourse was slow and travellers few, it took from six to nine years to reach Russia, to traverse it, and arrive at our ports. It took twenty years to go around the world. It reached us this time in three months from Cashmir. Steam and rail bring it to us at express pace. We must expect a re-occurrence this year, no matter how elaborate our port inspection. The main precautions will be those for the purification of water."

Cholera threatens Dyspeptics. K. D. C. cures Dyspeptics and makes them Cholera-proof. Try it while Cholera threatens.