

London Advertiser.

FOUNDED IN 1863.
NOON AND EVENING DAILY.
WESTERN ADVERTISER WEEKLY.
THE LONDON ADVERTISER CO.,
Limited, Publishers.
191-193 Dundas Street, London, Ont.

PHONE NUMBERS:
Business Department.....197
Editorial Rooms.....194 and 193
Job Printing Department.....175

TO SUBSCRIBERS.
Readers of The Advertiser are requested to favor the management by reporting any irregularities in delivery.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES. City:
Daily, Delivered by Carrier.....\$5.00
One week.....10
Daily, Delivered by Carrier Outside City:
One year.....\$2.00
One month.....25
Daily, by Mail, Outside City:
One year.....\$2.00

The Advertiser is on sale regularly at the following news stands, where subscriptions may be left:
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LONDON, TUESDAY, AUG. 17.

AGAINST THE HALF-TIME SYSTEM.

The report of the British inter-departmental committee on partial exemption from school attendance (the half-time system) has been issued as a parliamentary paper, and is signed by all the members. In a brief survey of the present state of affairs, the committee draws attention to the difference between the nature of partial exemption in agricultural districts, and that in manufacturing districts. In the latter, the bylaws usually require the child to attend five meetings of the school a week, going to the factory for half a day and to the school for the other half. In agricultural districts it takes the form of total exemption for certain months in the summer or autumn. The conditions of exemption may be either a certificate of proficiency or a certain number of attendances in a given time.

Dealing with the effect of the partial exemption upon the reorganization of the schools, the committee finds it altogether undesirable, and declares the opinion of teachers to be "practically unanimous in desiring the cessation of the system in all its forms." It causes great difficulty in classes, because half-timers do not keep up with the progress of the other children, and the pace of the whole class has to be kept back. Half-time children have to be at the mills at 6 a.m., instead of the school at 9 a.m. They are consequently too tired in the afternoon to do their school work, and when the mill work is done in the afternoon the effect is to give the half-timer much longer hours than the ordinary child has.

The committee finds no solid ground for the belief that the system has advantages which compensate for the admitted evils to which it gives rise. It finds also a steady decline in the estimation in which it is held by the trades concerned, employers for the most part being ready to abandon it. In agriculture it is being recognized that the odd and unskilled labor which the half-timer generally gets to do is almost valueless as a training for farming. In Lancashire the idea of the system's educative value in the cotton trade is steadily being given up, while in Macclesfield the silk trade is ready to abandon it. It is true the mass of working people, especially those of Lancashire and Yorkshire, still favor the system, but the labor leaders are for abolition. The latter recognize that the influence of the system on the future career of the half-timer as a wage-earner is most injurious. In many trades the majority of the boys get no permanent employment, and the result is to swell the ranks of casual labor and ultimately of the unemployed. The half-time system manufactures the workless of the future, while at the same time keeping the adult unemployed of the present from obtaining work which they could do as well as or better than the children who are employed. Most of the parents who are thus handicapping their children's future by exploiting them in their youth are in receipt of good wages.

The committee recommends the total abolition of partial exemption from school attendance from a date not earlier than June 1, 1911; the abolition, also, of total exemption under the age of 13, and exemption at that age only on certain conditions, and not on the ground of a mere number of attendances at school.

RUSSIAN REPRESSION.

In spite of the fact that the revolutionary movement in Russia has died away, the work of repression continues with increasing ferocity. Some relaxation was recently announced in particular districts, but the greater portion of the empire remains in time of peace under some form of martial law. The number of capital sentences on civilians for the period between October, 1905, and December, 1908, was 4,002, and the number of executions is officially stated to be 2,118. These sentences were passed, moreover, not by ordinary civil process, but by exceptional military courts. The number

of persons in exile in Siberia and Northern Russia, mostly punished without trial, by administrative process, under a system of exile involving much physical suffering and privation, was estimated in October last at 74,000. Since 1905 the number of persons in Russian prisons has more than doubled, totalling at last accounts 130,000, while the prisons were built to hold 107,000. In most of these prisons epidemic diseases, especially typhus, are prevalent. The sick and the well lie together, their fetters not being removed even in cases of fever. In some prisons the wardens systematically beat and maltreat the sick and well alike. There is also evidence of more deliberate tortures employed to punish the defiant or to extract confession from the suspect.

Such, in brief, are facts recited in a letter of protest addressed to Sir Edward Grey, foreign secretary, on the initiative of the Russian parliamentary committee which recently visited England, and the publication of the letter at the time of the czar's visit to Cowes was no doubt designed. The object of those signing the document, who include many prominent churchmen and statesmen, is to draw attention to the facts and to place on record the impression which has been formed of them in England. The signatories admit that no direct intervention is possible and disclaim any wish to enlarge the area of international controversy; but they think there may be means "by which a friendly government may exert an influence to ameliorate the lot of those who are suffering under the evils which we have described." There can be no question but that the infliction of such wrongs upon Russians and the indignation which they excite among the people of Great Britain, are relevant and important factors in Anglo-Russian relations. The offenses of many of those who are suffering would in a free country be no offense at all, but rather the fulfillment of the plain duty of the citizen. The sufferers include many members of parliament, whose crime was to do what they were elected to do, between two and three hundred having at one time or another been cast into prison. The feeling in England is that so long as the internal condition of Russia remains as it is, it is idle to talk of rapid progress of liberal institutions in that country, or to think of the establishment of such intimate and cordial relations between Britain and Russia as exist between the former country and France.

THE MARITAL GRASSHOPPER.

[London Chronicle.]
What is a grasshopper? The latest definition comes from Western Australia. Domestic servants are almost unprocureable there, and wives have to do nearly all their own household work. The consequence is that they are compelled to recuperate at the seaside in summer. In their absence the husbands have to prepare their own meals, and do domestic duty generally. Husbands so engaged have come to be locally known as "grasshoppers." No doubt the word is the husband of the more familiar "grass widow."—London Chronicle.

THE MAN OF THE HOUR.

[Montreal Herald.]
A friendly observer writes in the London Daily Mail that Mr. Lloyd George "has entered the small circle of foremost statesmen upon whom depend the fate of parties." For a public man that, of course, is the highest compliment. The distinction has been won in the last few weeks, and what clinched it was a fighting speech, cheered to the echo by a London audience, in which he gave his dual opponents the soundest drubbing they have ever received at the hands of a public man in high office. He showed just what part the land-owning peers play in the life of the country, and it took just about three days for the friends of the peers in the newspaper press to give up the argument and plead for something else to talk about.

OPPOSES EASIER DIVORCE.

[London Guardian.]
Every extension of facilities for divorce takes more deeply into the mire. From costly acts of Parliament, obtainable only by the rich, we proceed to a divorce court, the services of which are available to the middle class; thence we descend to subsidiary provincial courts which are to bring divorce within the reach of all. And it would be idle to imagine that we should stop there.

The writer adds that the passing of the divorce act, "inflicted irreparable injury to the national morality," and urges that "it is at least within our power to refuse to take another and a longer step upon the slippery slope."

COINS AND STAMPS.

[Montreal Star.]
Bad judgment or bad taste in making coins or postage stamps makes velvet for the collectors. The United States cent because the designer divided honors with the Martyred President, by putting his own initials in a very prominent place on the coin. The result is that the new cent has already run into the premium class. One of the most valuable postage stamps today, easily commanding upwards of a hundred dollars apiece from philatelists, is what is known as the "Connell stamp." Before the days of confederation, the postmaster-general of the Province of New Brunswick was a Mr. Connell. A new issue of postage stamps for the colony was ordered, and the printer, instead of following the custom of placing the vignette of Queen Victoria on the stamp, got hold of a portrait of Mr. Connell and used it instead, thinking to please the official. A certain number of the stamps got out before the change was noticed,

when the postmaster had the rest of the issued called in and destroyed. Thus it is that hungry collectors to this day search old trunks of letters for a Connell stamp and will pay liberally for it.

GEN. FRENCH.

[Hamilton Spectator.]
We would have preferred Kitchener, of course, but failing him, Gen. French looks good. He is a soldier with whom Canadians are well acquainted through his record in the South African war, and what he did there was enough to commend him to red-blooded men.

THE CENSOR OF PLAY.

[London Nation.]
The censor of person was examined before the joint committee on Thursday, and made some interesting and valuable disclosures. Asked to describe his qualifications for the work of literary suppression, he explained that he had been a "bank manager," and had written some (unperformed) plays. He could not say on what "principle" he came to his decisions, but he tried to detect "indecent," and to eliminate personalities affecting any public character. But he had no power to prohibit the production of Wyndham's plays—perhaps the most indecent ever written—and he denied that Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Beattie had been caricatured on the stage. He also allowed "a good deal of latitude" to French plays, we suppose on the ground that the morals of people who speak or understand French are hopelessly corrupted already. German plays were read by his wife, as he did not understand German. He objected to any appeal from his (or his wife's) decisions, on the ground of expense, and for other reasons.

COLONIES AND DREADNOUGHTS.

[Manchester Guardian.]
A very important question for the home Government is what it means to do with the offered colonial Dreadnoughts. It is now abundantly clear that these offers were made under a complete misapprehension of the facts. Canada knew better, but Australia and New Zealand, being more distant, they had to rely on briefs and therefore misleading cables, quite seriously mistook an artificial naval scare for serious danger. As we wish the colonies to succour our extremity, not our panics, it is the duty of the Government at the conference to lay before the colonists the actual facts, and to leave them perfectly free to withdraw their offers should they wish. We do not suppose that the colonists will do that, but they may very well wish to devote their zeal to other, though allied, objects. It is to our interest not less than theirs that they should.

"FORGET IT."

[Exchange.]
"If you know of a skeleton hidden away, in a closet or garret and kept from the day in the dark, and you know that its stink is a dark display, would cause grief and sorrow and lifelong dismay; it's a pretty good plan to forget it."
"If you know of a thing that would darken the joy of a man or a woman, a girl or a boy, that will wipe out a smile or the least way annoy a fellow, or cause any gladness to a fellow, it's a pretty good plan to forget it."

HANGS IN AIR BY WRIST-HOLD

London Man Tries to Jump Off Bridge—Saved by Daring Police.

London, Aug. 17.—A thrilling rescue on the Tower Bridge was described at the Mansion House police court, when Daniel Solomon, a young furniture dealer, was accused of attempting to take his own life.

While Police Sergeant Mearns was crossing the bridge he saw Solomon disappear over the railings on the west side. He rushed to the spot and found the man hanging by his hands over the water.

By kneeling down and stretching his arms through the railings he was able to grasp the man's right arm and wrist. He held him fast, shouting for help.

Police Constable Travis and a bridge employee came to his assistance, and the sergeant, with remarkable resources, quickly devised a plan of rescue. A cart which was passing was stopped, and a chain trace was reeved from it to the police constable and the bridge employee climbed over the railing with this and attempted to pass it beneath Solomon's armpits.

It was pitch dark, and the work was attended by the utmost difficulty and danger. A slip or a false step and they would have been plunged into the river beneath.

All this time the sergeant was grasping Solomon's arm and supporting the whole weight of his body, the strain being added to by the efforts of Solomon to free himself.

At length by a great effort of skill and agility the trace was securely fastened round the man who was to die, the constable, and the bridge employee climbed back, and the man was hauled up over the railing. Solomon was discharged after he had promised not to repeat the attempt.

CRUSHED TO DEATH.

Cardinal, Ont., Aug. 16.—While the steamer Dundurn was taking the lift lock here last night one of the deck hands, named Belding, of St. John, N. B., fell overboard and was crushed to death between the vessel and pier. One brother resides in Hamilton, Ont.

JOHN DRAWS 23.

Toronto, Ont., Aug. 16.—John Smith, the colored man who was arrested a few days ago on charges of theft from jewelry stores, was sent to the Central Prison today for twenty-three months on conviction of stealing a watch from A. C. Kent & Co. and a ring from Myrie Bros.

SACRED BRITISH PRINCIPLE

(Continued From Page One.)

nish power at \$23.50, not a contract that will furnish power at \$42, and in all probability much more."

Mr. McEvoy maintained that the people had not voted on that proposition. Power was to cost, when they voted on it, from \$17.50 to \$23.50. The people thought this included everything. They never heard of such estimates and expenditures as have since been brought to bear on the matter. He desired the question to go back to the people so that every man would know exactly what power was going to cost, and also that he might know what he must pay for all losses in case the power was not sold.

Voted for it.
"I voted for Niagara power at \$23.50, and would do so again," said Mr. McEvoy. "The proposition now is an altogether different one. We find now that the taxpayer will have to make up the difference in cost of power used by others. It was thought that those who used power should pay for it, but this does not seem to be the case. The consumer pays for the power to a certain point, and the citizen has ever written—and he does so by petition is acted upon, the whole question will come back to the people, and be decided on its merits, the rate-payers knowing full well the facts of the case. If it is approved as it now stands I will have no objection."

Hon. Adam Beck.
Ald. Fitzgerald moved that Hon. Adam Beck be heard. Ald. Beck declared he would have no objection, provided Mr. McEvoy, who presented the petition, had leave to reply. This was agreed. Mr. Beck declared that he had no desire to enter into a controversy with Mr. McEvoy. He held no brief for the Government. He came to the meeting to urge upon the aldermen the advisability of erecting a joint plant for the water and power. This was urgent, and he advised that the project be hurried through. As for the power contract it had been agreed by the council, and if they had desired to go back on the project it should have been done at that time. The city was committed to the scheme, and there was nothing to do but go ahead with the undertaking.

Against Delay.
Ald. Saunders opposed any further delay. There was no guarantee that if the legislation was disallowed that they would get cheaper power. There was nothing to be gained by delay. Mr. McEvoy declared that he could wish to say what the commission would do.

"They made a number of promises on the stump, which they have not yet fulfilled," declared Mr. McEvoy. Ald. Garratt thought the proper place for the petition was the special power committee, and he moved that it be referred there.

Ald. Beattie seconded that motion, while Ald. Rose advocated that the petition be either filed or granted, and the thing settled. There seemed to be no guarantee for anything.

Ald. Beattie spoke.
"There is no use sending the petition to the power committee unless the whole report of that committee be referred back also," said Ald. Beattie. "If the contracts are let, the whole mischief will have been done, and there will be no redress. I move that the prayer of the petition be granted, and that it be sent to the Governor-General, I have said false, but that a vote should have been taken on the present contract. It could have been done in January last, and by this time the sub-station would have been half completed."

"When I consider the act validating the power contracts, I do not hesitate to say that a more iniquitous act was never placed in the statute books. One of the cardinal principles of the Magna Charta was that citizens had the right to appeal to the court if they had grievance. This great principle has been abrogated by this vicious piece of legislation."

Government Roasted.
"The Government overrode this principle, for which they have been harshly criticised, and none too harshly. There have been many misrepresentations. I have said false, but nevertheless, misrepresentations. These were relied upon by the council, and that is the reason the council asked that the contract be validated. We all know whence came the motion in the Western Ontario Municipalities Union, and when it was read the council stampeded and approved it. I venture to say that very few of the aldermen would repeat the offence now. They will all say that they are sorry they voted to validate the contract."

Ald. Garratt moved that Ald. Beattie's motion to send the petition to the Governor-General, but on being informed by his worship that he had already had a motion before the council to send it to the power committee, he withdrew that motion, and seconded Ald. Beattie's.

City Up Against It.
Ald. Moorhead found fault with the commission in asking the people to vote for power at \$23.50, but when the contract was presented it appeared much different. However, the city was up against a big proposition. If they went back they were liable for law-suits, and the city would suffer. He hardly knew what to do.

Ald. Parsons favored going ahead with the scheme. The city was committed to it, and he did not think they should be deterred by eleventh-hour petitions. The people were getting sick of this power agitation and were demanding some action.

"We should get the Governor-General's opinion on the question," said Ald. Garratt. "If we can get power for \$23.50, we should know it, if we cannot, we also want to know it."

Ald. Saunders declared that no answer would come until Christmas, perhaps not then, and a long legal battle would ensue, and London would not be in a position to receive power when it came. A year's controversy would put the city in a bad way. Had the petition been presented two months ago, he felt he could have considered it, but not now. He referred to the hard fight Hon. Adam Beck had to bring

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Irish Hand-Embroidered Robes, in shirt-waist style, with linen collars and cuffs; waist and skirt most beautifully hand-embroidered in floral designs; material in extra fine quality Irish mull, soft and silky finish. Sizes from 34 to 38. On sale tomorrow for\$6.95

Ladies' Cool and Comfortable Kimonos at Greatly Reduced Prices

Ladies' Handsome, Cool and Comfortable Full-Length Kimonos, of fine American dimities, in Paisley and floral designs; some half-fitting and some loose back styles, with girdle to match. All sizes. Worth up to \$1.75, reduced to98¢

2-Yard Wide Linoleum at Little Cost

Two-yards wide imported Linoleum, in floral and tile designs. Regular price 37½¢ a yard. On sale tomorrow, square yard29¢

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the power question to the present issue, and he should be given some support at this time.

Cost Reduced.

"Let us deal with this question like men," he said. "If we are going to be killed by it, let us be killed. The cost of power has been reduced throughout the country—in some places nearly half—and that is something. If Mr. Beck and others have done wrong they will suffer for it just as we will. They will have to answer to public opinion from Mr. Meredith whether or not this would invalidate the contract. He thought there was a possibility here of having the question settled, and he advised the council to secure Mr. Meredith's opinion. Ald. Beattie also opposed the awarding of tenders, and insisted that the council should wait until they secured such favorable terms and treatment as Hamilton received.

Motion Lost.

Ald. Beattie's motion to ask for disallowance of the legislation was put and lost on the following division: Yeas—Ald. Beattie, Stevenson, Garratt and Gerry. Nays—Ald. Parsons, Stewart, Moorhead, Fitzgerald, Saunders and Rose.

The Supplies.

Ald. Stewart then moved that the following tenders be accepted:
The Bissell Company, of Toledo, Ohio, for 1,200 30-foot, 6-inch-top poles, for \$3,540.
The Bissell Company, of Toledo, Ohio, for 1,200 30-foot, 7-inch-top poles, for \$3,600.
The Bissell Company, of Toledo, Ohio, for 300 40-foot, 7-inch-top poles, for \$1,710.
The Bissell Company, of Toledo, Ohio, for 300 50-foot, 7-inch-top poles, for \$3,150.
The Bissell Company, of Toledo, Ohio, for 2,000 4-pin crossarms at \$50.
The Bissell Company, of Toledo, Ohio, for 2,500 6-pin crossarms at \$737.50.

London Bolt and Hinge Works, for braces, 9,000 ¼ by 1½ braces, for \$423.90.
Northern Electric Company, Toronto, 20,000 locust pins, for \$320.
London Bolt and Hinge Works, bolts, screws and washers, \$317.88.
The Locke Insulator Manufacturing Company, 20,000 deep-groove, double, porcelain insulators, for \$540.
The Wire and Cable Company, Montreal, for 53,000 pounds solid "T. B." weatherproof wire and 5,000 pounds stranded "T. B." weatherproof wire, at \$9.292.

The Lowest Tender.

Ald. Beattie stated that he had been informed that the lowest tender for poles on the last occasion was not asked to tender this time, although his price was the lowest, and still held good.

Engineer Sifton reported that he had sent the firm the specifications, and had asked them to tender. He had also asked them on several occasions to ratify their former tender, but they had refused to do so. Ald. Beattie declared himself satisfied with the explanation.

Ald. Beattie's Amendment.

Ald. Beattie then came forward with an amendment to obtain the opinion of the city solicitor as to what effect the defence of misrepresentation in case the hydro-electric commission brought suit against the city for arrears in sinking fund and interest, would have on the contract, whether or not it would make it void.

The motion was as follows: "That the opinion of the city solicitor be obtained as to whether or not, provided that misrepresentations as to material facts can be proven to have been made by the hydro-electric commission to this council, before or at the time the contract was signed, the city in the event of its refusing to carry out the contract, and an action being brought against it by the commission to recover the amount of interest and sinking fund for the cost of the transmission line, and the annual charges for maintenance, etc., could set up such misrepresentations as a defence to the action, notwithstanding the power commission amendment act, 1909, and the resolution passed by this council requesting the Legislature to validate the contract. Would such defence be calling

in question the validity of the contract within the meaning of said contract? Or would the contract be unenforceable against the city of London only? And in the meantime that no tender be accepted."

An Explanation.

Ald. Beattie explained to the council his somewhat lengthy motion. He advised that the council do nothing, but simply stand still. Provided the commission did sue the city, what would the effect be? He would like to know that the same as the rest of us. Let us do our part, and let Mr. Beck do his, and stand by the result, no matter who fails."

Objected to Mr. Beck.

Ald. Fitzgerald moved that the Hon. Adam Beck be heard.
"I certainly do object," said Ald. Beattie. "If Mr. Beck wants to speak why did he not do so before the debate commenced? This is no time. It is very irregular."

Mr. Beck stated that he did not care to make a speech. However, he did not wish the statement of Ald. Beattie to go abroad that the commission had misrepresented the facts of the case. "I did not say that you did so fraudulently or purposely," said Ald. Beattie. "I guarded that, but I did say that there were misrepresentations."

Says No Misrepresentation.

Mr. Beck declared that the commission did not misrepresent conditions. No price for power was given Hamilton, merely estimates, such as London had received. He also declared that Hamilton had no contract with the Cataract Power Company for power, merely for street lighting.

Ald. Beattie insisted that Hamilton had much the best of the arrangement at present, regardless of the fact whether they had estimates there or actual prices for power.

Ald. Stevenson's Position.
Ald. Stevenson declared that he was tired of having the thrust hanging over his head, like Damocles' sword, that if the city did not hurry they would be sued for power. He declared that he was in favor of cheap power, but not the power that was being given to the city at present. An infamous report of the engineer, followed by that of an outside engineer, had advised that the street lighting be still \$80 per annum, or about \$80 per horsepower. They had been led to believe that street lighting would be cut in two, but now it develops that the price will not be reduced. This was one of the advantages held out to the workman, and he now must make up the difference that will give large manufacturers cheap power, while he will continue to foot the bill.

Cost of Street Lighting.

"We thought we would get street lighting for \$12,000, when we find that it will cost us \$30,000," said Ald. Stevenson. "We promised the people better and cheaper street lights, but we are not giving them it." He also objected to the favored treatment of Hamilton, stating that it gave the Ambitious City a decided advantage as a manufacturing centre. He advised the city of London to hold out for as good terms, and he was confident they would receive them. There was no doubt London would bear the heavy end of the load, and he did not consider it fair nor just.

Ald. Stevenson also objected to placing the water and power plants in one terms, stating that the result would not be satisfactory.

House Lighting, Too.

He also declared that the workman who was promised that his home would be lit with electricity at a very small price was now finding out that it would cost him as much as it all ways did, or nearly so. That was

cheap power for the workman. The statement that the two plants under one roof would save much money was merely drawing a herring across the trail.

A Little Tiff.

Ald. Saunders and Ald. Stevenson had a little tiff, because Ald. Stevenson had not attended as many power meetings as he should have done. The latter explained that he was opposed to large committees, and that his schemes had been given no consideration, and he did not consider it his duty to attend.

Mayor Stevely pointed out that the future of the power question was greater than most people anticipated, and there was no doubt that it would result satisfactorily in some measure. He advised going ahead with the proposition without delay.

Amendment Lost.

Ald. Beattie's amendment was put and lost on the following division: Yeas—Ald. Beattie, Garratt, Stevenson and Gerry. Nays—Ald. Parsons, Stewart, Moorhead, Fitzgerald, Saunders and Rose.

He also reported that work was progressing on the combined stations, and that the site had been selected.

DIFFERENCES SETTLED

G. T. Pacific and Canadian Northern at Peace With Employees.
Ottawa, Aug. 17.—The department of labor has received news of the satisfactory adjustment of two disputes which had begun to interrupt the operations respectively of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway and the Canadian Northern Railway companies in Western Canada.

By the settlements which have recently been accomplished in the case of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, and in the case of the Canadian Northern Railway, a stoppage of work has been obviated on the section in the west which at the present season would have been of a most serious character. The dispute on the lines of the Canadian Northern Railway Company arose out of differences between that company and its maintenance of ways employees in connection with a proposed reduction by the company of five cents per day in the wages for this class of labor. The award of the board in this case was in favor of the employees.

In respect of the adjustment of the dispute between the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company and its employees as firemen, conductors, brakemen, baggage men and yardmen, this dispute related to schedule of rates of pay and rules governing the service of various classes of employees, and to the dismissal of certain employees, and the sleeping and eating accommodations supplied to employees on the line. The unanimous report of the board in this matter stated that "after a hearing and consideration, the matters in dispute were amicably adjusted, with the exception of the claim of the employees that engineers detained on their engines two hours or more before commencement or after completion of trip will be paid for same at schedule rates, such detention to be paid for in addition to mileage run, but to be deducted when computing the overtime, in respect to which a majority of the board was disposed to agree with the contention of the employees."

The board is of opinion that the cases of certain of the men whose legal grievances were the subject of investigation and discussion might well be reconsidered by the officials of the company with a view to their restoration to its service.

Thieves have entered the famous cathedral of Capo d'Istria, near Trieste, and got away with gold and silver sacro-sacred vessels of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, worth over \$20,000.