

tion. The Monetary Times has previously stated its opinion that the government will not assume the great responsibility of undertaking inspection of chartered banks. Internal inspection has been found lacking. A method is required that will give some measure of government guarantee and a full measure of banking knowledge. This suggests inspection by the Bankers' Association and properly qualified government representatives. The whole subject deserves careful and adequate consideration. Through conferences of the government and the bankers a satisfactory inspection scheme should be evolved.

Those inclined to think that Justice is not only blind but also asleep in respect to Farmers Bank warrants have some cause for their opinions. It was pretty well known who would be wanted when the crash came. In Great Britain the police officers would have known where to put their hands on every man needed, no matter whether he had hied to Mexico, Malta, Manitoba or Manchuria. If a man is under suspicion, if it is suspected he will be wanted, surveillance should be exercised. If his presence is not required no harm will be done; if it is, the ends of justice are met. In this case, too, there is no need to manufacture political capital from the fact that a one-time prominent Ontario Conservative, now a fugitive, discovered a convenient way and an opposite one to which a warrant for his arrest was travelling. At the same time Ontario's Attorney-General and police officers have much to do before they regain the respect of unbiased onlookers. The contrast between the excellent work of Mr. G. T. Clarkson, as curator and liquidator, and the tortoisical efforts of the Attorney-General is too striking to pass without comment.

### MORTALITY FIGURES AND THEIR LESSONS.

Doctors, who make the records of death from disease, and statisticians who collate them and draw deductions from them, have lately made some startling discoveries. One is that maladies properly belonging to old age are reaching, and increasing in, the younger ages. An appalling increase is shown in the mortality in the United States from diseases of the heart, the arteries and kidneys. In the twenty years since 1890, in registration States, it appears that deaths from such diseases have increased almost 100 per cent. By age periods deaths had increased in number as follows: Under age 20, increase 17 per cent.; from age 20 to 30, increase 33 per cent.; from age 30 to 40, increase 32 per cent.; age 40 to 50, increase 60 per cent.; age 50 to 60, increase 94 per cent.; age above 60, increase 93 per cent.

The above figures are cited in a pamphlet by the president of the Provident Savings Life Society, who, in view of the growing death rate from diseases regarded as entirely preventable, advocates the raising of a fund by philanthropy as a foundation for the prevention of disease, and urges the importance of enlarging the scope of the activities of public departments of health. Mr. Rittenhouse declares that "every fifty seconds a life is lost from a preventable disease,"—startling enough, whether we consider the bald fact, or its reflection upon our knowledge of our bodies and our judgment in treating them.

The increase in mortality from cancer is something frightful. In thirty years since 1880 the death rate from cancer has increased by 104 per cent. Its increase in persons under 20 years of age was slight, but in successive ages of 10 years more in succession the death rate went up from 46 per cent. at age 20 to 30, to 50, 67, 94 and 90, or rather, the 90 per cent. increase covered all ages exceeding sixty. Add this testimony to the figures already quoted respecting heart, artery and kidney troubles and deaths from them, it becomes apparent that increases in deaths at ages, say, 30 to 60 and over, is due to the ravages of what are called degenerative diseases.

Any philanthropic fund instituted for the purpose of preventing disease, nay, even the greatest activity of boards of health to that end, will, it is to be feared, fail of their purpose so long as the hunger for wealth, the craze for "success," the demands of ambition, of adventure, of even praiseworthy undertaking, impel the younger people of the United States

"To scorn delights and live laborious days," in order to, as they say, "get there," or make their pile, or beat the other fellow. The average knowledge of the human system and its limitations on the part of the young American is strictly limited. He knows that he has lungs and muscles: he takes great care of the one and almost over-uses the other. But as to heart, arteries, kidneys, and such old men's things, he does not seem to care a jot.

### GERMANY TO THE FORE.

When the Canadian surtax on German imports was removed, Germany lost no time in increasing its trade with the Dominion. The close alliance between the great banks and steamship lines and state-owned railways of Germany and private commercial effort abroad is recognized everywhere as making largely for the steady progress of German trade in neutral markets.

Consular reports note that the recent announcement of a new Turkish loan taken over by a syndicate made up of a group of the largest financial interests of Germany and Austria calls renewed attention to this most successful policy.

The German-Austrian syndicate, which includes among other concerns the Deutsche Bank and the Rothschilds, advances the Turkish Government \$26,400,000 at once, covered by 5½ per cent. treasury notes, which run till April 14, 1911. These notes can be extended up to eighteen months, in which case they will bear 5 per cent. interest from April 14, 1911. In due time the treasury notes will be withdrawn by the issue of a 4 per cent. loan, guaranteed by customs receipts. The loan will amount to \$48,400,000, of which the German-Austrian syndicate agrees to take \$30,800,000, while it has an option on the remainder. The syndicate takes the loan over at 84 per cent. In case, however, the loan is floated at a higher rate than 86½, the Turkish Government is to receive one-half the additional profit.

The formation of a new German-Abyssinian company is given out. This company is to be called the Deutsche-Abessinische Transport and Lager Aktien Gesellschaft. The promoters have secured a concession from Adis Ababa to Dire Dawa, where connection is road trains in all parts of Abyssinia. These road trains burn benzol or benzine, and can carry a load of thirty tons over ordinary roads. For the present it is proposed to operate only one train over the 260-mile caravan road from Adis Ababa to Dire Dawa, where connection is made with the French railroad and the Gulf of Aden.

The Abyssinian Government guarantees the trains against attack. Imported trains and parts, as well as supplies, pay no customs duties, and number of trains as well as length of concession is unlimited. The concession cannot be transferred to the representatives of a foreign government. The promoters also expect to carry on a lucrative trade in Abyssinian products.

### NIOBE IN THE BONNET.

The Canadian navy may be brought into action at an early date. Some one, and at Ottawa, too, suggests that H.M.S. Niobe shall take the entire Canadian parliament to England to witness the coronation. This is an excellent idea, but the various government departments should go along also. Mr. Murphy, as secretary of state and interested in the Printing Bureau, could edit the Niobe Daily Ocean Gazette; Mr. Fielding, minister of finance, could follow the banks and rocks on