

TIED UP MONEY.—One of the chief causes of hard times and tight money is the carelessness of moneyed individuals. People who can well afford to pay their bills wait until the sum of indebtedness is large, and to use their own expression "worth paying." This tendency to delay payment is demoralizing to the poorer class. It causes money to be locked up and withheld from circulation which should be in constant use. A hundred dollars kept moving is worth far more than the same sum lying at rest, and in proportion to the amount of money in circulation will easy living prevail among the class of people who are in a manner obliged to live from hand to mouth.

A POSSIBLE MATCH.—A proposition has been made to unite the City of Halifax with the ancient town of Dartmouth, and many of the men who have the best interests of both places at heart, consider that the move would be an excellent one. Dartmouth is too ambitious a town to be easily satisfied. It is not a great while since Dartmouthians clamored for a division of the Eastern section, and when that scheme fell through, it was suggested that the Eastern half of the County should be made an Independent Electoral Division. As neither plan, however, was considered feasible, the suggestion that Halifax and Dartmouth should unite has been made, and there is every reason to believe that the obstacles to such a union might be removed, and that the city and town would be mutually benefited by their change in condition.

THE COAL MINERS' STRIKE.—Already the result of the miners' strike in Great Britain is being widely felt. The supply of coal is low, and some cargoes have been shipped from American ports to supply the demand. Over a million people are affected by the strike—the miners and their families are the first sufferers, then come the well-to-do people in every mining town who are at their wit's end to find food for their poorer neighbors. The consumers of coal are paying a famine price for that necessary commodity, while the proprietors of the idle mines are losing money daily. The cause of the present strike is the attempt of the owners to lower the already low rate of wages, and the miners contend that their condition, even with the daily pittance, would not be greatly better than it is now when they refuse to work at all.

THE OLD AND NEW METHODS.—One of most noticeable differences between the methods of old time and present day workmen has been well pointed out of late. The workman no longer *pulls*, instead the almost invariable practice is to *push*. Where the old-fashioned carpenter formerly pulled his plane across the boards to be smoothed, the modern practice is to push the board between revolving bits that go by steam. In the harvesting season the grain was cut with sickles, for which motive power of pull was supplied. The modern apparatus for this work is a push machine which does the work of reaping, threshing and packing. In the lesser conveniences of daily life the same principle has been applied. We no longer pull our babies in their perambulators, but instead push them from behind. The door-bell, which is pulled, is being fast displaced by the electric button, which is pushed, and in nearly every department of life the same change of method may be observed.

PERSONATING ELECTORS.—After every election there is a cry raised by the parties on both sides of the contest that there has been unfair work done at the polls. In particular there is too often a row over the personation of voters, and there is no doubt that in almost every electoral contest dead men are seen to appear and to cast their votes at the polls. This crime at least is preventable, and we see no reason why the suggestion of Mr. Jones Bell, of Toronto, is not a good one. Mr. Bell proposes that the Municipal clerk, in whose office is the voters' list, should examine the list before each election, and strike off the names of all voters whose deaths have been registered within the year. If this plan is not practicable, he asks that the County Judge be deputed to examine the list, and the Municipal officer be ordered to prepare a list of the deaths of persons over 21 years of age that have been registered with him. There are too many disgraceful occurrences in connection with our elections, but if the personating of dead men can be hindered, one most disreputable practice will be ended.

MATRIMONIAL ADVERTISING.—Strange as it may seem, the schemes for advertising for wives and husbands in the daily papers seem to be on the increase, yet there is scarcely one genuine matrimonial advertisement published. A large number of both men and women have recently been duped by a Niagara Falls sharper who has been advertising himself as a young, rich and beautiful woman, whose guardian was making her life miserable. He asked that letters with the purpose of immediate matrimony should be forwarded to a private address, and expressed his (or her) determination to escape from "duress vile." Several women whose hearts were touched by this tale of oppression entered into correspondence with the supposed girl, and several moneyed enclosures were sent, that she might fly from her stern guardian. A number of men whose motives were probably not so good, also took the bait and forwarded sums of money from \$25.00 and upwards, for the purpose of eloping with the fair unknown. At last the bubble burst. The supposed lady love is under arrest for obtaining money under false pretences, and she proves to be a burly man of fifty who bears no resemblance to the sad-eyed, yet beautiful girl whose picture he has circulated. The moral is obvious to all who have been taken in, and we trust that it may also prevent the repetition of the story in any part of our Dominion.

THE CANADIAN SHEEP.—The exhibit of the sheep at the World's Fair has convinced many that Canada has no reason to be ashamed of her flocks and herds. The Ontario breeders have already an excellent showing, and in the Leicester and Lincoln breeds they have distanced all competitors. So far, all the important sheep prizes have fallen to the lot of Canadians, and it is thought that as the various breeds are exhibited the superiority of the Canadian sheep will be even more fully proven. Our only regret is that there is no exhibit of sheep from our own Province.

A CARELESS LAW.—Our laws for the protection of wives from brutal husbands are exceedingly loose, and a study of some recent police court cases in several parts of the Dominion would convince any doubter on the subject. A man who assaults a man or a woman other than his wife is dealt with vigorously by the law, a single blow often costing twenty-five dollars, but a wife, after years of ill-treatment, is hardly allowed to speak of her wrongs. A woman in Victoria, who was nearly murdered by her brutal husband, was assured by the courts, that should such an "accident" occur again, her husband would get a two month's sentence. Yet had the assailant not been the woman's husband, the penalty would have been imposed. There are, thank God, few wife-beaters in Canada, but we are of opinion that their numbers will increase or decrease, according to the treatment which is accorded them.

OLD SONGS THE BEST.—Although thousands of new songs and hymns are published each week, the old favorites retain a marvellous hold on the people. The songs of the day are evanescent—"Annie Rooney," "Ta-ra-ra," and "After the Ball," have been in succession decidedly popular, yet not one of them has had any permanent effect upon the people. A crowd of excursionists in any part of this continent when moved to song, will leave the ditties of the day and give in rousing chorus the old-time melodies of "Annie Laurie," "Home Sweet Home," or "Way Down Upon the Swanee River," or if there be a religious element among the travellers, the well-known hymns "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," "Rock of Ages," "Nearer My God to Thee," will be heard. A few of the earlier hymns of Moody and Sankey can claim a place in public popularity, but for the most part it is the old hymns and songs which are most loved by the people.

OPTIMIST OR PESSIMIST.—There is a want of philosophy among Provincial business men, which, if it were not pitiable, would be laughable. It shows itself most plainly in the habit of forecasting undesirable occurrences and in general pessimistic brooding. Life is too short and concise for a man to form this habit and to lead a normal life at the same time. The pessimists, unless singularly favored by circumstances, go to the wall mentally and financially, or else they are so fearful of their success that they cease to take pleasure in it. If it were but generally understood that pessimistic thoughts are moral poison, acting both on the physical and the spiritual man, the habit would be broken, and the truth of the old proverb of the "healthy mind in the healthy body" would be vindicated. The man who takes the world as it comes, who adapts himself to circumstances, and who keeps his moral record clear, need not be afraid of what the future has in store for him. He need not induce chronic disorders by continual brooding over the possibility of their existence in his body, and he need not induce insanity by clouding his mental vision with morbid broodings. The pessimist is an undesirable friend, while the optimist, who is not ashamed to show his kindly hopeful feeling, is a benefit to all with whom he comes in contact.

SOUTH AFRICAN QUANDARY.—Mr. Cecil Rhodes, the Premier of Cape Colony, has been struggling for the past four years to consolidate British power in South Africa with the double purpose of serving his country well and of benefitting the British South African Company, of which he is the managing director. A new and serious difficulty has, however, arisen, which, when combined with a difficulty of long standing, bids fair to undo much of the work of the young Premier. The British territories in South Africa have been expanding slowly but surely. Rich farming stretches and valuable mining areas have been annexed, and the prosperity of the British settlers has been marked. The Matabele, a wild native race, have now taken exception to the outspreading boundaries of British Africa, and in particular, they resent the workings of the South African Company. They are a fierce, daring people, closely connected with the Zulus, and they announce that they are ready for war unless the Company will make many important concessions. The Premier's appeal to the Home authorities has been disregarded. Mr. Gladstone, always feeble when the affairs of South Africa or the Sudan are under discussion, has no advice, money, or forces to offer, and the Premier is left to shift for himself. He is confident that the few thousand mounted police, even when supplemented by the settlers, are inadequate to cope with the Matabele, and he is considering the advisability of accepting the help of a thousand native Boers who have offered to support the Company. The Boers are an excellent body of men, but they have been at variance with the British settlers for many years, and as they demand farms in the British territory as pay for their services, the settlers have promptly objected to their offer of help being accepted. Mr. Rhodes and his people are surrounded by dangers. The weak policy of the Gladstone Government leaves them without protection, the prejudice of the people prevents the acceptance of the only assistance which is to be had, and the Matabele are not in a humor to book any diplomatic answer.

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