

FINANCIAL DISTRESS.—A French Railway Company has been placed in an embarrassing position of late, and it is probable that the entire road will have to be handed over to the creditors. It appears that sparks from a locomotive started a fire in the woods near Yehoux, which spread over an immense district, doing damages to the extent of \$300,000. According to French law the Company must make good the damage done, even though the whole property of the Company is handed over.

WHO FORGOT RUSSIA?—It is quite probable that when the Paris arbitration shall have decided upon the settlement of the sealing dispute that the whole question will have to be re-opened, in order to ascertain the views of the Czar of Russia. There are quite as many seals on the Siberian as on the Alaskan shores, and the Russian authorities have already made complaint to the Czar of both British and Canadian poachers. It is to be regretted that Russia is not represented in the arbitration, and a long and expensive re-argument of the case thus avoided.

TAKE THE BULL BY THE HORNS.—Grover Cleveland has spoken plainly upon the various disasters, financial and otherwise, which has befallen his people during the last few months. He states that the distrust and apprehension is due to the erroneous policy of the previous Government whose laws still continue to be enforced, and he calls for the convening of both Houses of Congress on the Seventh of August, in order that the unwise laws of the Republican administration may be repealed. He trusts that through legislation the people may be relieved from "present and impending danger and distress." The outcome of the legislation of this "extraordinary" Congress will be awaited by thousands of the citizens of the Republic, and the decisions arrived at with reference to the Silver Question and the McKinley Bill will be of great interest throughout our Dominion.

A NEW WELL-CLEANER.—It was a bright-brained man who cleared his well of foul air the other day by means of an umbrella. By lowering a lighted candle he demonstrated that there were at least six feet of poisonous gas in the bottom of the well. He then took a small umbrella, tied a string to its handle, and after opening it, lowered it into the well. He allowed it to reach to the bottom, drew it up and emptied the invisible contents a short distance away. The process looked most eccentric to the by-standers who, however, patiently waited until the umbrella was pulled up for the thirtieth time, when the well-cleaner announced that his work was completed, and tested the well by again lowering a lighted candle into its depths. As the flame continued to burn brightly, even at the bottom of the well the bystanders admitted that the gas had vanished, although but a few of them comprehended the fact that the feat was based upon the chemical knowledge of the workman regarding the comparative weights of the normal atmosphere and carbonic acid gas.

THE Y. P. S. C. E. DELEGATES IN CANADA.—The Christian Endeavor movement is an ever-popular one, and its promotor, the Rev. Francis E. Clarke, must feel an ever-present joy at the thought that it was he who "set the ball a-rolling." The first society was formed in Portland, Maine, in 1831. From this as a centre, over twenty-six thousand other societies have sprung up, and more than a million and a half members have been enrolled. The same movement is known by many names, for the Epworth League, the Young People's Union and the Advocates of Fidelity are all working along the same lines. The Societies are now to be found in all portions of the world and they cannot fail to be beneficial to the individual, the church and the community wherever they exist. The avowed object of the Association is to form the connecting link between the young and old members of the church. It supplies a field in which the young people may work to advantage, and it acts as a feeder to the church with which it is connected. The accounts of the Convention now being held in Montreal will interest hundreds of our young people.

SOME CLAUSES OF THE NEW CODE.—Our new criminal code is not meant to be either unjust or absurd in its make up, and to the credit of its framers we may state that on the whole it is designed to prevent and punish infractions of the law. There are, however, many obscure clauses and evidences of hasty and inconsidered legislation. Among these we note the regulation which provides the following unequal penalties for what is practically the same offence:—For counterfeiting a post office stamp, life imprisonment; for counterfeiting an inland revenue stamp, fourteen years' imprisonment; and for counterfeiting a customs house mark or brand, a term of twelve months. The offences are surely not so proportionately greater than one another as are the prescribed punishments. It also appears that it is seven times as unpleasant for the offender who writes a threatening letter, as for the wiser man who, for demanding money with menaces, is given a term of two years' imprisonment. It is also wiser policy for a criminal to wilfully destroy plants or fruits, than it is for him to steal them, for he has in the first instance the prospect of one instead of three months' imprisonment. It is a serious matter to interfere with a police officer in the discharge of his duties, as the penalty of ten years' imprisonment would suggest; but the more congenial work of assaulting and so hindering a police officer can be attended to with the enlivening scene that a two-year term will set the matter straight. There are perhaps a score more of such unreasonable, if not ridiculous, clauses, and although the new code is a great improvement in many respects upon its predecessor, it leaves us still much to hope for.

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

CHEAP AND COMFORTABLE.—All who are interested in the ever-present and ever-pressing question of cheap and comfortable homes will be delighted with the model house exhibited at the World's Fair. It is designed to meet all the needs of a family of six, and it is believed that the cost of erection would not exceed \$1200, the monthly rental \$12.00. The house, which is of wood, stands a story and a half high. The first floor consists of a kitchen and pantry, a hallway, a living room and a bathroom. The pantry and bathroom are fitted with hot and cold water, and the living room is made cheerful with three windows and a fireplace. The second floor consists of two large and one small room. The walls throughout are finished with rough tinted plaster that can easily be washed. The outside appearance of the house is good. The roof is gabled, there are neat outside blinds, and a side porch as a front entrance. A further experiment will demonstrate the possibility of furnishing the house with comfortable and artistic furniture for the small sum of \$300, and the expense of supplying the family with food, clothing, light and heat for one year will be demonstrated as being within \$500. As four of the members of the imaginary family are mere children, the figures may be more practical than they appear to be.

LANSMEN ON THE WATER.—The boating season and the season for drowning accidents have begun simultaneously as usual, and already a number of serious accidents have been recorded. There is little doubt to our mind that carelessness and ignorance are responsible in a great measure for these sad occurrences, and that if sufficient thought were but given to the subject there would be fewer casualties of this nature. The man who cannot manage his pleasure craft, be it canoe, row-boat, sail-boat, or steam-launch, has no business to make himself responsible for the safety of other lives than his own. The fact that he asks ladies to accompany him on his expeditions is frequently taken to be, as it certainly should be in reality, a guarantee of his responsibility in case of accident. But on the contrary, it is too often the case that the man of the party has no practical knowledge of the work he has undertaken, and when unusual circumstances arise he has no means of knowing how to meet them. In all probability he cannot swim, and is thus utterly unable to do aught but struggle for his own life in the event of an upset. We trust that no accident will happen on our harbor during the coming months, and if our inexperienced boaters will but decide to master their crafts and also the art of swimming before inviting ladies to bear them company, we are convinced that many dangers may be avoided.

SUMMER READING.—There is a firmly established belief in the minds of many sensible people that they must do a large amount of "light reading" during the summer. In theory at least they regard the thrilling romances and startling adventures of the summer catch-penny literature as a relaxation especially suitable to the holiday time. In some inscrutable way they feel that this style of fiction is suited to their needs, and they accordingly indulge in it. We do not doubt for a moment that what one reads affects both the thoughts and actions, and we have long thought that half of the giddiness and impudence of young girls at summer resorts is due in no small part to the false look atmosphere with which they have surrounded themselves. The same danger exists, though to a less degree, with older readers who have a practical knowledge of life, its needs and duties, and there is also a physical inconvenience which they frequently experience in wasting precious eyesight over the finely printed columns of unmitigated trash. By all means let the summer holiday be made as pleasant as possible, and let every innocent form of enjoyment have full sway, but let the morally bad novel and the trashy novel stay on the shop counters till the publishers shall have learned not to insult the public by offering such refuse as mental food. There are thousands of good novels fully as interesting and often as exciting as the modern summer volume, and we would remind the reading public of their existence.

RECREATION FOR MIDDLE AGE.—Sir James Paget, than whom no more eminent health authority exists, makes a vigorous appeal to middle-aged men to take more "good active recreations." He notes the well-known fact that the middle-aged men and women lose their taste for out-of-door life and for all forms of active exercise. This he attributes largely to custom and not to any physical cause. What is true of the Englishmen whom he addresses, is equally true of Canadians, although we are not willing to admit that the "average professional or business man grows fatter, wheezier, more pompous, and more dull and uninteresting every year." Yet there is a troublesome grain of truth in the allegation. Our middle-aged men are not getting the best out of life—they are growing old before their time, and all for the want of proper exercise. There is little excuse for our Provincialists so far as climate is concerned—it is only custom that causes them to stagnate in the middle line. There is much to tempt them out-of-doors—bright, clear weather and fresh invigorating winds. There is no reason why walking, boating and cycling should not be indulged in, nor that some out-of-door hobby, such as gardening or poultry-keeping should not be taken up. The man who, with a sudden burst of energy, takes up the out-of-door pleasures of his youth, may, on account of his weary limbs, conclude that he has outgrown that sort of thing; but the man who gradually reforms his routine life so as to include a gradually increasing portion of out-of-door life and exercise will find that there is a goodly spark of the boy yet left in his constitution.

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