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Boys and Pistols. The custom of carrying pistols and of leaving them about where children can get hold of them and use them for playthings, is responsible for many tragic occurrences. The occasions when any man who is disposed to mind his own business and keep out of bad company has any good reason for carrying, or even owning, a pistol, must be in this country few and far between. A tragedy which occurred in a school house in Kingston, Ont., the other day, is a forcible illustration of the folly of permitting boys to have so dangerous playthings in their possession. A boy named Eric Sharp, drew a pistol from his pocket and shot through the head a girl fourteen years of age, because, it is said, she had in a spirit of mischievous play knocked the boy's hat off his head. In five minutes the girl was dead. The terrible deed seems to have resulted from an outburst of anger, the possession of the weapon suggesting the temptation to use it. The impulse of anger, the spirit of bravado and the desire to shoot something, acting together in the boy's mind, took possession of him and led him, on the impulse of the moment, to commit the murderous deed which doubtless, as soon as it was done, he regarded with horror. A boy who does such a deed may not be really a bad boy. His act may be due simply to that lack of reflection and of self-control which naturally belongs to a boy. All the greater therefore is the responsibility resting upon those who permit boys to have possession of weapons which may be the occasion of placing them under temptations to use them, which they are not strong enough to resist.

Petroleum as Furnace Fuel. The use of petroleum instead of coal as fuel on steamships is said to be receiving favorable consideration. The principal advantage which the crude petroleum possesses over coal for this purpose appears to be the smaller amount of space which it occupies and the fact also that it can be stored in parts of the vessel which cannot be used for the storage of coal. A vessel would thus be enabled to carry a much greater tonnage of freight without increasing her bulk or diminishing her speed, or she would be able to make greater speed while carrying the same amount of freight. There is said to be at present some advantage on the side of oil in respect to cost, although this might not continue to be the case if the use of oil should become general. There would also be an important gain in respect to the labor of feeding the furnaces, as it is claimed that only one-third as many stokers would be required in running the furnaces with oil as when they are fed with coal.

For the Settlement of Railway Disputes. The Bill introduced last week in the Dominion House of Commons by Hon. Mr. Mulock for the settlement of railway disputes is a noticeable and somewhat radical piece of legislation. Its object is to provide means under the authority of the Government for the settlement of difficulties between railway companies and their employees. The influence to be brought to bear is in the first place advisory, but is finally compulsory, if advisory measures fail. This special interference with the autonomy of railway corporations and their employees in business transactions is supposed to be justified by the public interests involved. It is proposed that the provisions of the measure shall apply to all railways operating in the Dominion, including those under provincial charters, the Intercolonial and any railway owned by a Province, with the consent of the local Government, and also to railways operated by electric and other power. The Bill declares strikes and lockouts to be illegal and provides pen-

alties. For the settlement of disputes there will be Provincial Boards of Arbitration to deal with local differences, with a Dominion Board to deal with disputes which involve wider interests. The Bill provides for seven local boards—the Territories being included with Manitoba—each composed of three arbitrators, one chosen by the companies within the province, another by the men, and the third by these two, or, failing agreement, by the Governor-in-Council. The Dominion board will consist of five members, two from among the railway representatives on the local board, two from the representatives of the men, and the fifth chosen by these four, or, if they cannot agree, by the Governor-in-Council. It will be the duty of these boards to be conciliatory and to endeavor to arrange a settlement of disputes, but failing in that effort, they are clothed with ample powers to proceed as arbitrators and make an award. This latter will be current for such time, not exceeding a year, as the award states, with a provision that either party may terminate it within a lesser period, but when made it will continue in effect until an award has been made to take its place. The parties to a dispute cannot appear by counsel except by consent of both parties and of the arbitrators, and the award will not be cognizable in any court or be removable to a court in any way by which it might be argued or quashed.

The Yukon. Much less is heard now-a-days concerning the Yukon country than when, a few years ago, the stories of its fabulous mineral wealth first inflamed the popular imagination and men by hundreds and thousands were risking, and not a few sacrificing, their lives in the attempt to reach the "Eldorado of the North." Now, by the building of railways and the establishment of regular routes of communication, the journey to Dawson City can be accomplished without unusual risk and in a comparatively short time. There is evidently quite a steady movement of people into the country, and in spite of the rigors of the climate, life in the Yukon country appears to be quite tolerable. While the climate is by no means tropical one, it is not so absolutely frigid as the extremely high latitude might lead us to suppose. Agriculture within certain limits is practicable. The short summers are quite warm and the almost perpetual daylight while the summer lasts, with the abundant moisture stored in the frozen ground, afford conditions favorable for the rapid development of such crops as can mature in a short season. Hon. James H. Ross, the Governor of the Yukon, now in Ontario on a visit, is quoted as stating that, according to present indications, more people would go into the country this year than at any time since the great rush, and that this season's output of gold will be slightly larger than that of last year, which amounted to \$17,000,000. Mr. Ross considers that satisfactory progress is being made in the development of the country through the construction of roads and other public works. Canadian manufacturers, he says, should devote more attention to the needs of the Yukon, where there is a market of six or seven million dollars, now largely in the hands of Americans. The population of the Yukon, as shown by the recent census, entitles the District to representation in the Dominion Parliament.

The British Education Bill. The education Bill brought in by the British Government during the present session of Parliament has been meeting with very determined opposition from the Nonconformists, and the storm of indignation appears to increase in volume and intensity the more closely the proposed law is considered and its probable effects forecast. This

indignation obtained most notable and forcible expression at a great meeting of the Free Churchmen held at St. James' Hall, London, on April 15. Delegates representing about 800 Free Church Councils in England and Wales were assembled, and the meeting is said to have been the greatest Nonconformist gathering which has been seen in London for years. The men thus assembled were evidently keenly conscious of the value of the principles at stake and responded to the memory of the long contention for freedom of conscience and action in which the men then present and their fathers before them had engaged. Dr. Townsend presided, and many men who have more than a national reputation in connection with the Nonconformist faith and life of the country were present, while others who could not be present signified by letter their hearty concurrence in the protest which the meeting was called to emphasize against the Government's School Bill. Among the principal speakers were Dr. John Clifford, Dr. Guinness Rogers and Rev. Hugh Price Hughes. The Bill was opposed and denounced on the ground that it was an entire reversal of the leading principles of 1870 and a violation of public justice, destroying the direct popular management and the unsectarian character of the schools wholly maintained by the rate payers. It was also urged against the proposed law that it would compel Nonconformists to pay rates and taxes to schools, the teaching of which is repugnant to their consciences, would perpetuate the unjust subjection of a State-paid teaching profession to sectarian tests and thus would close a large majority of the possible appointments against Nonconformist teachers otherwise eligible. The protest against the Bill was farther emphasized on the ground that the revolutionary changes which it proposed were not submitted to the country for approval at the last general election, and that consequently Parliament had no mandate to introduce such radical legislation as the Bill proposed. These considerations were urged by the speakers with the forceful eloquence of profound conviction and an outraged sense of justice, and the earnestness and enthusiasm of the response which the vast assembly gave to the words of the speakers could leave no doubt as to the temper of the meeting and the popular attitude within the Nonconformist ranks. Rev. Hugh Price Hughes appears to have voiced the general sentiment with special distinctness and force. "We do not come here," he said, "as patriots merely or as educationalists, but as Nonconformists, as guardians and champions of religious freedom. If this Bill is carried there will be nine thousand parishes in the country where no Nonconformist child can ever become a pupil teacher, and tens of thousands of Nonconformist children will be driven by law into sectarian schools." Mr. Hughes holds with Dr. Parker that if the proposed law is enacted, the taxation to be imposed for the maintenance of these sectarian schools should be resisted. "The tax," he declared, "is quite as bad as the old church rates. To compel you and me to pay rates for a school in which children are taught to despise the faith of their fathers is absolutely intolerable. . . . The authority of the British Parliament ends when it invades the sanctuary of conscience. We are willing to allow state aid for religious teaching which includes the Bible, the plain historical facts of Scripture, and the morality of the New Testament, but we refuse absolutely to multiply sectarian schools and so to perpetuate a cruel wrong."

The election of Sir Thomas Lipton to the committee for administering the King's dinner fund was inevitable. It will be remembered that His Majesty, then Prince of Wales, provided 300,000 poor people with dinners in the year of the late Queen's diamond jubilee. It was then that Thomas Lipton gave \$125,000, besides much valuable assistance, to the scheme, and it was his tea that was drunk by this army of guests. He was knighted for his generosity, and has since added to his reputation by his services in connection with the Alexandra dining house, where the poor can get phenomenally cheap dinners.