

the evening during the whole year. Such a movement as this in Toronto would wipe out the saloon in a short time." This praise of the coffee house is well deserved, the universal testimony of those who have made the experiment being that they serve as a counter attraction to the saloon, and save many from contracting the habit of drinking as well as prevent those who have been reclaimed, from relapsing into their old ways.

The extradition treaty between Great Britain and the United States, which has been under consideration for several months past, received final confirmation in Washington on the 18th inst. The correspondent in announcing the fact of its ratification adds: Hereafter gentlemen who desire to lift the cash out of another person's cash drawer will have to buy tickets in some other direction than Canada. The scope of the treaty, while not as extensive as some might like it to be, is comprehensive enough to practically unite Canada and the United States in the matter of criminal jurisdiction over a class of thieves which has grown to great proportions in the past few years. Honest men in both countries have nothing but words of approval of the new arrangements.

There has been a game of "give and take" going on for some time over in Washington, the participants in the game being Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British Minister, and Hon. Jas. G. Blaine, Secretary of State. The play is concerned with the Canadian coast fisheries on the one hand, and the United States seal fisheries in Behring on the other. While the game was concerned with the eastern dispute, Sir Julian Pauncefote felt that he had the whip end, and insisted upon terms not by any means favorable to his partner, who demanded the same privileges should be accorded to American fishermen in Canadian waters as afforded to Canadian fishermen in American waters. Thus, the worthy knight would not concede unless the United States grant important concessions to Canadian sealers in Behring Sea, and include both disputes within the same treaty. Mr. Blaine not at first disposed to allow this arrangement but insisted upon the settlement of each dispute independently and by a separate treaty. It soon became evident to the players that both sides would have to make some concessions, and it is understood that the result is that Great Britain concedes rights to American fishermen in Canadian waters which might lead to serious objection to the treaty on the part of the Canadians were it not for the points which have been gained on the other side. This was that the United States shall permit British vessels to capture seals in Behring Sea under certain restrictions, and shall give to the fishermen of Canada and Great Britain all the rights which are to be given to American vessel-owners engaged in sealing. This is the outline of the principle points in the treaty as far as it can be ascertained up to the present time. That Canadians will be satisfied with such an arrangement is more than doubtful. In the first place the trade is too one-sided, Canada gives much and gains next to nothing. In the second place it is a virtual acknowledgment of the justice of the United States claim to the sovereignty of the Behring Sea, which is denied by all the authorities of international law, all the eminent European and American, and even American journalists themselves, ever since they are to stand by the arrogant claims of their rulers. Says the *Globe* in relation to the proposed treaty:

"To release the States from the renunciations that they made in 1818, and for making which they received payment in the privilege of taking fish and landing to cure them along a great stretch of Canadian coast, is a great and humiliating surrender. To add to this the confession that Great Britain and Canada submit to have their rights on the high seas limited and defined by Washington, will be a most abject proceeding."

Whatever may be said of the Dominion Franchise Act as a measure for securing to the properly qualified electors the right of the franchise, and upon this question the opinions of Canadians are divided by the whole diameter of thought, this fact is beyond gainsaying that the measure involves an enormous expense to the country. Costing originally half a million of dollars to inaugurate the system, this amount has been nearly equalled in a single revision of the lists. Therefore to keep the lists in such form that they shall contain the names of all the fully qualified electors of the country at any time, an annual expense is involved equal to one-seventh of the entire expenditure of the Province of Ontario, or five-sixths of the entire provincial expenditure upon education, or two-thirds of the amount paid for the maintenance of public institutions, such as hospitals for the sick, asylums for the insane, etc., or fifty per cent more than the cost of civil government and legislation in this first Province of the Dominion. Nor is this all the measure costs the country; for to the first outlay involved in preparing the lists and the annual cost of revisions must be added the expense of the prolonged Parliamentary debates and the innumerable sums expended by individuals and party organizations during the process of revision. Then it be asked "why should such an expensive machine be longer used?" the answer can be put into two words, "party exigencies." "The one reason for being of the Act," says the *Week*, "is the belief or suspicion that the provincial franchises as a whole are adapted to work injury to the party in power. The chief design of the obnoxious measure, but for which it would never have been heard of, is either to escape partisan unfairness in the Provincial Acts and their workings, or to gain an unfair partisan advantage for the Dominion Government, and that but for one or the other of these partisan considerations, or both of them combined, the heavily burdened taxpayers of Canada would have been spared this very serious addition to the cost of self-government." Truly government by party lays a heavy burden upon the people:

Exasperated by the repeated and flagrant violation of the liquor laws on the part of the saloon keepers of Lathrop, Missouri, some of the women of that little town have taken the law into their own hands and have instituted a crusade against the destroyers of their peace and of their homes. The plan of campaign which they have adopted is to enter the saloons, and, seizing the vessels containing liquor, to empty them in the streets. They are said to be backed by a considerable portion of the male population, and are cutting the officers of the law at defiance. Though the provocation has no doubt been great for what can be more crazing than to see a son drawn down to ruin before his eyes - it is unfortunate that these crusaders should have disregarded the right of protection against house-breaking and stealing which these violators of the liquor laws undoubtedly have. Such illegal proceedings are calculated to do the cause of Temperance more harm than good. No cause is ever

permanently advanced or benefitted by unconstitutional and illegitimate methods.

If the scheme contemplated by a company of Worcester, Massachusetts, capitalists should not turn out a miserable fiasco, eyes that look out from under grey brows may yet see the immemorial caravan of eastern lands displaced by the iron horse, that symbol of western energy and enterprise. The word has gone abroad that some hundred citizens of Massachusetts have formed themselves into a corporation to be known as the New England Land Company of Egypt. The company, which has a paid up capital of \$2,000,000, proposes to purchase a large tract of land in the vicinity of Alexandria, Port Said, and Damascus, connecting the two latter ones by an air line, broad-gauge railroad on the American pattern. The company will then go into a general oriental notion and produce business, with a tourist annex. It is understood that they will go into the cultivation and exportation in a wholesale way of the natural products of the region, such as cotton, flax, dates, figs, olives, stone and building material, horses and cattle, with relics, excursionists, and mummies, as possible adjuncts. The incorporators, who count among their number such men as General Benj. F. Butler, Mr. Frank Jones, President of the Boston and Maine railroad; Gen. Godell, of New Hampshire; Senator Frye, of Maine; Hon. Joseph G. Healer, of New Jersey, &c., are said to be serious, and believe that the regions which were once the gardens of the earth and supported nations can by judicious cultivation be reclaimed to their ancient productiveness. Many will watch this new venture with deep interest. Should it succeed it will not unlikely prove the dawn of a better day for those historic lands which have for generations been under the paralyzing yoke of their Mahomedan rulers.

To a person of a philosophical turn of mind the question of how much pigment nature may have bestowed upon any single individual or what is the quality of his head covering, is esteemed of trifling importance, being outweighed by the more serious consideration, what qualities of mind and heart does he possess. To this class, however, the captain of a Hudson River steamboat does not appear to belong. He has a strong antipathy against the negro and does not hesitate to show it. Recently he undertook to discriminate against a colored pastor of New Haven who entered an action for damages, and was awarded \$500, as a balin for his wounded feelings. It is not likely that this captain will take so practical a method of expressing his feelings in the future.

A kind heart is not always accompanied by a wise head. This statement is borne out by many facts and in particular, by the action of a society of English ladies, who have organized themselves together for the purpose of interviewing criminals, on their release from prison with the view to persuading them to go out to the colonies and lead a life of honesty and usefulness. That they do persuade many to leave the old country is manifest, but that any great proportion of these jail birds keep their promise in the matter of honest work is very doubtful. Only the other day the Montreal authorities dealt with a trio of these young scoundrels. On pronouncing sentence Judge Dugas referred to the fact of the increasing number of young lads who are sent out to Canada from the old country only to jump into the meshes of the law as

soon as they reach the shores of the Dominion. He questioned the wisdom of the so-called philanthropy and remarked, that while it was the means of relieving the old country of its worst criminals it simply foisted them upon us. Canada welcomes any and all good citizens who may feel disposed to make their home among us, but she has seen enough of her own without taking the filth of any other country.

A few weeks ago there went the rounds of the press an account of a most inhuman slaughter of political prisoners at Yakutsk, who were on their way to the mines of Siberia. At first the rumour was denied by the authorities at St. Petersburg, but subsequent reports confirm its truthfulness. This massacre in itself ought to have been sufficient to arouse the indignation of all Christendom. But the worst has yet to be told. Another outrage exceeding the former in fiendish cruelty has recently been perpetrated. According to a cipher report received in Paris, a Madame Sigida, of noble birth, and a teacher in the high school at Moscow, was, for political reasons condemned to penal servitude in the Kara mines. On reaching the place she attracted the attention of the director of the prison who insulted her, whereupon she slapped his face. He in turn had her stripped and flogged in the presence of all the prisoners. Apprehensive of future shame she committed suicide by poisoning herself, in which she was followed by three other female prisoners. A more recent account contradicts this report in one particular, viz., Madame Sigida did not commit suicide; she died from the effect of the cruel flogging to which she was subjected. The flogging took place on Wednesday. It was continued till, under the brutal blows, the unhappy woman never revived from the terrible shock, but continued to grow weaker and weaker until Friday, when death came to her relief. The news of her shocking official murder produced widespread dismay and anguish among her fellow-prisoners, and three of them, unable longer to bear their wretched fate, committed suicide by taking poison.

In view of such inhumanity and brutality we do not wonder at the indignant utterances of Mr. Kennan, whose story of life in the mines of Siberia has been devoured by thousands of interested readers. "Such news is enough to make a man's blood boil. It has been reserved for the closing year of the nineteenth century to witness this crowning consummation of Russian barbarity, the flogging of helpless and unprotected women. Well may we ask ourselves, standing in liberty's hallowed land, how civilized nations suffer such things to be. To which he adds: I do not think that we have heard the whole of this story by any means. It would not surprise me, when the whole truth is told, to learn that matters are far worse than stated in the report. In Russia, under the administrative exile system, everything that is atrocious is not only possible but more than probable." Whether this exposure of the fiendish cruelty shown towards these unfortunate prisoners will have an effect upon the Russian authorities, remains to be seen. Mr. Stepiak, the well-known writer upon Russian political and social conditions, thinks it not unlikely that the publication of facts will force the superior officials of Russia to take some notice of the affair. At any rate, civilized nations ought not to permit such atrocities to go unrebuked and uncondemned; for surely, if anything can justify remonstrance with another nation such barbarities furnish suf-