

NOTHING GREEN ABOUT IT.—The now famous mammoth cheese which has been prepared for the World's Fair is safely lodged in Chicago, greatly to the delight and relief of our Canadian cheese-producers. The mammoth is unique in its construction, and will probably be one of the great attractions of the Fair. A wise method of selecting the judges of cheese has been decided on. All cheeses which are ranked above a certain standard are to be awarded bronze medals. Cheeses which are far beyond the standard will be awarded other medals and diplomas specifying the particular excellence for which the award has been made. The exhibits should be at once forwarded, as the competition will be over before the close of the first fortnight in June.

CREDULITY AND DISHONESTY.—The Green Goods men are waxing bolder in their operations, notwithstanding the persistent effort which has been made to dislodge them from Canada. During the last fortnight thousands of circulars were received by prominent as well as lesser men in all portions of the Dominion. A Cabinet Minister at Ottawa was approached and the proposition that he should make \$800 buy \$1,000 was made him. Hundreds of dupes are bewailing their money which was then thrown away, and many ostensibly reputable men are in terror lest their answering letters to the swindlers, of which many scores have been seized in the mails, should be made public. The mail detectives select the doubtful letters and forward them to Major Sherwood, who has now in his keeping the reputation of many citizens.

THE COURT OF CONCILIATION.—It is not probable that the many lawyers of our Province will approve of the legal experiment which is about to be tried in North Dakota. Perpetual disputes over small matters have kept the courts there in a constant turmoil. Much bitter feeling was engendered by the constant bickerings, and no final good was attained. In order to do away with the petty and undignified squabbles, a court of conciliation has been established by law. In this court no lawyers are allowed to appear. The interested parties make their statements before a justice of the peace and four commissioners of conciliation. Every effort will be made by these officials to secure a just and amicable adjustment of the dispute, but should their efforts fail and the matter be carried to the law courts, the court of conciliation will be allowed to plead ignorance of the proceedings. If the new court is a success in its Western home, it may be widely copied in Eastern but quarrelsome communities.

NOT ENOUGH MONEY.—The action of the Dominion Government in granting the sum of \$1,000 to the families of the Massachusetts life-boat crew, whose lives were lost in the endeavor to save the crew of the St. John brig *Aquatic*, is much to be commended, but it is most deeply to be regretted that a larger grant could not have been made. The five heroes were the bread-winners of their families—twelve children are left destitute, three widows are left unprovided for, and five elderly relatives, who were dependent for their support on the dead men, have now nothing but the workhouse to look forward to. The small amount of \$200.00 per family will relieve the present need, but can do little more. The reward is at best but a beggarly one, and while the intentions of the donors may be excellent, the gift is but a poor recognition of the courage and manly qualities of the gallant men who followed the example of the Great Master in laying down their lives for their suffering friends.

HOME RULE FOR IRELAND.—Gladstone's famous Home Rule bill has so far met with unforced approbation. Since it has passed its second reading in the House of Commons with a majority of forty-three in its favor, the principle which it involves has been well discussed, both in political and social circles. The bill is the result of the long and careful consideration of the Gladstone Party, and its transformation into law is one of the chief objects of the veteran statesman's life. The immediate future of the measure may be forecast as follows:—When it comes before the Committee of the whole House amendments of a sweeping nature will be made. It will then be thrown out of the House of Lords, but whether Mr. Gladstone's policy will then be to send it up again for their consideration or to dissolve the House and call for a new election, is uncertain. Although its unpopularity with the House of Lords may result in a seeming failure, yet there can be no doubt that public opinion has been much affected by the unchanging policy of the Grand Old Man, who is playing for the high stake of liberty for his unhappy fellow-creatures.

AN UNPROFITABLE INVESTMENT.—There is a certain charm for the majority of feminine hearts in the fact that smuggled goods are sometimes attainable. Even rigid moralists of the fair sex see no harm in evading the custom duties, and many are the devices contrived for secreting the contraband goods in the baggage or about the person. In Montreal, Toronto, and other Canadian cities a number of sharp-witted men have taken advantage of this feminine failing, and have driven a thriving trade in the sale of "smuggled goods," or more properly the cloth remnants of dry goods and tailoring firms. The fraud is simple in its workings. A sailor calls at the house door and engages the mistress in the romantic history of his "smuggled" cloth—"for ze pootiful cloths made by Scotchmen," which is to be sold "so sheep." In many cases the lady is averse to letting so unique a bargain go, and she eventually purchases the material. It is not until the man of the house arrives and pronounces the goods Canadian tweed of poor quality that the real aspect of the "smuggler" dawns on his dupe. We trust that when these sharpers strike our Province our ladies will be deaf to their solicitations.

A WELCOME ADDITION.—The Icelandic emigrants who have made their homes in Canada during the past score of years have been of a most desirable class, and much interest is manifested in the mission of Captain Jonnasson, who has been sent to his native island to secure a further immigration. Matters have been getting steadily worse in the Fatherland—the farmers have been going behindhand and are eagerly anticipating their removal to Canada, where they will rejoin both relatives and friends. The men are sober and industrious; the women are clever housewives and weavers, and what is perhaps true of no other in-coming people, they are more highly educated than are the great majority of our own people. It is not uncommon for a poor farmer's son to speak three modern languages with great facility, and Latin is so commonly understood by the inhabitants that many tourists have made their communications to the people in that ancient tongue. In the humblest home volumes of science, philosophy and poetry will be found to be in constant use. It is more than probable that during the present year a large number of these most desirable people will make their homes in Canada, and it is certain that we might look a long while for prospective citizens and fare far worse.

MINISTERS' CHILDREN.—It was a short-sighted man who promulgated the theory that the children of ministers were the worst children in the world. The idea was a taking one, but except for a generation or so in the days of the Puritan clergymen, there was no truth to back the theory. The children of these austere men were averaged half and half. They either followed in the saintly steps of their fathers or took the bit between their teeth and bolted. With the exception of this class of children, the heirs of ministers have made a good standing in the world. Some of the bravest, cleverest men of our day are proud of their paternal church connection. A table of a hundred children of ministers of five denominations was recently made. The children were picked at random and the record of the lives during the past forty years was examined. Of the selected number, ninety-six had lived as reputable citizens, many of them were distinguished citizens, many had won laurels in the scientific, political or legal world, and all were of that class of men whose existence is helpful and not prejudicial to the interest of the community. Of the remaining four, three were average bad men, and the fourth an unmitigated rascal. There are few professions in which a better record can be shown—statistics as to the children of doctors and lawyers are not forthcoming, but we venture to assert that the percentage of reputable records will be no larger. In fact a study of the matter has convinced us that there is quite as much hope, if not more, for the clergyman's son, as for the son of any other professional man.

A TALK FOR BEE KEEPERS.—Bee-keeping is becoming both popular and profitable in our North-West, where the young bee-owners are securing modern outfits for their work. The two varieties of honey with which our forefathers were most familiar, "broken-comb honey" and "strained honey," are not produced in the modern hives, but in their stead are "sectional honey." The new honey is infinitely preferable to the old. The perfect sections with their waxen walls and light frame sides are daintily ready for the market, and will stand a most favorable comparison when placed alongside of the slovenly platter of broken, dabby combs, which our ancestors prized. The neat sectioned honey easily commands a better price than the old-fashioned box-honey, and our bee-keepers would find it to their interest to obtain the greatly improved sectional hives. The honey-extractor, by means of which we are spared the tasty but often impure honey of former years, is an ingenious and economical device. A special knife is used for uncapping the comb, and by means of centrifugal force the honey is forced out without injury to the comb. The comb is then replaced and is refilled by the bees within a much shorter time than if their energies had been diverted from the manufacture of honey to that of the cell enclosures. Already, some of our most prominent bee-keepers have embraced the new method to their own profit and to the satisfaction of their customers. More bee-owners should follow their example.

A BURST BUBBLE.—Many interested parties have been watching the case of the Home Supply Company now before the courts. The company is well known, both in Halifax and throughout the country districts. Primarily it was intended to be run on the well-known methods of both European and American Co-operative Companies, in which the words proprietor and customer are almost interchangeable terms. In the present case, however, the company was not content with legitimate business, but traded on that common failing of humanity—the desire to obtain valuables for nothing or for a small consideration. Promises were freely given, pass-books were issued, which were recognized in well-known stores, and a percentage was deducted on all purchased goods when the book was presented. Many persons, in order to become members of the Association and participate in the remarkable cheap rates for staple and fancy goods, gave notes for the amount of the membership fee. Before long the note-makers began with reason to doubt the stability of the firm, and refused to take up the notes, on the ground that the agreement had not been faithfully carried out. The agent of the company then claimed that the notes, though given to the company, were owned by him, and litigation has consequently ensued. The court has decided that the whole business of the company was illegal and fraudulent, and the verdict will be agreed with by most business men. A co-operative establishment carried on on business principles might succeed here, but for many years there will be a bitter prejudice in this city against any form of Home Supply or Home Knowledge Companies.

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