

**American  
Intervention  
in Cuba.**

The mission to Cuba of Secretary Taft, and Assistant-Secretary Bacon, has opened under most favourable auspices. Both the Government and the revolutionists are shewing a flattering amount of deference to the representatives of the United States, and best of all both of the belligerents seems anxious to propitiate the powers at Washington, even at the cost of making peace with each other.

**London & Lancashire  
Fire Insurance Co.**

This company being impressed with the importance of the Montreal field, has appointed a Board of Directors for the branch here. The following gentlemen have accepted seats on the board: Mr. George Caverhill, of Caverhill, Learmont & Co., vice-president of the Montreal Board of Trade, the Hon. F. L. Beique, K.C., Senator, and Mr. H. Markland Molson, director of Molsons Bank, etc. Mr. Thomas F. Dobbin is resident secretary of the branch, which under his management has made steady progress.

**Pure Food  
Legislation.**

The unpleasant revelations with regard to the Chicago stock yards have aroused an immense amount of public interest in the pure food question in most civilized countries. The longer governments and legislatures put off dealing effectively with these questions, the more difficult and complicated they appear to become. One result of procrastination is that the tastes of the people become vitiated and there is a large demand for impure food. There was a striking illustration of this in England, when Mr. Gladstone's adulteration act, which contained stringent clauses prohibiting the adulteration of beer went into operation. For a long time the beer drinkers of England (and they are numerous), fiercely resented the change in the flavour of the national beverage.

**Bank Statements.**

The President of the Bank of Yarmouth, N.S., Senator Lovitt, has been found guilty of signing monthly bank statements knowing them to be false. An appeal to the full bench has been granted, and meanwhile sentence is suspended. A similar charge is made against the Vice-President, Mr. S. A. Crowell. One of the witnesses for the defence, Mr. Thorne, manager of the Union Bank, testified that a bank president hardly ever, if ever, knows whether the monthly bank statement which goes to the Government is right or wrong, that he must rely upon his officials and sign the statements on the assumption that they are right. This does not exactly meet the charge against Senator Lovitt, which is that he signed the statements "knowing

them to be false," which is clearly a matter of evidence. But is there not something wrong about the law which requires a bank president to sign statements about which he can scarcely be expected to know the details? Somebody in a bank, presumably the manager, should have at least a general idea about the accuracy or inaccuracy of the bank statement and surely that somebody is the right man and the only man to sign the report.

**The U. S. Pure Food  
Commission.**

The proceedings before the Commission on Rules and Regulations of the United States Pure Food Law, also go to shew that the people dearly like to be humbugged in many cases and that in all cases manufacturers are quite willing to humbug them. A great part of the time of the Commission is taken up in discussing protests entered by manufacturers against being compelled to label their wares in strict and simple accordance with the truth, or against being prohibited from using colouring matter or other adulterants which have no purpose, but to deceive. Their argument is that most people do not want butter or cheese in their natural colours, and positively will not buy stewed tomatoes or maraschino cherries, unless they have their original colour restored by artificial dyes. One firm manufacturing carbonated champagne objects to being compelled to use the word carbonated on its labels. It has already been decided that boiled beef may be lawfully labelled "Roast Beef," because otherwise American packers might be placed at a disadvantage with foreign competitors, who may call boiled beef anything they like, and call anything they like, roast beef. In the long run the industries will succeed the best which deal most frankly with the consumers. It may take some time to educate the public taste, but in the meanwhile it is beneath the dignity of legislative authority to enter into any conspiracy to deceive the people even though they do like to be humbugged.

**FIRE AT AYLMER, QUE.**

A fire occurred yesterday morning, on the premises of the Estate Hurdman Lumber Co., Aylmer, Que. We understand the loss is total. At time of going to press we have only been able to ascertain the amount of insurance carried as follows: Royal, \$30,000; Union, \$23,000; Norwich Union, \$10,000.

**OTTAWA FIRE.**

By the fire which occurred in the Gilmour Hotel, Ottawa, last week, three persons lost their lives, and many more were injured. The fire appears to have spread so rapidly, that many people barely escaped with their lives.