

our fishing grounds they cannot supply their own fish markets, while we need not greatly care whether or not we get their market, as we can have the market of the entire Dominion and of the West Indies, not to speak of the great fish markets of Western Europe, to which some of our fish merchants are already feeling their way. The Dominion Government is now making extensive preparations for the protection of the rights of our fishermen, and never did that Government undertake a task which so merited and so readily received the cordial and unanimous endorsement of the people of the Maritime Provinces.

The practically inexhaustible mineral resources of this Province offer a wide field for young men of education and energy, and ought to encourage the sons of miners and others to devote themselves heartily to the study of mining-engineering, geology, mineralogy. It is notorious that we have far too few first class miners for even the present requirements of the country. Educated and ambitious young men who are crowding into Medicine and Law with indifferent prospects of succeeding in these already thronged professions, may properly and profitably give thought to this. The studies of geology and applied mechanics have been too little and too feebly prosecuted in this Province. If a supply of men well-versed in such studies is not forthcoming from our own people, a few dozen years hence will find a little army of foreigners among us in enjoyment of many of the most responsible and lucrative positions. Our mines are scarcely opened; some of the best of them are yet untouched; and for these and other good reasons we believe there is an excellent future awaiting those of our young men who devote themselves heartily to the studies we have mentioned.

THE SCHOOL YEAR

The Inspectors of Schools for this Province have been led by experience, that in many cases was long, and by observation, that was not superficial, to the conclusion: that the division of the year into two school-terms tends to make teachers itinerant, and otherwise impedes our educational progress. In perfect accord with them are most of our foremost teachers—common-school, academical, collegiate—almost all our clergymen, and very many other intelligent persons interested in the training of our youth. What may be the opinion of our esteemed Superintendent of Education relative to the termal question, we do not know; but we hope that he, too, is in favor of a change that is desired by so many of our best citizens for reasons that they consider good and weighty. Though as an official, that would, perhaps, be, for a time, somewhat inconvenienced by the proposed change, Dr. Allison might be expected to be hostile towards it, we believe he is not the man to hesitate to recommend what is obviously calculated to be a convenience and benefit alike to teacher and taught.

That there are a few sections of the Province where two short school-terms would be slightly preferable to one long one, we frankly concede, but that this is reason sufficient for continuing to retard the educational advancement of the rest of the Province by an arbitrary, unnatural, illogical division of the year into two such terms as now obtain in this Province, we feel constrained emphatically to deny.

PROPOSED TUNNEL BETWEEN PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND AND THE MAINLAND.

In the course of an article under the above title, in the *American Engineer*, the following particulars of the scheme are given:—"The proposal is to build on each side piers inside the 'bord ice' into which the tube is laid some 2800 feet, making the full length of the pipe or tunnel 6½ miles, or about 5½ miles nautical between the piers. The bottom shows a very good roadbed, varying in depth from 36 feet on the plane side, to 80 feet in the centre, and thence ashore on the New Brunswick side 10½ feet. The tunnel is to be 18 feet in diameter; to be made of heavy sections of chilled white cast iron, four inches thick or more, according to depth. Mr. H. H. Hall, of the Submarine Tunnel and Tube Company, of New York, is the patentee of the process of casting the tubes, as well as of the white chilled metal used. At the present market price it is estimated that the cost of the iron for the tunnel would foot up about \$84 per linear foot, or a total estimated cost of between \$4,000,000, and \$5,000,000. The metal is said to be non-corrosive in sea water, as shown by its exposure for twelve years in Sydney Harbor, Australia. The sections are bolted together by inside flanges, making a water-tight rust joint and smooth exterior. Where the depth of water will allow of the obstruction to the channel the tunnel will be laid on the natural bottom, otherwise a channel will be dredged."

THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

In 1869, a secret union of garment-cutters was formed in Philadelphia, for purposes of mutual protection. Four years later, the membership of the society was thrown open to other trades; and nine years after this event, the organization, now known as the Knights of Labor League, numbered 140,000 members, and had branches in various states and cities. A fund obtained by contributions of five cents from each member, was established for the assistance of brothers in need, "against the aggressions of employers." The avowed object of the League is to enable laborers to make a united resistance to the unjust and inequitable accumulation of wealth, and to secure such relations between labor and capital that the workman will reap the full fruits of his toil. Some of the means by which the organization proposes to improve the condition of its members are, the establishment of bureaus of labor and co-operative institutions, the compilation of statistics, the reservation of public lands for actual settlers, the

establishment of arbitration in the place of strikes, and the adoption of the eight-hour system of labor.

One cannot fail to be favorably impressed with the intelligence and moderation which seem to inspire the councils of this vast body. Indeed, such an organization, working calmly and intelligently at its purpose, is the safest bulwark against the waves of socialism. Not is their moderation the outcome of conscious weakness, it is due to the confidence of strength. The determined action taken by the League during the present troubles with J. Gould's Railways, and recently with the Toronto Street Car Company, showed the power of an organization of workmen, and in both instances popular sympathy, the real strength of any movement affecting the general public, was largely with the Knights of Labor.

There are problems bearing on the relations of capital and labor which will not be easily solved. Political economists may calmly assure the workman that the interests of these two factors in all industrial operations are identical, they are only so to a limited extent, and this the workman realizes. The employment of machinery, while chiefly benefitting the capitalist, has also improved the condition of the laborer, and this he does not realize. He sees an employer, once of limited means, accumulate enormous wealth and secure monopolies dangerous to the interests of the public. He sees these monopolists and their friends elected to make the laws by which he is governed. He hopes for no protection from the greed of the wealthy employer by the agency of these laws, and he has resorted to the united action of his fellows. Anti-monopolist unions, like Lynch law, argue the weakness and insufficiency of the law of the land. Legislators will soon be forced to provide methods of legal procedure, cheap, effectual, and simple, by which differences of employer and employed can be settled. Till such legislation is effected, we shall have labor leagues; and society will be fortunate, indeed, if all such leagues are as moderate as the Knights of Labor.

COLONEL DUNCAN.

The name of Colonel Duncan, who married a Halifax lady, is well known, not only in the City and Province, but also throughout the Dominion. The interest which he has evinced in this Canada of ours, and the attachment which he has expressed for our native land, has awakened a kindly reciprocal feeling among those who have come in contact with him. His successes as a soldier and author have been previously chronicled, and it affords us pleasure to publish the following, respecting his first brilliant success in the House of Commons. Colonel Duncan, it will be remembered, was the successful Conservative candidate for the Holborn Division for the Borough of Finsburg. The following extract from a London exchange speaks for itself:—

"An excellent impression was made upon the House by the successful maiden speech of the Conservative member for Holborn. Overflowing with sympathy for the country with which his service in Egypt has made him so well acquainted, he infected the House with his earnestness in pleading for such a continuous policy as would enable us soon to fulfil our pledge to leave the Egyptians to themselves. In the hope that Sir H. D. Wolff's mission would promote this object, he supported the vote. After a peroration, warmly eulogising the soldiers and people among whom he said he had lived until he had learned to love them, the hon. and gallant member resumed his seat amid general cheers, and was for some time afterwards engaged in receiving the hearty congratulations of his fellow members. Colonel Duncan knows Egypt thoroughly well, and he spoke with as much force as generosity of the virtue and capacity which he had observed in the Egyptian people. Colonel Duncan raised himself, and raised the subject above the level of party. He frankly avowed that in his opinion the Egyptians were quite fit to govern themselves, and that they were vastly superior to the corrupt and cruel Turkish Pashas who assumed to govern them. Colonel Duncan declares that some of the ablest rulers he has ever known are native Egyptians, and he looks forward to the time when it shall be decided to entrust them with the highest administrative posts."

INSURANCE, NOT BANKING.

In a recent issue, we pointed out the fact, that the ordinary life insurance contract compels the insured not only to buy his insurance from the company, but to make the company his banker to a very considerable extent as well. Accumulation, by banking or otherwise, should be the ambition of every productive life. It is usually the accumulated estate, and not the current income, that must provide for our own wants in old age, sickness, and other emergencies; but the means for the improvement of capital or accumulation of estate are almost as many and diverse as the varied lines of human activities. The farmer's best investment may be in the improvement of his farm and stock, the manufacturer's in the perfecting of his appliances, the merchant's in extending his business, the mechanic's or salaried official's in paying for his house. But no matter what may be a man's scheme for investment or accumulation, the risk of death before his scheme has prospered is ever impending, and the consequent failure of the scheme can be provided against only by life insurance. The house may be nearly paid for when death, without insurance, will disperse the savings of years by the inability of the wife to redeem the property. It is because it seems desirable that men should be afforded protection against so disastrous a defeat of their schemes, without at the same time involving other and not needed investments, that we have directed attention to the system of The Dominion Safety Fund Life Association, St. John, N. B., which, when understood, will be found to exactly meet the wants of those who desire insurance, and yet desire to pursue their own schemes of accumulation or investment,