

**Justifiable Failure to Punish.** As a sign of their disapproval of the conduct of those who attempted to hold meetings at which to denounce the British for declining to submit to the Boers, the good people of Scarborough, situated on the east coast of England, indulged in much window-breaking and bad language. The ringleaders in this disturbance of the peace have since been tried and dismissed with a warning from the judge not to do it again, which impels the "Financial News" (London), to say:

"While rioting is always to be deprecated, and must needs be put down with firmness, we are nevertheless glad that the participants in the Scarborough disturbances have not been fined or imprisoned. There is such a thing as patriotism, and such a thing as human nature, and when enemies of the Queen vaunt their enmity in the Queen's country during war time, one must not be too severe upon outraged loyal subjects who show their disapproval forcibly. In the circumstances, we cannot see that the others have any right to claim the protection of the State which they are insulting."

We are also glad that the Scarborough subjects of Her Majesty are not to be punished for their strongly pronounced objections to hearing any Whipster Davis, or wandering Dutchman, express contempt for the cause our countrymen have fought and died for.

**The Banking Capital of Canada.** The lists of the shareholders of the chartered banks of Canada as on December 31st, 1899, has just been presented to Parliament.

For the information of our readers at home and abroad, we have compiled an interesting table showing the paid-up capital of each institution, the number of shares into which the same is divided, and the total amount of each Province. It will be observed that at the close of last year, the paid-up capital of the banks holding Dominion charters amounted to \$64,434,000, of which amount the banks having their head offices in the Province of Quebec were represented by \$35,655,475.

The lists of shareholders in our banks are not by any means uninteresting as a study in the distribution of invested wealth. The total number of shareholders exceeds 22,000, and, although the large majority are resident in Canada, the addresses of many holders of stock show that dividends of the larger banks are distributed all over the British Isles.

**An Excellent Law.** Whatever diversity of opinion may exist among travellers upon the singular somnolency of the Maine Liquor Law, there can be no question about the admirable working of that excellent tribute to the sympathetic wisdom of those who framed the excellent legislative Act—the Maine Non-Forfeiture Law. The most recent illustration of the protection it affords to the widow and the fatherless is thus reported in the Montreal "Gazette":

"The Union Mutual Life Insurance Company, of

Portland, Me., through their Montreal manager, Mr. W. I. Joseph, has paid over \$4,000 in connection with the policy of \$5,000 upon the life of the late Mr. Alexander Sabiston, notwithstanding that the policy had lapsed for non-payment of premiums in September, 1896. Although the policy was, therefore, nearly five years in arrears, it was kept in force by virtue of the Maine Non-Forfeiture Law, which applies solely to policies issued by the Union Mutual Life Insurance Company."

The mere recording of this case compels admiration for such an excellent bit of legislation, and the State of Maine may well brag thereof.

**War Risks.** At the annual meeting of the British Workman's Assurance Company, the chairman made mention of a couple of curious claims, illustrating not only the perils incidental to the life of a soldier on active service, but also the wisdom shown by the practical business men who control life companies in charging an extra premium on war-risks. It seems that after the battle of Magersfontein, one of the seriously wounded men—he was shot through the lungs, chest and thigh—apparently died, while undergoing surgical treatment in the hospital. He was prepared for burial, and his name entered on the Government list as dead. Insurance on his life was paid to the man's parents, but they recently received the surprising information that the supposed dead man was alive again and invalided home. The London papers report an equally strange case in that of Private Burgess of the Royal Lancaster Regiment. His name appeared in the list of killed in the fighting to relieve Ladysmith, on February 22nd, and on receipt of the War Office notification of his death, insurance money was paid to Mrs. Burgess, who with her three children went into mourning. However, it seems that Private Burgess is a very tough and sturdy Lancashire lad, with a decided dislike to being put out of business by the Boers. Although seriously wounded twice, and officially declared dead, Burgess recovered, rejoined his regiment, and is now at it again, hammering Paul as hard as ever. At least Mrs. Burgess has received a letter bearing date March 22nd, in which Burgess declares he is not dead, and there is nothing for his wife to do except to wipe her eyes, discard her weeds, and discuss the mistake with the insurance company.

Yet the official killing of these British soldiers opens a very unpleasant train of thought, and we sincerely trust similar cases will not occur among the Canadians to harrow up the souls of suffering mothers and anxious wives.

**Justifiable Delay.** However, the mere recital of these curious stories of the war in South Africa ought to silence the critics of companies displaying a desire for satisfactory evidence of the death of insured soldiers. The promptitude of the British Workman's in paying claims to those dependent upon the gentlemen in khaki is most commendable; but, in