

reorganization of society; this is their sole point of contact; their methods of securing their aims are as directly opposite as the aims themselves. Society will never be regenerated by murder, and it is not likely that Anarchists think that it will. The policy of murder probably aims at no more than attracting attention. It produces horror of Anarchic methods and of Anarchy itself. If this be progress it is progress backwards. All men who try to obstruct existing laws are to that extent Anarchists; men who abuse legal machinery to defeat the law must be put in the same category. It is surprising what a leaven of Anarchy there is in the world, so many people wishing to evade laws which they do not like. The horrible incident of the murder of the Empress of Austria may well set our thoughts in the direction of discovering how far existing laws are defied or evaded when they cannot be openly defied.

A strange freak was the proposal of an Atlantic steamship company to carry the Canadian mails between Montreal and Bristol, free of charge. The offer was declined and properly so. No one can afford to do such work as this for nothing, and Canada can afford to pay a reasonable price for the service she needs. The route proposed is not an established one, and we cannot permit the question of route to be settled by accident. Nevertheless an English mail, brought by the Elder-Dempster line, has come that way and made good time. The fight against a swift Atlantic service, though resting on some solid grounds, has owed much of its force to the existence of steamships not of the swiftest, whose owners do not want to see them supplanted. In such fights the forces that make for inferiority are generally worsted in the end.

"Temperance beer" is the latest device for getting round the license laws in the Province of Quebec. With low grades of beer, as of cider, it is a question of more or less alcohol. No line can be drawn at which it can be said that the alcohol will not produce the ordinary effect, if only enough of it is taken; and the only safe thing is to treat all these drinks alike; to permit none to be sold without the restraints which the license law imposes. Besides, justice to the holders of licenses requires that this be done. A large number of these places has sprung up in Montreal, and it is only fair that they should be put under some form of license, for reasons of revenue and police administration.

One man who was charged with official crookedness in the Klondyke has come out in the open. Mr. Wade, at Vancouver, has publicly thrashed one Pelkey on the ground that he had been libelled by that person. When the charges were made some doubt of their accuracy was expressed in these columns. A telegram from Vancouver attributes to Mr. Wade the admission that "two claims were staked by McGuire and himself on the Monte Christo out of thirteen, on the same date, for mining friends of ours on the spot. There was no law against it." The plea that Conservative officials did the same in the past is hardly a justification for a doubtful practice. In the Transvaal such practices are complained of and called by an ugly name. But there they are illegal, and it cannot be denied, we think, that it is better they should be made illegal here. Till this is done, censure cannot reasonably take the form of denunciation.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION.

The fact that Mr. Kasson remains at Quebec during the recess of the International Commission is taken by some American critics as showing that he finds useful work

to do on the reciprocity part of the negotiations. We trust this view may prove to be correct. This continuity of work shows something else: it shows that the American case will not suffer from the absence of completeness in the application of expert knowledge. Who is doing similar work, with like application, for Canada? Is there no danger that the American commissioners will outweigh us by their specialized knowledge of each subject to be dealt with? Some of our members of the Commission have been subjected to distractions, called here and there, from which they ought to have been free. This comes, to some extent, from members of the Commission being also members of the Government; they have more duties of one kind or another to perform than is consistent with continuity of the work of the Commission. Nevertheless we have faith that the work will, on our side, as on the American, be up to the requirements. The rumor that the Alaska boundary is not likely to be settled by the Commission is not surprising; its remission to impartial arbitrament, outside the Commission, we have thought probable from the first.

At a public banquet given by the Toronto Board of Trade, Lord Herschell could not be expected to throw much light on the secret doings of the International Commission, of which he is chairman. But he touched on one fact sufficiently notorious, and already signalized in these columns: "that on both sides of the boundary there has been for many years in operation such tariff legislation as created, in both countries, an artificial situation which it is impossible to ignore, and that even the most convinced free trader must face the situation and admit that any violent change suddenly made must produce results of a serious character." He finds, too, different interests pulling in different ways in each country; a fact which increases the difficulty the Commissioners have to deal with. Commerce desires freedom, protected interests desire restriction. Whatever conclusion is reached, if any, Lord Herschell foresees that there must be disappointment in some quarters. He told an amusing story about how the Commissioners are importuned with contradictory advice: "By one day's post I am assured that I shall best serve the Almighty—I am speaking seriously and not joking—by securing free lumber. I receive by the next post a letter from another correspondent who believes a high tariff upon lumber a part of the Divine ordering of the universe." When Cobden negotiated the French treaty, was he advised as to his duties by private persons, and if so, what effect had they upon him? When the Government has a policy the negotiators must act in accordance with it.

A MATERIAL ASSET.

—We are reminded of the commercial value of scenery to a country when we learn that Switzerland's greatest industry, the entertainment of tourists, has been officially computed to bring in 115,000,000 francs a year. This is one-third more than the whole revenue of the Swiss Confederacy, and the tourists go to Switzerland to view her scenery. Such a material view of the uses of the natural advantages of a country may prove shocking to the aesthetic mind. But is it any more improper to make money out of a hotel for tourists on the shores of a beautiful lake than to make money out of a sawmill on the same site, worked by the power of the water of that lake? Not a bit of it; and besides, the hotel is likely to be the more picturesque building of the two. East as well as west, Canadians have valuable assets in scenery which attracts the lover of beauty. It is their duty to make the most of this undoubted asset. Cape Breton and th