

The Fast Atlantic  
Service.

The paper by Mr. Sandford Fleming in the Queen's Quarterly on "Our Atlantic Steamship Service" is the most notable contribution to the discussion which has so far appeared from any quarter. With a view to giving additional publicity to so rational an exposition of the question we have taken the liberty of abridging it for insertion in the next number of THE WEEK. The most striking peculiarity of the article, exceptionally able as it is, will be found to be its tone of studious moderation. Not a statement is advanced that can be called dogmatic, while every conclusion arrived at is supported by the evidence which forced Mr. Fleming to adopt it after the most careful consideration. The ultimate settlement of the question may not be in harmony with his contentions, but it is safe to say that his arguments will be carefully scanned and energetically combated.

Working Men and  
the Sunday Car  
Service.

The Mayor of Toronto took an informal and unofficial ballot on Sunday last, for the purpose of ascertaining the opinion of the Street Railway employees on the question of a proposed clause in the Sunday service agreement, securing for each employee one whole day's unbroken rest in each week. By an overwhelming majority the men declared in favour of the restriction. This decision seems to be rational and commendable from the labour point of view, and there is certainly no reason to find fault with it from the standpoint of public safety. The strain on a street railway motor man is very intense. By the time he has undergone it for many hours during each of six days he ought to have it relaxed for twenty-four hours without interruption. We are all apt to forget to how great an extent the lives of pedestrians on crowded thoroughfares are dependent on the alertness of the drivers of cars, and it is well that at the outset of the new service, if there is to be one, this question should be decided beyond all possibility of its being re-opened while the franchise runs.

The British  
Columbia Bench.

If the Dominion Government ever had any idea of appointing to the vacant Supreme Court judgeship in British Columbia a lawyer from some other Province the intention has been wisely abandoned. The position has been given to Mr. McColl, a barrister of local eminence in New Westminster. The selection seems to be a good one, and to meet with general approval both inside and outside of the Province most interested. Until some general legal system for the whole Dominion can be agreed on, and this is not likely to happen very soon, it is better to act on the spirit and letter of the British North America Act, which indicates that judges should be taken from the bars of their respective Provinces.

Game  
Preservation.

Chief Game Warden Tinsley has followed up the circular of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, referred to in the last issue of THE WEEK, with one appealing to all parties for assistance in the effective enforcement of the law for the preservation of game. Amongst others he addresses the owners of farms which are the resort of game, and from which they have a right to eject trespassers. Not long ago one farmer, up north, found on his place two carcasses of deer that had been shot by hunters, apparently from sheer love of killing. Such incidents are proof of a brutality of disposition that cannot be too energetically repressed, and it is to be hoped that Mr. Tinsley will find his efforts warmly seconded by the thousands of landowners all over the Nipissing, Parry Sound, Muskoka, and Haliburton districts.

Religion in Public  
Schools.

The Anglican Synod having passed a resolution in favour of allowing the clergy of different denominations time to give religious instruction to public school pupils, a copy of it was sent to the officials of the Methodist Church of Canada, and was duly laid before the interim Committee of the General Conference. It was hardly to be expected that any action would be taken by such a Committee on such a question even if the proposal were regarded with favour. What the General Conference will do about it when it meets remains to be seen, but meanwhile it may do no harm to point out that the school law of Ontario has always provided for such religious instruction. The maximum school day allowed by law is six hours for teaching, with one hour for intermission included, but any school board has authority to shorten this period indefinitely, and to make provision for the religious instruction of the pupils by the Christian clergy. It does not seem at all likely that this last movement will have any outcome different from the results of similar attempts made with equally good intentions in the past. It does not follow either that religious training is intrinsically unimportant, or that people generally so regard it. The true explanation of the apparent indifference of the laity is the fear that if any attempt is made to introduce religious instruction by the clergy there may follow a permanent rupture of the harmony which now exists almost everywhere among the supporters of public schools.

The North-West  
Legislature.

The Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Territories makes, at the opening of the Legislature, a "Speech from the throne," that is a speech in reality and not merely in name. Mr. Mackintosh is an old journalist and politician, who has views of his own and knows how to express them. In his opening address this year he dealt very fully and most interestingly with the resources of the great region over the destinies of which he has been called to preside. It must be assumed that in what is really a state paper the Lieutenant-Governor has refrained from exaggeration, and therefore this speech should, if widely circulated, prove a valuable immigration brochure. On every side it is now recognized that the future of Canada, as a "Dominion," is bound up with the problem of peopling the North-West, and Lieutenant-Governor Mackintosh has made excellent use of a good opportunity to assist in solving it. The task is difficult enough to call for years of patriotic co-operation on the part of all who are in a position to render any effective assistance.

Victoria  
University.

On the 12th of October, 1836, a Royal Charter of incorporation was obtained for the establishment of "The Upper Canada Academy," an institution of learning to be conducted directly under the authority of the Methodist Church in Upper Canada. Almost a decade previously a Royal Charter for the establishment of King's College as an Anglican University had been secured by the energetic and persistent efforts of the Rev. Dr. Strachan, then Archdeacon of York. The Methodists did not at first seek university powers, and for many years their educational work was carried on in their "Academy" at Cobourg on a limited scale and at great sacrifice. Early in its history it passed under the Presidency of the late Rev. Dr. Ryerson, who retired from the position to become Chief Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Province. The name of the Academy was changed to Victoria College, and it was clothed with authority to grant degrees, by a statute passed soon after the union of the two Canadas in 1840. For many years it enjoyed the very great benefit of being presided over by the late Chancellor Nelles.