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Cheaper Movement of Grain.

Competition between railway and steamship companies results in low freight rates to the general advantage of the country. But when competition becomes excessive, the companies are apt to put their heads together and establish a scale of tariffs to protect their own interests. At the present time it appears that competition between Canadian railways has worked to effect a substantial reduction in the cost of moving grain from the Northwest to Montreal. Mr. E. J. Chamberlain, manager of the Canadian Atlantic Railway, is quoted as saying that, as a result of keen competition, rates have fallen so low that, notwithstanding the big increase in business, the profits to the different companies have not increased to any extent. The Canada Atlantic Railway, he says, has handled on its upper lake boats and thence through to Côteau Landing and Montreal this season more than 8,500,000 bushels of grain. The entrance into the trade of so many new lines of steamers has resulted in the creation of entirely new rates. Whereas last year the lowest rate at which the Canadian Atlantic handled grain was 4½ cents per bushel, this year the average price has been 3½ cents per bushel, and in many instances the company was forced to go close to a 3 cent rate. This, of course, means that the farmer has saved a great deal more money. The result of the farmers keeping their grain says Mr. Chamberlain, means now that they will have to keep it right through the winter, and this will result in very heavy shipments as soon as the season reopens.

A Question of Importance.

A recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States places the maritime jurisdiction, over the Erie Canal—and by inference all the other canals of the United States—in the hands of the National Government. The Montreal Witness points out that this establishment of the supremacy of the Federal Government over canals constructed, owned and operated by individual States, raises a question of considerable importance to Canadians. "When the Treaty of Washington was negotiated in 1871, it was agreed that Canada should allow vessels and barges of United States register to navigate Canadian canals on the same terms as Canadian boats. On behalf of the United States it was agreed that the same privileges should be extended to Canadian vessels in the canals of the United States. This seemed a fair reciprocal arrangement, but when the treaty went into operation, it was discovered that the United States Government had no authority over the State canals, and, as the States concerned refused to be bound by the treaty, or to permit Canadian boats to use their canals, our neighbors in the barge transportation business have had a monopoly of the trade ever since, because they can navigate the canals of both countries, while Canadian boats are stopped and compelled to unload at the frontier. Whether, or to what extent, the decision of the Supreme Court at Washington, will affect the operation of the treaty, remains to be seen. The question has not yet been raised, but it seems a reasonable deduction that, if the Government of the United States has maritime jurisdiction over State canals it can implement its agreement and open these to navigation by Canadian boats."

It Has Its Limits.

We must not look for old heads upon young shoulders. Even mature and sober age may indulge a little nonsense now and then without losing its reputation for wisdom. The effervescent vitality of youth must be allowed some liberty of expression, and we must not be too much disturbed if now and then the exuberance of youth works itself off in ways which to the elderly and more sober portion of the community seem distinctly open to criticism. It may therefore be permitted to the boys to indulge in a little goodnatured mischief on Halloween without too severely calling them to account. But goodnatured fun has its limits, and consequently indulgence must have its limits also. It seems quite evident from the reports of Halloween celebrations in different parts of the country that there is an element in our young Canadian life which in matters of this kind does not know where to stop. Goodnatured forbearance is abused, and the game that is played, like that of the boys with the frogs, is one in which the boys get all

the fun and the other party gets something very different. There is no virtue in encouraging acts of rowdism and vandalism among the half grown youth of our towns and cities even for one night in the year. To do so is indeed to afford a distinct encouragement to vice, and when certain boys in a community show that they do not understand the difference between fun and vandalism, they should be taken in hand and taught an effective lesson. A good deal of wanton destruction of property is reported to have taken place in connection with Halloween celebrations in certain parts of St. John. From Hantsport, N. S., the death of a boy named Corkum is reported. He was shot, it appears, by a man named Trefry who was greatly annoyed by the actions of the boys. There appears to be no justification for the man's terrible deed, but such tragedies are to be expected when persons of quick and ungovernable temper are wantonly subjected to great annoyance. At Montreal it is reported that some eighty students went out to celebrate at the village of Longueville, but they seem to have got much the worst of it for the villagers became infuriated, and chased them back to the city, smiting them hip and thigh. Fifty of the students are reported to have been badly hurt and eight of them were taken to the hospital in an ambulance.

The Saloon Keeper's Responsibility.

In a New Bedford, Mass., saloon a few days ago, an altercation occurred in which a man was stabbed. The row had begun between two men who had been drinking, and one of them threatened the other with a knife. Another man who, with the keeper of the saloon, interfered to prevent the fighting was wounded. Then the man who did the stabbing was arrested, the others supposing, no doubt, that they had no legal responsibility in the matter beyond that of witnesses. But Judge Milliken, before whom the case was brought, took a distinctly different view of the matter, and accordingly ordered the arrest of the two other men who had been concerned in the row, and also the saloon keeper. The Judge held that the assault committed was a result of the action of the men concerned in it, and that the whole affair was the outcome of the violation of the terms of a license which provides that liquor shall not be sold to anyone who is known to be a drunkard, to an intoxicated person, or one who has been drunk within the space of six months, and that there shall be no disorder in the licensed saloon. Accordingly, he had no difficulty in fixing the blame in such an affair, and he held that all concerned in it, including the saloon-keeper, must be held responsible. The stabbing in this case appears not to have been at all serious, but if it had been followed by a conviction for manslaughter or murder, the principle involved would have been the same. If Judge Milliken's ruling shall be upheld, it will naturally have the effect of rendering saloon keepers more cautious as to how they violate the terms of their licenses. Further, it may be said that if the judge's interpretation of the law is not the right one, then the law should be brought into harmony with that interpretation. Laws that will unequivocally place upon the liquor seller a share of the responsibility for the crimes committed by the men whom he helps to make drunken and criminal, would be simply just and would be distinctly in the interests of moral reform.

Canadian Apples.

It is estimated that the Canadian apple crop of 1903 will yield better returns to the growers than any crop ever before produced by the Dominion. The value of a crop does not always depend upon its largeness and as a matter of fact Canada's apple crop for the present year is not so great, measured by the barrels produced, as those of some previous years. But the average quality is said to be remarkably high, and the failure of the crop in France and Germany, as well as in England, has had the effect of bringing up prices to figures which must be very satisfactory to Canadian producers. Prices quoted from a Manchester, England, auction room about the middle of October were, for Baldwins, 17s; Greenings, 16s; Kings 21s; etc., while first class Canadian apples are said to have sold in England this season as high as \$7 or \$8 per barrel. In regard to the operation of the Fruit Marks Act, a government fruit inspector at Montreal is quoted as saying that previous to this year there was a great deal of misapprehension on the part of

growers and shippers generally; and even now the law is not fully understood by some who have had ample time to become better informed. An objection that was urged against the Act at first was that the opening of the barrels in transit would necessarily damage the package and also the contents and thus entail a loss to the owner. This idea, it is claimed, is entirely contrary to the facts, since the inspectors are all men of long experience in the business of packing and handling apples, and accordingly instead of doing harm to the shippers, the inspector does an incalculable amount of good by watching for and mending broken packages or calling the attention of the ship's coopers to them. Their presence also prevents, it is said, much of the pilfering which would otherwise be going on. The inspectors have also succeeded in having the fruit much more carefully handled than formerly. Through their representations each of the sheds has been provided with a small mattress on which the end of the skid is placed, so that instead of the barrel striking the floor hard as it used to in unloading, when it is turned and rolled off it strikes on the mattress and rolls easily down on the floor, thus saving the jar which was formerly the cause of much damage by bruising the apples and rendering them unsalable. As to the results of the regulations and inspection under the Act, it is said that, while there is still room for improvement in respect to more careful selection of fruit, the use of a felt pad in pressing and the more artistic facing of the pressed end, still a marked advance is apparent in the present methods of packing as compared with those formerly in vogue. The old custom practised by too many packers of putting the good apples at the ends and the little ones in the middle of the barrels has become almost obsolete, the authorities being particularly severe on that dishonest practice. The principal difficulty now is that many shippers are inclined to grade their apples too high, marking as No. 1, fruit which does not properly belong to that class.

The New York Election.

The defeat of Seth Low as candidate for the mayoralty of New York, is a distinct triumph for Tammany and a corresponding defeat for the cause of good municipal government in the great American metropolis. The defeat was decisive, the plurality for McClellan, the Democratic-Tammany candidate, being about 70,000 votes. Two years ago Low was elected by a majority of 31,632. At that time he carried all the boroughs but Queens, his plurality in Manhattan and the Bronx being 5,693, in Brooklyn 26,797 and in Richmond 793. In Queens Low's opponent, Shepard, had a plurality of 561. This year McClellan carried Manhattan and the Bronx by about 53,000, a gain of 63,000; Brooklyn by about 6,000, a gain of 31,000, and Queens by about 5,000 a gain of more than 4,000. This makes a total net gain for McClellan of about 103,000 as compared with Shepard's vote of two years ago. This reversal of public opinion—if we may call it such—is all the more remarkable in the face of the fact that nearly all the newspapers and practically all the clergymen of the city were in declared opposition to McClellan's election. The municipal administration of New York during the past two years has certainly not been perfect, but the cause represented by Mayor Low was recognized as the cause of good government, and it was well understood that his defeat would mean a return to the methods of Tammany, which have so cursed and degraded the administration of the city's government in the past. The fact appears to be that the Democratic party joined hands with Tammany to defeat Mayor Low who is a Republican and a secure Democratic victory. From a partisan standpoint and in view of the approaching presidential contest, it was thought worth while to purchase victory by handing over the city for another two years at least to the mercies of Tammany. The newly elected Mayor, George B. McClellan is a son of General McClellan of civil war fame. He is a Congressman, and it is said that, negatively at least, he is a man of good reputation, but it is well understood that the reins of government will be in the hands of Tammany and not of Mayor McClellan.

—The somewhat extended vacancy in the pastorate of the Jarvis St. Baptist Church, Toronto, has been filled by Dr. H. Francis Perry's acceptance of the call extended to him by the church about a month ago. Dr. Perry will enter upon his duties at Jarvis Street with the first Sunday in December. He is said to be about forty years of age, was sometime pastor of the Hyde Park Baptist Church, Boston, and left there seven or eight years ago to accept the pastorate of the Englewood Church, Chicago, from which he comes to Toronto.