

A new cannon projectile, though harmless in appearance, is destined to change many long established military tactics. A young Italian has invented a candle, which when projected from a cannon, will, on striking, produce an intense light, equal to that of 10,000 ordinary candles, thoroughly illuminating the enemy's position or fortification.

A curious lawsuit is being carried on in Montreal, in which the crown prosecutor, Mr. Archambault, has taken a writ *against* the Queen. The suit arises over a ten-cent journal, *La Fortune*, the organ of a well-known lottery concern. Each copy of the magazine is numbered, and every purchaser stands the same chance of drawing a prize as if he had bought a regularly numbered lottery ticket. And yet the worthy Q. C. claims that *La Fortune* is only "an ordinary journal."

There is an excellent case for the S. P. C. A. in Calcutta. Every year the native infantry regiment stationed at Calcutta are compelled to practice a most unnecessary cruelty. There are usually about 1600 native prisoners in the Alipce jail, and, each year, the building is surrounded by the regiment, who fire ten rounds of blank cartridges in quick succession at the stone walls. The confused men shiver in superstitious terror at the uproar. This method of intimidation can never be popular with the native soldiers, it shows little respect for the strong police force whose duty it is to guard the prison, and it is another instance of the always disgraceful procedure of striking a man when he is down.

It is gratifying to note that a systematic effort is now being made to establish a branch of the St. John Amulance Association in Halifax. Many of these branches exist throughout Great Britain and her Colonies, and as their work is of a practical nature, the results have always proved beneficial to the communities in which they are established. The object of the Association is to qualify its members to render prompt and skillful aid in cases of emergency, and there can be no doubt that many a life has been saved and much suffering averted by the timely assistance of those who have been trained by the Association. The Halifax centre will probably establish branches in all our leading Provincial towns, thus widening and deepening the stream of practical knowledge which has its source in sympathy and its outlet in the broad sea of misfortune to which all flesh is heir.

The appeal which the colored people of Kansas are making to Congress does not speak well for the much-praised administration of justice in that Land of the Free. The authorities have found it practically impossible to put a stop to lynchings in some of the Southern and Western States, and many colored offenders have had summary justice, or injustice, dealt them by excited mobs. The African residents of Kansas, therefore, petition that each State be made responsible for all non-judicial killings within its borders—that is, the heirs of the lynched men shall be able to collect damages from the State. This law, if properly enforced, would speedily put an end to lynchings on strictly economical grounds, for the tax-payers of the State would resent being made to suffer for the misdoings of a band of desperadoes, and public opinion would swiftly discourage this illegal, barbarous and expensive method of administering the death penalty.

M. Pasteur, of hydrophobia fame, is still devoting himself to the welfare of his suffering fellow-creatures. He is now about completing a course of experiment of inoculation as a preventative of, or remedy for, epilepsy. The experiments have been so successful that the clever doctor has decided to open an epileptic class for the benefit of the poorer people of Paris. Apart from the many charges of cruelty in the vivisection of animals, there has seldom been a scientist who has been so loyally supported by the press. Even those who condemn many of his methods speak with high praise of the man who for so many years has given himself up entirely to the study of alleviating human sufferings.

The new Intercolonial time-table will meet with very general approval, at least at this end of the railway. The farce of having two express trains leave Halifax within twenty minutes of each other and passing over the railway between Halifax and Moncton is to be done away with, and instead a combination I. C. R. and C. P. R. train is to leave Halifax in the evening and upon reaching Moncton be broken up into two trains, the one proceeding to Quebec, and the other to St. John and Montreal. This will give the travelling public a night train to St. John, a convenience which the experience of the past winter has taught us to appreciate. The time-table in other respects contains very few changes upon which comment is necessary.

The Russian Government is continuing to stamp out all national feelings in the Baltic Provinces to compel the people to accept the Russian language and to insist on the establishment of the Greek church. The Minister of Public Instruction has ordered the adoption of the Russian language in many schools which have hitherto been privileged to use the language of their own Province. Government examinations will be held instead of those usually given by the faculty at the University of Dorpat, Livonia, where the whole course of study will henceforth be under Government surveillance. All secret societies are prohibited, and the Students' Clubs are forbidden to receive new members, so that they too will soon cease to exist. Some day, the inflexible will of the Czar, which has never learned to bend to the needs of his people, will be broken short by his righteously rebellious subjects.

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Some of the campaign songs of the coming Presidential Elections are American to the back bone, and although the Blaine men seem to have obtained a monopoly of the taking air "Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay," yet the songs of the Harrisonian are far more catching. "Grandfather's Hat" is a stirring production. It explains in vigorous rhythm that the hat of old "Tippecanoe" Harrison is neither too tight nor too large for "Uncle Ben." Another Harrisonian melody with a lively negro chorus (which it was hoped would be successful in capturing the colored vote) booms the President on the ground that "He trod on the British Lion's toe" and "Protected the fur seals." "Blaine, Blaine, Jim Blaine from Maine" rejoices in a jubilant chorus—

"Tin-tin-American tin!  
That's the stuff will make us win!  
All on account of McKinley's tin."

But as after events inform us, it is "Jim that goes out while Ben goes in."

The floods and washouts along the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, which have entailed a loss of some forty millions of dollars, are being very seriously considered by the American press. On the ground of the great Mississippi being a national benefit, it is demanded that the people who have made their homes in its fertile valley shall be protected at the national expense. The present heavy losses fall entirely on five States, while the advantages conferred by this great natural thoroughfare are by no means confined to them, but are common to all States in the Union. It is now proposed that a permanent Mississippi River Improvement Association be formed, which shall include all the leading engineers and capital of the valley. It will be the duty of the Association to secure Congressional aid in improving the river fronts, and in preventing the possibility of repeated inundations. The scheme is an excellent one, and its basis seems firmly grounded on a proper national pride.

The United States Congress is not content with cutting off Chinese immigration, but at present a special commission has been appointed to consider the best measure for checking the annual overflow of European immigrants, who, though neither paupers nor criminals, are still an undesirable addition to the population. The *Boston Traveller* points out the wisdom of this move and informs us that "one of the British dependencies," presumably Canada, will soon follow the American fashion of restricting immigration. With all due respect to our Boston friends, we protest that our already excellent laws on this complex subject are not modelled by any known Statute of the United States, but that on the contrary, we will be pleased to see Congress copying our code of laws. The *Traveller* is also in fault in its statement that the people of Queensland resent the importation of foreign laborers, and that they are considering methods of putting an end to it. Unfortunately, the Kanaka Labor Traffic is most popular in Queensland, being upheld by the Governor and Assembly, and it is only through the intervention of philanthropists that any protest has been made.

Labor strikes and differences between labor and capital have become so world-wide that the leading commercial bodies in the British Empire have decided to make the matter of the conciliation of these disputes one of the chief subjects for discussion at the approaching congress of the Boards of Trade. There can be no doubt that one of the causes of stagnation of trade is the labor problem. While labor is dependent upon capitalists for the fixed and circulating capital with which to carry on business, the capitalists are likewise dependent upon labor for their profits. Under present conditions capitalists have become timid and hesitate to employ their means in any investment the profits of which depend upon labor. On the other hand labor begins to appreciate the strength which it has derived from organization, and as this power is not always under the control of cool heads it is sometimes used to the disadvantage of labor itself. Whatever may be said in favor of Boards of arbitration or Boards of conciliation, there are many who believe that the true remedy for the differences between capital and labor is to be found in co-operation, and we trust that this phase of the question will be fully considered at the coming London congress.

The speech of the Hon. David Mills condemning the passage of the redistribution bill is one of the strongest denunciations of the measure that has yet been made upon the floors of parliament, and is evident that Mr. Mills is deeply concerned as to the results of this now famous bill. Mr. Mills has the courage of his convictions and he warns parliament and the country that the measure will lead to the bitterest political warfare that Canada has ever known, and he further intimates that the outcome may endanger the very existence of the Canadian nationality. We have read the speech with deep interest, and with Mr. Mills we deeply regret the breaking up of the old historic county lines; but Mr. Mills has failed to show how it is possible to retain these lines as the boundaries of constituencies and at the same time adhere to the principle of representation according to population. If this principle has been adhered to as fully as we believe it has, we cannot understand how the passage of the redistribution bill is fraught with the dangers which Mr. Mills predicts. The difficulty in this country is that party lines enter so largely into political discussions that it is almost impossible for an independent by-stander to obtain a correct idea upon any question. Black is white, and white is black, according to the party spectacles, and we presume that it is hopeless to look for any unanimity of opinion upon any question among men whose supposed distinctive difference of opinion lies in their belief or disbelief in the policy of protection.

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