

French Bounties.

If Mr. Chamberlain perseveres in pushing his plea for a large grant to assist the West India Sugar growers, who claim to have suffered heavy losses from the competition of the bounty-fed beet sugar of Germany and France, a similar claim for consideration should be lodged on behalf of Newfoundland. The exporters of fish from that country are being rapidly ruined by finding in every foreign market the bounty-fed French fish. By means of a bounty of \$2.00 per quintal on all fish shipped to foreign markets the French fishermen has made it impossible for the Newfoundlanders and Nova Scotians to obtain a margin of profit from shipments of fish.

Mr. Chamberlain advances as a reason for extending assistance to the West Indies that it would enable the population "to tide over a crisis until France recognizes the impolicy of the bounty system." If French recognition of the impolicy of giving her fishermen \$2.00 per quintal on exports to foreign markets is much longer deferred, the fish merchants of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia will be compelled to seek other occupations. Newfoundland with her ever present French shore difficulty as a grievance, may yet occupy first place in the attention of the English Cabinet.

A Miner's Wealth.

The Insurance Press of New York, in referring to the special rates of insurance granted to miners and others leaving for the Klondyke, indulges in the following graceful and pretty praise of the miner's wealth and calling:

"A miner's wealth is clean. It is not accursed by the stains of any man's, woman's or child's life-blood. The tears of the widow have dimmed it not. It has bribed no juries, prostituted no man's brains, ruined no prodigal son, incited no cut-throat competition. Not a soul has been robbed, nobody has been pinched, nobody wronged because of it. It is drawn from the storehouse of Nature and of God, and the man who at some inconvenience to himself takes what Nature is inclined to let him have is a public benefactor, a man honorable and deserving of honor more than he of the tape and tucker who can get all the life insurance or anything else he can pay for.

To the Klondyke then, ye hardy sons of Aurora and babes of the North-wind! The gambler's chances of getting beached a thousand miles from nowhere on a frozen river, smitten with epidemical meningitis or merely frozen (or what is equally desirable, starved to death) are of the star attractions which appeal to every man of adventurous taste on this trip. Who shall babble of green fields, of suffering and death, of failure? The man who does not know that it is better to be dead than poor must have good grounds of hope in the future.

And then the return to civilization. What a triumphant march of victory! And fixed for life, eh? But nearly knocked out in the process? Well, you fought fair. That was the reason your family received you on your return with a cry of mingled sorrow and rejoicing—the cry which burst from the lips of every British sailor on that October morning when Nelson was lost and Trafalgar was won."

The Late Chief Justice Davie. The death of Chief Justice Davie, at the early age of 46, has called forth expressions of regret from all parts of the Dominion. From a very excellent sketch of his life published in the *Vancouver World*, we reprint the following:

"These who knew Hon. Theodore Davie best thought the most of him. He was a steadfast friend. Possessed of a big heart and full of sympathy for all in distress, he was in every way a worthy man, whom to know was to admire. He has gone to his reward, but his memory will ever remain green with those who had the pleasure of his acquaintanceship and confidence."

Fire Fighting.

In order to ascertain which nation holds first place in the fire extinguishing department, it has been suggested to the authorities of the Paris Exhibition of 1900, that an international tournament open to all countries should be held. As a means of improving the knowledge and adding to the efficiency of firemen throughout the world, the proposed tournament would serve a very useful purpose, and give those engaged therein a chance to study the methods and appliances for fire fighting in different countries.

At the very disastrous fire in Cripplegate, London, there was much adverse criticism of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, and its chief would probably welcome such an opportunity as the Paris Exhibition and Tournament would furnish for comparing his men, engines, hose and ladders with those of Canada and the United States.

A New Corporation.

We notice that a new Corporation called the International Registry Company, with a capital of \$250,000, is being organized in New York. Its use and purposes is the registration of the names of travellers and supplying them with identification cards along with a morocco case and an Accident Insurance policy.

The Company intend doing business in Canada, and will, it is stated, shortly open offices in Toronto and Montreal. This is an international company in fact, as it will have offices extending from San Francisco to New York, London, Paris, Rome and round the world. The Company has proved a success in the United States, and have contracted with the Ocean Accident Corporation for accident policies to cover Canada and Great Britain.

Newfoundland Budget.

The figures presented to the Newfoundland Legislature show an estimated deficit of \$213,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30th next. Complaint is made of poor fisheries and low prices last season.

But we are glad to note a prediction that the estimated expenditure for the present year will be met by "a changed tariff and the improvement in trade that