

According to the *Summerside Journal* some of the boys are making a practice of stealing apples, a practice which the *Journal* deprecates and advises the boys to keep out of its orchard. Of course it is wicked to steal, but boys will be boys and even young men at college are prone to steal apples, as owners of orchards in the vicinity of colleges can testify. The only way to get over the trouble seems to be to make friends with the boys and compromise with them. Give them the freedom of a good apple tree and exact from them a promise to let the rest of the orchard alone. "There is honor among thieves" and the boys will usually keep their promise. The worst effect of apple stealing is not the loss of apples, but the damage that is done to the trees. Branches are ruthlessly broken off and carried away. A few boys in an orchard are more destructive than worms, caterpillars, grubs or any other pest of that kind.

How often a verdict of death from blowing out the gas has been rendered, and many a man or woman has been put down as a greenhorn because of it. It is not long since a man was found dead in a hotel, and the jury, instead of finding that death was caused by suffocation resulting from blowing out the gas, found that the cause was a defective gas-cock. The one in question had nothing to stop it when it was turned far enough, and so in all probability the unfortunate man turned it either too far or not far enough, so allowing the gas to escape. There may have been many deaths from this cause, but this is the first verdict. A gas cock of this kind is very difficult to turn just to the right point. One is almost sure to turn it too far, and in the dark there is no way to remedy it. It would seem advisable to have a law that gas-cocks should be of an approved pattern, and that there should be an inspection of hotels where gas is used.

The prospects are that there will be a large through freight business from Montreal to Halifax during the coming winter and spring, and were proper facilities provided the Allan and Dominion Lines should land their Upper Province freight here for shipment over the Intercolonial, and not take it on to Portland as formerly. The great question is, is the Intercolonial properly equipped to handle a largely increased freight business, and to make quick delivery at Montreal and Quebec? Two winters ago the want of sufficient wharf accommodation at Halifax, and great delay in the delivery of freight at Montreal, caused the leading commercial journals of the latter city to proclaim Halifax a failure as the winter port of the Dominion, and as a result most of the freight last winter was landed at Portland. Since then the wharf facilities at Richmond have been largely increased, and no delay in landing freight should now be experienced. This cause of delay having been remedied it now remains to be proved whether the Intercolonial has been provided with sufficient powerful freight engines and rolling stock to carry all the freight that may be offered to its destination with despatch. Also whether measures have been taken to prevent snow blockades by the erection of snow sheds at all necessary places, and the purchase of sufficient snow ploughs to quickly clear the tracks after a storm. If these precautions have been taken the claims of Halifax to be the winter port of the Dominion will soon be recognized by the importers of the Upper Provinces, and the volume of business transacted here during the winter and spring will attain to immense proportions.

Mr. Henniker Heaton, M. P., who is visiting Canada, has in view the reduction of the postal rate to two cents throughout the English-speaking world. This would be a great boon, and if it can be carried out with satisfactory results to the respective governments we hope the day may be hastened. Mr. Heaton is also anxious to see a cable laid between Canada and Australia, a project the principal obstacle to which is the financial one, but that ought not to be long insuperable. The present cables connecting Australia with the rest of the world are giving a by no means satisfactory service. Breaks are not infrequent, probably owing to the fact that a large region through which they pass is subject to volcanic disturbances. The route between the north-east coast of Australia and Vancouver's Island is considered feasible, the only objection being the stretch of deep sea involved. This, however, is not considered very serious, as the cable has not so many enemies in deep water. One of the most destructive of sub-aquatic insects which attack the cables in the sea is the teredo of the China seas, so small that it can only be seen with the microscope, but so vigorous in boring its way through the cable that a tubing of brass has to be provided. These things tell in favor of the all British route by way of the Pacific, and we hope that Mr. Heaton will be successful in stirring up anew the promoters of the scheme. The following passage from the *Leeds Mercury* shows that there is a "conspiracy of silence" on the subject of the proposed cable:—"It seems hardly credible, and yet is unquestionably a fact, that several of the London morning papers refused to publish a very important communication on this subject, deprecating the subsidy to the Eastern Telegraphic Companies, which was laid before Lord Knutsford by Mr. Sanford Fleming, a Canadian gentleman of distinction, who was one of the representatives of the Dominion at the Colonial Conference in 1887. Whatever may have been the motives of this extraordinary 'boycott' on the part of our metropolitan contemporaries, we cannot think that the incident is one which reflects any credit upon British journalism, and we shall certainly do what lies in our power to inform the British public of the facts with regard to a very serious question of inter-Imperial communication." The press is undoubtedly much indebted to the existing companies, and entertains a sentiment of gratitude which consists largely of a lively sense of favors to come. But it is a small piece of business to obstruct a project which would bind closer together the parts of the British Empire.

What will be left free from adulteration and fraud in the "Neighboring Republic" we wonder? "Blood oranges" are now manufactured in New York by injecting aniline dyes into the fruit! Moral, unless you can pluck your blood oranges from the parent stem it will be better to leave them severely alone.

The action of Germans at Bagamoyo, in issuing a decree authorizing traffic in slaves, is most disgraceful. The Sultan of Zanzibar, on the 1st of August last, put a stop to the traffic in his dominions, and in consequence of this many of the slave-dealers removed to Bagamoyo, where they are carrying on their remunerative business. The action of the Germans in authority at Bagamoyo, even if countermanded by the Berlin Government, will do much harm, as the traffic has revived to an extent unknown in thirty years. Permits to recover runaways will lead to the capture of free natives, and serious difficulties will be certain to ensue on the British coast line. The Germans saw, after the decree of the Sultan prohibiting the traffic, a good chance to profit by permitting it in their territory, and so, regardless of righteousness, they have gone into it. If the colonial action should be enclosed by the Berlin Government it will be a disgrace to a Christian nation, and the attitude of England on the subject being so decidedly opposite, she will be forced into a position of antagonism to Germany which will be very unpleasant. It will be of little avail for Britain to set her face against the slave traffic, if Germany, in order to make up for the ruined trade of the territory, resorts to the slave traffic, which is undoubtedly a source of wealth. It is to be hoped that the attempt to protect the traffic will not be long successful.

Early autumnal frosts are a fruitful source of loss to our farmers, and anything that can be devised to protect the crops from this evil ought to be eagerly welcomed. Sometimes a heavy frost will occur quite early in the season, when very little of the crop has been harvested, and if nothing is done to protect the plants a heavy loss in quality if not in quantity will ensue. An experienced farmer can usually tell pretty accurately when there is danger of such a frost, and if he understands how to circumvent it he will be able to save his crop for perhaps another month's growth. It is out of the question to heat the air sufficiently to keep the temperature above freezing. So what must be done, if possible, is to prevent the sod and plants from radiating their heat to the sky. The burning of what is called a smudge fire on the windward side of the field is said to afford perfect protection from frost. The smudge is just a smouldering heap of rubbish, with straw and chips. It may be slightly dampened so as to make much smoke and little fire. A thin film, so thin that the stars may be seen through it, will prevent radiation and maintain on the surface of the plants a temperature from six to ten degrees greater than could be recorded with out the protecting veil. The smudge fire deserves the attention of our farmers; they may, if rightly employed, find in it a true friend. Of course every intelligent farmer knows that thorough drainage is the most effectual preventative of frost, and this first should be attended to. Damp soils, on which evaporation produces a loss of heat, are especially liable to frost, and it is from such localities that we hear most frequently of destructive frosts. In the case of large tracts under cultivation more than one smudge would be required. The farmer himself would have to judge of the number that would raise smoke enough to protect the crops.

At the recent Congress of Trades and Labor, held at Ottawa, a resolution was passed in favor of the principle of electing the Governors General of the Dominion. The *St. John Globe* of the 13th inst. takes sides with the congress mainly on the following grounds:—"That the system in vogue, that of appointment by the British Government, presupposes incapacity of our people for electing our Chief Magistrate. Election by the people or by Parliament would have the effect of preventing extravagant expenditure in connection with the Governor General's establishment, and of reforming 'the frivolous and silly' doings at Rideau Hall." Our contemporary expresses the opinion that election of Governors-General and Lieutenant Governors is sure to come in time. There are two sides, the right and the wrong side, to every question, and the right side of this, as of every matter affecting the welfare of our country, is the side which we desire to be on, and to advocate as public journalists. We cannot see that adherence to the present system of appointment of Governors presupposes incapacity of the electorate for choosing these important functionaries, but merely that in the opinion of the country the existing system compares favorably with the elective system of the United States, and that we are satisfied to leave well enough alone. Our Governors-General have been carefully selected from among Britain's best statesmen, and have been for the most part men well adapted by education and practical experience for the position. They have also been absolutely, as far as Dominion politics are concerned, non-partizan. And finally we have only to vince dissatisfaction with a Governor-General to insure his recall. On the other hand were our Governors elected by the people, or by an electoral college, or by parliament, we would have partizan occupants of the office who would have the good will of one party, and the ill-will of the other, and who would be continually subject to suspicion of partizan leanings. Thus the Presidential elections in the neighboring Republic are certainly not characterized by anything that would recommend the elective system to us in preference to that which has hitherto worked smoothly and without friction or difficulty of any kind. And finally the people might be dissatisfied with and tired of a Governor elected, but there would be no recourse but to put up with their choice to the end of his term. We fail to see that either the expenditure in connection with the establishment of an elected Governor would be more under the control of the people or their representatives than at present, or that there would be any greater facilities for effecting reform.