

public. Nothing is lacking that the most fastidious could desire. As to the crowds they might adapt the historical motto "I serve," so careful are they to promote the pleasure and comfort of their charges. From the Captain down to the least paid servant, the utmost courtesy and gentlemanliness prevail. Nor are the localities visited uninteresting, some of the places being linked with our national history. Added to all these other attractions is the circumstance that these steamers run in connection with the Vanderbilt system of railways, connecting with trains on the New York Central and Michigan Central Railways for Falls, Buffalo, New York etc., Four times a day (except Sunday) is the opportunity offered to set one's eyes towards the south—at 7 a. m., 11 a. m., 2 p. m., and 4.45 p. m. No more delightful trip can be chosen than that offered by the "Niagara River Line."

The resignation of Chief Commissioner Monro, and the appointment to the office of Edward Bradford, together with the introduction of several new regulations affecting the force, has created great discontent among the members of the London police, who have for some days been dangerously near the point of striking. That they have not done so before this, is probably owing to their innate aversion to "striking." The danger of such an event has, however, been greatly reduced by the prudence displayed by Mr. Bradford, the new Commissioner. While firmly insisting that the members of the force shall not hold public meetings to discuss their grievances he has couched his order in extremely friendly terms, and has assured his subordinates that they may rely upon his assistance to the end of securing to them the benefits they desire. This judiciousness and temperance on the part of the new officer has created considerable surprise, seeing that when in India he was regarded as a perfect martinet and ruled his subordinates like a little despot. That such a man should suddenly take to reasoning with those over whom he is appointed may well excite surprise. His case would furnish an interesting study for the mental philosopher.

Those who have been living in dread lest the thorough-going protectionist, who would exempt nothing, not even a fellow being, should some day seek to levy duty upon the gentle zephyr which finds its way across the border, will have their anxious fears relieved, seeing that a point has at last been discovered where the line can be drawn. The United States Treasury Department in answer to the question whether electricity transmitted by cable from the Canadian to the American side of the Niagara river would be subject to duty, has solemnly decreed that electricity cannot be taxed, that inasmuch as it is an invisible, subtle agent or power possessing no substance as a merchantable commodity, it is not liable to duty. Of course the difference between the atmosphere and electricity is not inconsiderable, the former possessing both substance and weight; hence the rejoicing must be with trembling.

The opinion of 2,500 people could not be expected to count for much in an international transaction involving such important issues as the recent Anglo-German agreement, by which it is proposed to cede the island of Heligoland to Germany. Had the views of the islanders been consulted it is not likely that the transfer would have been made. By all accounts these sons of the wave-washed land do not like being handed over to the tender mercies of Germany; and rather than

float the German flag many of them would prefer leaving the island altogether. Cable reports state that strong representations are being made to the imperial authorities to pay the expenses of those of the islanders who desire to settle on this side of the Atlantic. The Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa has wired Sir Charles Tupper asking him, if these reports are true, to suggest Canada as a desirable field for settlement. No doubt we should profit by the coming of a class of immigrants so well-reported as these descendants of the ancient Frisians. Nor could there be any valid objection against them on the ground of intensifying the mongrel character of our population, whose complexity would not be perceptibly influenced by the addition of a little new blood. They will find an open door and welcome should they decide to come.

The tie-up on the Illinois Central railroad is occasioning the utmost inconvenience, and resulting in incalculable loss to those depending upon that road. The Chicago suburban traffic is enormous. The trains run in and out of the city every few minutes from 5 o'clock in the morning until midnight and are crowded. All these people are now thrown upon their own resources of transportation. Hundreds of fruit and vegetable growers, who make Chicago their market, will be ruined financially if the strike continues for any considerable length of time. They are now in the middle of the raspberry season, and tomatoes and cucumbers are beginning to come in. Perishable freight to the value of hundreds of thousands of dollars is sidetracked at stations along the line. On every hand the baneful influences of the strike are being felt. And all this inconvenience and loss have grown out of a quarrel between the superintendent of the road and his workmen, who insist upon the removal of the obnoxious official. Whether the men are justified in resorting to such extreme measures to enforce their demands is a question concerning which opinions will differ. This is a case in which the application of the Chicago Graphic's scheme of arbitration might be made with very great advantage. It seems a pity that some feasible plan could not be devised by which all such difficulties might be speedily adjusted.

The policy of the Steam Heating Company of New York does not meet with universal approbation, being regarded as too economical by far. Though several times warned of late, in a manner most forcible, that their pipes are no longer safe, they appear utterly unconcerned. This indifference to the safety of the citizens' lives and limbs has called down upon their devoted heads the wrath of the city press. Discussing the situation, the *Herald* says: "If you have business down town you had better see that the dues on your life insurance policy are paid, and then copper fasten your trip by taking out an accident policy. Then you will feel that your family are properly provided for in case you happen to be blown up." Then after striving to make this callous crew see themselves as others see them, it suggests, in order to cure the evil, that the citizens "station the directors of this steam-heating humbug on the manholes that are most likely to explode, or wherever there is a broken pipe near the cars of a director to the nearest lamp post, and if anybody must go to heaven let them have a good start in the race. Our word for it, he would rather forego a dividend than take the flight, and it wouldn't be many weeks before these periodical explosions would cease." This remedy the *Herald*

confesses is heroic, but thinks it would be effective. The *Herald* ought not to be too severe on the Heating Company, who probably desire in this way to introduce a little variety into the daily story of accidents and surprises. Whether this be so or not one feels that what with the deadly wires, the explosions of sewer-gas, and this newest form of danger, life in the great American metropolis has very decided drawbacks.

It is stated that the United States, president and secretary of state have received positive assurances from the government of Russia that the latter stands prepared to make good the representations given at the time of the Alaskan purchase that Behring's sea is a closed body of water, and that if the United States desires the co-operation of Russia in enforcing that doctrine she can have it. This fact together with the circumstance that Russia is not noted for making unusual concessions or submitting to great slights for the sake of peace, leads the *Chicago Times*, which charges British sealers with keeping up their "piracy" on Behring sea, to remark that "when England learns that the czar is only waiting to have a chip knocked off his shoulder and is anxious to take a hand in this international question John Bull may decide that it is cheaper to buy sealskins than to steal them. When it was poor little Portugal that needed subduing there was a great array of English war-ships sent out, but it is probable that diplomacy may be considered more expedient than powder in settling the Behring sea dispute." When the *Times* succeeds in demonstrating that English sealers have been engaged in stealing, it will find England prepared to make honorable amends for any wrongs she may have committed. But this is just the aspect of the question American journals refuse to discuss, finding it easier to beg the chief and pivotal point in the dispute.

The lot of the American employer of labor has evidently fallen upon hard lines. By no device can he succeed in circumventing the law which forbids him to go abroad for workmen. Frame his notice as skilfully as he may, he runs foul of that restrictive measure. Thus the secretary of the treasury has just decided that if men go into that country to work in response to an advertisement printed in a foreign country offering certain wages the contract labor law is violated. The offer of certain wages and the acceptance of the same signified by coming into the country in response to the offer constitute a contract in the meaning of the law, Mr. Windom thinks, and the person or persons making the offer are liable to the penalties denounced by the law. The decision, or opinion, was called forth by the immigrant inspector in Chicago, who transmitted to the secretary the following advertisement clipped from a Canadian paper: "Five hundred carpenters wanted: good, competent men will be given steady work at from 30 cents to 40 cents per hour; apply at Builders' exchange, 159 La Salle street, Chicago." The persons responsible for the publication of this advertisement are, according to Mr. Windom, liable to the penalties prescribed by the law. It will be seen that this interpretation has a far reaching application. It will involve the splitting of a very fine hair to exempt the immigration agents of states who publish in foreign countries the rates of wages paid there, and so induce foreigners to come, if labor may be imported under contract by simply publishing rates of wages in a general way. The Builders' association might have paid for an editorial article in some Canadian paper setting forth all the facts that were set forth in the advertisement and then urged the carpenters to go to Chicago instead of being lured by the advertisement. And I can't see then?

"When are you going to Muskoka?" is a question that will soon be as familiar to the ears of Torontonians as the ejacula-

tion which is being forced from every lip, "My, but it's hot!" And no doubt many are bound to see Muskoka's beautiful lakes and lakelets, and enjoy its shady, cool retreats, and that too, before long if old Sol keeps on doing his work as diligently as during the past few days. Nor will *Tavern* utter a word to alter the purpose. On the contrary it advises all who can to go, as soon as they can, stay as long as they can, and get all the benefit they can. And don't forget that your journey will be rendered comfortable and pleasant by the luxurious provision which the Grand Trunk Company has made in their "Special Muskoka Express" which after July 3rd will leave the city three times a week, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. For tickets and all information apply at the company's ticket office, corner of King and Yonge streets, 20 York street and south platform Union Station.

The political world at Berlin is full of ominous reports and serious apprehensions regarding the dangers threatening the constitution through the despotic tendencies of the young emperor. His conviction that he has been called to the throne by the "grace of God," who has elected his family to rule over Prussia and restore the ancient glory of the German empire, is as strong and as firmly rooted in the deepest recesses of his soul as it was in that of his grandfather William I. All the wisdom required by a ruler for guiding his subjects to that destiny which the Lord has prepared for them from the beginning of the world is given to a ruler of the house of Hohenzollern by inheritance, and he, Emperor William II., has inherited a measure of that wisdom divinely bestowed full to overflowing. It follows that his subjects are only here to obey his commands. The semi-official *Cologne Gazette* has already advised a restriction of the right of universal suffrage for the reichstag, and Windthorst, during the debate on the new military law in the committee, said he was not at all afraid of a dissolution of the reichstag, but of that which would follow after the dissolution, meaning to say that the liberties of the people would probably be curtailed by an arbitrary decree of the emperor. The emperor is determined to carry his scheme for the increase of the army through by any means, peaceably if he can, but at all events he will carry it.

Reports from the smitten districts go to show that the present epidemic of cholera in Spain is not attended with the fatal results that usually follow the grim disease. The officials declare that 75 per cent. of those attacked recover. But notwithstanding the mild character of the disease, which has led the London *Lancet* to pronounce the outbreak as "local cholera" rather than the true Asiatic plague, the nations contiguous have taken steps to prevent as far as possible the spread of the contagion. The French government has instituted a strict quarantine, stationing soldiers along the frontier and requiring custom officers to disinfect all goods coming from Spain by submitting them to heat in iron chambers provided for the purpose. Likewise England is taking every precaution possible to keep out the unwelcome visitor. Feeling that we are not perfectly secure on this side the Atlantic the Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion has issued instructions for the observance of the strict quarantine regulations to be observed at all our ports. But while the government is doing its part to protect us from plague we need to remind ourselves that epidemic plagues have a peculiar way of imposing regulations of paramount importance on themselves for the work of cleanliness which they demand.