

O'Brien or the Drummond for example. If the mine is good, those who own it are not likely to sell shares to the public at twenty cents on the dollar. The people who will make money in Cobalt are those who have capital and who go to that district or send an agent to examine a proposition before investment. The stock quotations in Toronto and New York will tell them no more than they did during the British Columbia mining boom when thousands of small investors lost their savings in companies officered by prominent citizens.

It is nevertheless true that six million dollars' worth of silver, as Dr. Drummond pointed out, has been abstracted from a bit of wilderness "practically shunned by even the Indians only a year or two ago."

IN these days of discussion with reference to the place of the college man in politics, it is well to remember that the college man, not ballasted by a proper understanding and appreciation of ethical principles, may go as far astray as any other man. In the pursuit of success he may be careless of the means; and the added acuteness he obtains from his training may but make a more successful buccaneer. San Francisco, in its present days of rebuilding, presents to the public those squalid details of far reaching bribery and corruption which but serve to emphasise the governmental inaptitude which, except in the days of radical moral revulsion, the city governments of the United States have so often shown. And in front of this carnival of corruption, the very brains of the movement, stands the overthrown "little boss" of San Francisco, Abraham Ruef. A college bred man, clever and acute with all that racial keenness which has so often been shown by his compatriots in matters of public service, he has prostituted to the gaining of illicit monetary success, the ability which might have won a more than sufficient honest competence.

Able as a speaker, a master of that sophistry and skill in presenting the best side of a worthless case which is so often, for a time, successful with a popular audience, he has shown distinct ability in organising discontent for his own ends. A shrewd lawyer, he knew at first how to take fees instead of bribes. Success has

led him to rival in cynical openness the methods of Boss Tweed.

It has been his boast that every morning he reads Greek. Some years ago he astonished a college audience by saying, with an apparent honesty that came neither from cynicism or sardonic humour, that all his success came from the application of the precepts of his college days. And an awkward quarter of an hour was caused by his statement that whatever success he had obtained came from the application of the tenets of government he had learned in the classes presided over by his old preceptor, Professor Moses, of the University of California.

One or two instances will show, on a small scale, how his plans of corruption have been developed. An official of an industrial company whose plans for a necessary improvement were blocked by the city council, found that opposition died when the support of Ruef was enlisted. A business man, who found that the slightest infraction of a by-law was punished with rigour, gave Ruef a retainer, and at once difficulties ceased. Some years ago Ruef was instrumental in stirring up the city authorities to consider withdrawing liquor licenses from the French restaurants which have long been noted for the excellence of their cooking and their latitudinarian conceptions of morals. A fund was raised to retain Ruef's professional services; a few words from him to the authorities and the licenses were granted.

It is true that he worked in an environment peculiarly adapted to his ways. A city so wide open that not only was the "lid off" but the lid and its hinges had long since disappeared; a venal and ignorant civic administration; a business community convinced that it was necessary to buy not only concessions but rights as well—all these conditions readily aided him. But the significant and saddening fact, that it was an able college bred man who organised corruption for the benefit of himself and of his associates, attracts attention to the fact that mere cleverness and ability may be a positive detriment to society if not reinforced by an adequate moral sense. Society has more to fear from intellectual predatory parasites than from the unhoused proletariat.

The Intellectual Preference

CANADA has decided to give Great Britain an "intellectual preference" to use the words of the Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, Postmaster-General. The tendency has been in evidence for some years, but the first week in May will see the realisation of perfected arrangements.

At the present moment, newspapers and periodicals mailed from Great Britain to Canada are charged a rate of eight cents a pound. This is a prohibitive rate, and for years an agitation for reduction has been proceeding. To secure that reduction, it was necessary that Canada and Great Britain should co-operate. Canada has been willing for some time, but the British Postmaster-General found it harder to get into that frame of mind. He had more difficulties to contend with, more postal regulations to consider. Finally, however, an arrangement has been reached whereby this class of postal matter will be sent to Canada at one-quarter the present rates. People in this country will now be able to subscribe for British newspapers and periodicals without being taxed from one to five dollars a year for postage.

The thanks of the nation are due to Sir William Mulock, Sir Gilbert Parker, The Canadian Press Association, the present Postmasters-General of Canada and Great Britain, and to a number of others who have helped in the great reform. Sir William Mulock was the first official on this side to take it up, and Sir Gilbert Parker led in the agitation in Great Britain.

The "preference" has still to be explained. This new rate of two cents a pound is higher than the rate charged on United States publications, which are mailed to Canada at one cent a pound. Canada, therefore, was under the necessity of getting that rate raised. As it was fixed by a Convention between the two governments, the old Convention was cancelled and a new one negotiated. Under this new agreement, the United States publishers will pay four cents a pound on all periodicals mailed to Canada. This comes into force on May 7th.

In short, the result is: the British rate has been reduced from eight to two cents a pound, while the United States rate has been raised from one to four cents a pound. The Britisher will pay two cents after May 1st; the United States will pay four cents after May 7th. Thus, British periodicals will have a preference in this market.

There will not likely be any immediate displacement of United States periodicals by British, but in the course of a year or two, the sales of British publications here should be doubled, and the sales of United States periodicals cut in two. This is as it should be. A British country should have British literature. Strangest of all the features of this movement, is the circumstance that a French-Canadian Premier and a French-Canadian Postmaster-General were called upon to bear the burden of the delicate negotiations which were part of the final act in this postal drama.