

DRUGGISTS PROSECUTIONS.

The Pharmaceutical Association has—and, it would appear, very properly—instituted a series of prosecutions of druggists practising as such without due qualification, and of others who dispensed poisonous or dangerous drugs in violation of the Act. Some of the prosecutions, both here and at Vancouver, have resulted in convictions. We are not so sure that if we had been in the position of the magistrates we should have been disposed to fine an individual \$25 and costs for practising without a certificate from the B. C. Association, as it always has seemed to us that the Medical Act and the Pharmacy Act went a trifle too far in the direction of creating close corporations. There are not a few men—both druggists and doctors—possessed of the highest qualifications, who have gone through a course of the most careful study and successfully passed the most severe examinations who do not care to be put to the inconvenience and delays, together with the expense entailed by an enforced submission to examination by men not nearly as well qualified as themselves, some of whom, indeed, do not scruple to put to them unnecessary and catch questions so as to trip them up and prevent them entering into business competition with themselves.

WANTS OF THE WEST.

On his return to Ottawa after his tour through the Northwest and Pacific Provinces, the Finance Minister is reported to have thus expressed himself: "Most of the people are of the opinion that from their peculiar position they get fewer benefits from the general developments of manufactures than do the older provinces, and, whilst perfectly willing to pay their fair share of the country's burdens, they are desirous of having easements in certain directions. These have been fully talked over with Hon. Mr. Angers and myself, and they are hopefully awaiting the action of the Government in the matter."

Apparently Hon. Mr. Foster has a good general idea of the situation; but we are inclined to doubt whether he understands it in its details. There can be no question that our people as well as those of Manitoba and the Territories are perfectly willing to bear their full proportion of the country's burdens; but they do want to have a greater share in the benefits from the general development of manufactures and to have easements in certain directions. Owing to the actual work of the Ministers having been done in private it is impossible to know what representations were actually made and, to a certain extent, it may therefore be not inappropriately said that if the parties specially interested did not make a good presentation of their case it is their own fault. No doubt some of the productive as well as the trading institutions of this province had something to say. But what about the consumers who in the long run bear all the burden? Was their voice heard? We are inclined to question if it was, for there is a prevailing impression—we are sorry to find—that whatever easements there might be

made would only serve to augment the profits of the handlers of goods, whether at wholesale or retail, who have, there can be no question, been striving to create the impression that the general run of prices is as moderate as in the East. However this may be it is certain that with but few exceptions, in the case of parity of price in any line there is very far from parity in quality.

POLITICAL EXPERIMENTS.

Lord Rosebery is credited with having, in a speech before the Colonial Institute when discussing State Socialism and Labor Government in the Antipodes of Britain, remarked: "We do not object to experiments in the colonies, where made at the instigation of the electors, who prefer being a little misgoverned by themselves to being better governed by others." The colonies have made a number of experiments in self government since the time "the continental congress" was established, the result having been not that the colonies misgoverned themselves or had been better governed by others. On the contrary, outside the American experiment, the Canadian departure at the time of confederation was the reverse of jumping from the frying pan into the fire. It produced a solidarity of interest which resulted in the National policy and its developments which on the whole have been generally beneficial. It may be remarked that possibly if there had been less of that "better government by others" at the Antipodes there would not have been imported there those socialistic and labor difficulties that have caused such a setback to those antipodean portions of the Empire of which Lord Rosebery spoke. The old fashioned colonial system was all very well in the beginnings of nationhood, but there comes a time when experiments have to be made, and they are the true patriots who show themselves equal to the situation. The people of Canada are not ungrateful for the benefits that were derived from the colonial connection and are in no hurry to sever the existing relationship. Indeed, they would be content with even a closer tie, but as far as they are concerned it must always be remembered that it is "Canada First."

ASSESSMENT INSURANCE.

As showing how difficult it is under the assessment system to carry on the business of insurance—whether life or fire—we have, among others, the case of the Eastern Townships (Quebec) Montreal, which for a number of years was successful in undertaking fire risks, but, of late, was compelled to succumb. Now policy holders object to pay their just dues and, in consequence, before a final wind-up takes place, there threatens to be a long protracted and expensive series of petty litigations. In addition to all this, the official liquidators have to be continued in office, involving a by no means inconsiderable expense. As a life insurance these mutual concerns may be all very well for a while, but when the assessments become anything like burdensome, as they sometimes do, the parties liable object to pay and collapse follows. The regular old line

companies are in all cases the most reliable. It does not pay them to contest claims as is the settled policy of some of the assessment institutions—witness the Mutual Reserve Fund Life. The regular companies depend upon the hold they have on their customers to do a sufficient business to meet their obligations and pay their dividends, while with the assessment companies the principal object sought is to get enough money together to satisfy the constant demands of over paid officials.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

THERE are few people who would not like to see the San Pedro go steaming away after lying for so many months a helpless wreck on Brothie Ledge, and the endeavors of Messrs. Moran of Seattle, with that object in view, have been watched with very great interest.

RIGHTLY served will be the verdict of those who are made acquainted with the fact that Sir Matthew Davies, chairman; Mr. Millidge, manager; and Mr. Muntz, director of the Mercantile Bank of Australia, which failed in 1891, have been committed for trial on the charge of submitting a false balance sheet to the stockholders.

HON. MACKENZIE BOWELL, Dominion Minister of Trade and Commerce, sailed from Sydney, Australia on Saturday by the Canadian-Australian steamship Arawa. He reports to the Ottawa Government that his visit to the Antipodes has been highly successful, and it is expected that an intercolonial conference to consider the best means of promoting trade, and to further the Pacific cable project, will be held at Ottawa next June.

EX-PRESIDENT BEERS, of the New York Life Insurance Co., who, some time back, was superseded by Mr. McCall, is dead, in his 71st year. Prior to the change in the management, there were numerous objections made to the existing methods of administration, though in no way was the soundness of the company either impaired or impugned. The controversy, however, resulted in a number of reforms from which considerable benefit appears to have resulted.

This season's output of the sawmills on the Chaudiere is approximated by the Ottawa Journal at 200,000,000 feet, operations closing about the 1st week in November. The outlook for sawn lumber next season is regarded as satisfactory, while the mills this winter will have as many men, cutting logs in the woods, as they had last year. The returns of the quantity of timber measured and culled by the Supervisor of Cullers' Office at the port of Quebec to date this year show a falling off in almost every kind of timber. For instance, there was only 2,500,441 feet of waney white pine, as compared with 2,659,166 feet in 1902; 1,130,097 feet of white pine, as compared with 2,310,081 feet in 1902; 303,301 feet of red pine, against 392,196 feet in the previous year; 173,070 feet of elm, against 198,806 feet; 158,235 feet of ash, against 198,806 feet and 140,909 feet of birch and maple, against 425,927 feet. In the item of oak alone there was an increase, the figures being 1,150,067 feet for the present year, as against 915,913 feet last year.