

not take half an hour. But no summonses are needed, the police should serve a formal notice upon offenders, who would attend to their duty quickly to save a fine, costs, and attendance at the Recorders Court. This, however, would deprive citizens and visitors of the fun they get in doing gymnastics on the hog's-back, like circus clowns, and they would have less amusement in watching ladies step over their ankles in the foul slush pools found on every street. The policemen are, however, not to blame, they require orders from a superior officer, and whoever that officer may be, he is not sufficiently zealous in seeing that the city's by-laws are obeyed. That's the whole secret of the insufferable nuisance of snow, ice and slush-clad sidewalks.

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The Premier of Nova Scotia has appointed a committee to enquire into the methods and interest charges of the Ontario loan companies. The object is surmised to be the acquiring of information in regard to a few small companies that do business on the monthly instalment plan. Some of these concerns put their figures in such a way as to be very misleading to those unfamiliar with financial percentages. They represent the accumulations of interest and principal on shares paid for in small instalments, to amount to a sum in a given term which is quite impossible, unless the money is being lent out as fast as received at from 12 to 15 per cent. This class of business will bear enquiring into, it is wholly distinct from the methods of the older and more substantial loan companies who conduct their business on as straightforward, honorable and fair principles as any business is carried on. The principal loan companies of Ontario lend money at very moderate rates, of which the borrower is fully informed, and every consideration is given to mortgagors who need an extension of time for paying their interest or instalments of principal. These companies will gladly explain their methods to the Nova Scotia committee, as they have everything to gain from publicity.

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The United States Government has warned Denmark that the sale by that country of the Island of St. Thomas in the West Indies to any European power will not be allowed. This is stretching the Monroe doctrine to the breaking point. The Danish Island of St. Thomas is already held by an European power whose title to it is as sound as that of the United States to the city of Washington. National arrogance such as the action of the Washington authorities displays would lead to war if shown to a stronger power than Denmark. If Denmark sold the Island of St. Thomas to France or Germany the United States would have to eat

humble pie, for all Europe would stand by the right of Denmark to dispose of her property as she thought best.

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The three incendiaries recently convicted of arson were sentenced on the 10th inst. Barsalou and Pelletier were given each 7 years in the penitentiary, and Marie Gougeon, their accomplice, six months in the female jail. The sentences are light for so atrocious a crime. As Judge Wurtele said, "Whole blocks might have been burned and much loss of life might have resulted had they succeeded in setting fire to a building in the middle of the night." Pelletier was caught in the act as suspicion had been excited by his movements. The better part of the furniture in the building proposed to be burnt had been removed. Were men sent to the gallows who set a building on fire, as they once were, the penalty would be richly earned, as every fire puts human life in jeopardy, and an incendiary must know that he is wilfully committing a crime that may bring death to one or more of his fellow creatures.

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The three men found guilty of robbing a farmer of a cheque for \$1,500 were sentenced also on the 10th inst. Whalen and McDonnough got 5 years in the penitentiary, and Lepine a year in the common jail. The trial was exceedingly lengthy and brought out evidences of recklessness with money on the part of the victim of the guilty men which deprives him of all claim to pity for his loss, though his folly affords not a scintilla of excuse for the thieves who conspired to rob him.

BILLS BEFORE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

By "An Act to amend the Railway Act" His Majesty may, whenever he deems it in the public interest, after 60 days' notice to the railway company, expropriate any railway to which the Railway Act applies, and upon such expropriation, the railway, with all its rights, etc., shall be vested in the Crown. "In fixing the compensation to be paid to the company whose railway is expropriated, there shall be deducted from the value of such railway the amount of all subsidies in money paid in connection therewith either by the Government of Canada or of a province or municipality." The Act is defective in that no provision is made for returning any subsidy so deducted to the province or municipality it came from as equity demands should be done. By the Act as it stands, the Federal Government might secure possession of a railway for a trifling sum, which was built mainly by provincial or municipal subsidies, without recouping the grantees of such subsidies to any extent. By the Act to amend the Dominion Elections Act, it is made a penal offence to offer any material inducement to a person to become a candidate, or refrain therefrom, or withdraw if he become a candidate, and any person who so acts in his behalf is equally guilty. By the