

A Western paper gives good advice to the citizens of the place:—"Don't be a barnacle on the ship of progress. Put your shoulder to the wheel and give your town a boost on its onward march. Don't listen to the dire predictions of the local croaker and mossback, but take counsel with the energetic, enterprising, plucky citizens who are devoting their time and best efforts to make a metropolis of your native place."

The State of Montana can boast of according the highest political honor to a woman lawyer. Miss Ella J. Knowles is now Attorney General of the State—in other words she has attained one of the highest judicial positions in the United States. She has been a most successful lawyer, and her popularity with members of her profession, combined with her weight with the prohibition party, have resulted in her election. Her procedure during her term of office will be most carefully criticised, and the after success of her sex in active political life will be greatly affected by her actions.

Charles A. Buddensick, who has just completed his term of imprisonment in Sing Sing, is a man whose career should be of interest to builders and contractors whose temptation is similar to that which cost the released convict a term of over six years' service. He was convicted of having used inferior material in a building which he was constructing, the walls of which fell in, crushing to death one and injuring several of his employees. His punishment was well deserved, but, if the truth were known, it is not improbable that many contractors of his kind would have borne him company in his withdrawal from society.

The National debt of Canada is constantly being proclaimed by members of both the great political parties of our Dominion, and its proportions are sincerely deplored. Our friends of the neighboring Republic are still more to be pitied when the long pension roll is examined. In 1872 the pensions amounted to \$30,000,000, and it was thought then that the maximum amount had been reached. To-day, the immense sum of \$180,000,000 a year is demanded of the people, much of which is expended on pensioners whose claims are far from genuine. The great expense of maintaining a pension department, of employing some hundreds of clerks in pension work, is a heavy drain on the Republic. For our own part, we are quite content with our share of the National debt, considering what we have to show for it.

Our friends across the border are bearing with much equanimity the threats of the Chinese merchants of the Pacific coast, who protest that if the Exclusion Act is enforced they too will go to "home China." A more pleasing statement could not be made, for these merchants who have acquired their fortunes along the coast are in some respects more objectionable than their brothers of the poorer classes. The importation and sale of helpless Chinese girls has been carried on by them, the objectionable opium trade has passed directly through their hands, and they are also the proprietors of the famous gambling dives. If they return to the flowery kingdom the cheap laborers who have been under their protection will speedily vanish. This unexpected action of the merchants is very cheering to the hearts of those who believe in discouraging the Mongolian race from emigration to America.

Professor Abbot has formulated a curious theory concerning the spread of cholera, which is supported by observations extending over the past forty years. In some half-dozen cases where cholera has broken out on ship-board, a dark rain cloud has been observed before the arrival of the disease. In some cases where the cloud has broken over the fore-castle only the men quartered there have been affected, while the officers being out of the reach of the storm cloud have experienced no ill-results. A British Regiment in India once suffered severely from the disease, but tradition points to the rain cloud as its precursor. Dr. Abbot has therefore concluded that the bacilli are gathered up by a storm or cyclone, imprisoned in the humid particles of the air, or in colder regions frozen into hail stones, after which they descend naturally to the earth. The theory is certainly deserving of attention.

That an able, active man should die leaving scarcely a disinterested friend behind, is a deplorable event. That he should die hated and feared by all is sadder still, and many business men will feel a questioning pang when they consider the death of that prince of money-makers, Jay Gould, and the unflattering but truthful comments of the press thereupon. His vast wealth brought him neither health or happiness. He is dead, without perhaps a genuine tear being shed for him, and his millions can now avail him nothing. His life has been purely selfish in its aims. It has seemed almost as if his one pleasure was in enjoying the misery which his methods of stock manipulation have caused. He has ruined the lives of countless widows and orphans, he has been false to his public trusts, and he has gone to give his last account for the extortions and robberies which he committed while on earth. It is not our custom to deal thus harshly with the dead—rather would we dwell on the kindlier attributes of those who are summoned from this world, but the case of Jay Gould is utterly exceptional, and we consider it to be our duty to denounce his life and actions in the most downright manner. We ask in all earnestness that our young men and our Provincial business men shall consider the great game for which this millionaire seems to have staked himself, body and soul. Was it worth the price he paid for it? We think not. Far better less wealth and kindlier memories, less dishonesty and the esteem of the survivors.

In several European countries some curious restrictions as to the ownership of artistic creations prevail. In France the millionaire who has expended a large sum in the purchase of a painting or of a statue is not fully possessed of his property, for the right to exhibit belongs to the artist alone, and without his consent the owner is powerless to exhibit his purchase, except in a social way. In Italy the artist's rights are even more scrupulously looked after. Not only is exhibition forbidden to the purchaser, but unless the artist's permission is secured the painting or statue can neither be copied or photographed. In this country we have certainly none of these stringent regulations—but then *where* are our artists?

The demoralization of the press of France has never been so evident as it has been since the charge of receiving bribes for puffing the Panama scheme has been fully proven against it. The accused editors do not take the trouble to refute the charge—editors who are not concerned in the disgraceful transactions do not think it necessary to censure their delinquent brothers. Public indignation is directed against the heads of the great company, and the mis-doings of the men who sold their papers to the scheme are passed over with indifference. When an exposure of this kind rouses no indignation against the press, we may be sure that the people have become so accustomed to the lack of moral doctrine of the press that they have ceased to expect uprightness from such a source. The indifference of the French public to the crimes of the men who have guided public opinion by their writings indicate an almost helpless moral tone on the part of the people.

The Marquis of Lansdowne has been making a most interesting journey through the vast Indian Empire, and he has expressed himself as being much pleased with the signs of progress which he has met among the dusky subjects of the Empress-queen. At Mysore, the young Maharaja pointed with pardonable pride to the record of his ten years of constitutional government in that great Hindoo State. Representative government was introduced first at Mysore. The Maharaja, assisted by his Prime Minister and an elective Assembly, have popularised the British system of government. The Viceroy also received a most munificent offer from the Nizam of Hyderabad, who, in an outburst of loyalty, would have handed over his kingdom with its ten million inhabitants to His Excellency. Lord Lansdowne, however, declined this embarrassment of riches, and diplomatically arranged for an annual grant to be made to the British Government. After all it may have been but an Eastern gift.

Now that the flaxen-headed beauties are adorning the show cases of many dealers in dolls, a word to our younger readers may not be amiss. Not only does the manufacture of the miniature men, women and children give employment to many thousands of workmen, each devoting himself to the making of one portion of the doll's anatomy, the arm, the leg or the eye, but an immense business is also done in the manufacture of dolls' wigs. The hair of the ordinary doll is grown on the back of the Angora goat, and each year \$40,000,000 of this silky hair is sent to Europe, where it is shaped into ringlets, puffs, chignons, or plaited braids, as fashion dictates. Real hair is used for comparatively few dolls, and is usually set directly in the waxy scalp, instead of being glued to a muslin foundation. Many hundreds of dolls' dress-makers earn their livings by making either "sewed-on" clothing of the children's pets, or in fashioning the elaborate trousseaux which frequently accompany the Paris dolls.

One of the first results of the investigation into the Panama Canal scandal has been the Ministerial crisis, which resulted in the overthrow of the French Cabinet. The event, which led to the vote of want of confidence, was one which could not have been foreseen. The Baron de Reinach, who was mixed up in the affairs of the dishonest corporation, suddenly committed suicide, thus leaving the burden of the misdeeds of the company almost entirely on the shoulders of the Count de Lesseps and M. Eiffel. The news of his death greatly excited the Cabinet, many of the members declining to believe that the Baron was not still alive, and affirming stoutly that the story of the suicide was utterly false. Finally, the majority of the members refused to recognize the official report of the death of the nobleman, and demanded an investigation, which was refused. As a consequence, a vote of want of confidence was quickly passed by the incensed Cabinet, and the Government was immediately overturned. The President of the Republic is naturally much interested in the formation of his new Cabinet.

The gruesome subject of suicides has been recently investigated by a doctor well known as an expert on the subject of insanity. British juries, in many instances, have been averse to bringing a verdict of wilful suicide even when the act was fully proven, and out of consideration for the surviving relatives, have put in a claim of insanity on the part of the deceased. In their endeavor to benefit the family of the dead man, they have, however, too frequently lent themselves as parties to a scheme for obtaining insurance money which might lawfully be withheld. Many policies do not cover wilful suicide, while they hold good for suicide caused by insanity. Apart from the financial question, the heirs in such an estate are often willing to forfeit their shares if the stigma of insanity which so often is hereditary could be removed from them and their children. Although the greater portion of those who make away with themselves are held by juries to have been insane, yet two men, a doctor and a coroner, who have for years studied the matter, affirm that the proportion of really insane suicides is less than one-third of their number.

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