

It is now possible for the people of New York and Chicago to engage, if they will, in a peaceful conversation on the subject of the World's Fair, for we presume that bad language is prohibited on the "longest telephone service in the world." The new line is 950 miles long, and it has been found thoroughly satisfactory. It is a triumph of long distance telephoning which this nineteenth century may well be proud of.

The Cardwell scheme for the withdrawal of British troops from "Colonies which are no longer Crown Colonies" will be shortly in effect. Jamaica and Barbadoes are to be abandoned, and St. Lucia is now being fitted as the headquarters of troops for the West Indies. The famous Cardwell scheme does not effect Halifax, however. The position of our city is strategically valuable, and immense sums of money have been expended by the Imperial Government in improving the fortifications and armaments of our Canadian Gibraltar. Therefore the dream of an American capitalist who lately visited our shores, of erecting on the Citadel an immense Sanatorium, and making it the fashionable health-resort for America, will remain unrealized.

The immense water-power daily wasted at Niagara is coveted by many of the cities on and near the lakes, and yet no one is quite ready to stir in the matter. There is force enough in Niagara to supply power to all the factories in the vicinity, to light the streets of numerous towns, to run the street cars, and to generally do all city chores. Numbers of Mahomets are still waiting for the mountain to move in their direction. In the meantime some enterprising Californian has devised a means of transmitting the electric power generated in the falls of San Antonio Canyon to the city of San Bernardino, some 28 miles distant. Cannot some of our Canadian electricians devise some means by which the great water power of the Continent should be made to serve the interest of the great cities of the Dominion.

Since the death of the late Mr. Spurgeon of the Metropolitan Tabernacle, London, great efforts have been made to secure a man capable of carrying on his noble work. At last Dr. Pierson was fixed upon as a man of great executive ability and as a man of a most philanthropic turn of mind. Mr. Spurgeon was an ardent Baptist, Dr. Pierson is an ardent Presbyterian, and a great number of the congregation of this all-embracing church have accepted the doctrine of Baptism as taught by Mr. Spurgeon. As a consequence the heretofore harmonious body is rent in twain. The Baptists declare that as Dr. Pierson has not been immersed, he is not qualified to lead others into the right way. The Presbyterian, Congregational, and other attendants are strong for Dr. Pierson, and at a recent Sunday Service a hot dispute arose as to the qualifications of the successor of the great orator. It would be passing strange if the trouble should result in the withdrawal of the Baptist brethren from the church which their ablest scholar and orator did so much to benefit.

The question as to British occupation of Uganda is being hotly discussed by the English press. The *Times*, in an able article, favors Capt. In Ludgard's suggestions on the subject. This officer has had some practical experience in life in Africa, and is an enthusiast for the development of some portions of the Dark Continent by British capital. Uganda is in particular a promising district, for soil, climate, natural products, and cheap labor are awaiting but the touch of the capitalist's enterprise. A good railroad is needed through the interior of the district, and once built there is little doubt but that it would rapidly develop the Uganda market. There is of course an important moral question involved. The present trading company at Uganda admit that they are unable to combat the slave-traffic of the country. Great Britain is in a measure responsible for these human kidnappers, and if the territory is under British protection there is a deep stain of slavery upon the British nation. A vigorous decided policy on the part of the Gladstone Government is needed.

The Methodists of Upper Canada have made a wise decision in removing the Victoria College from Cobourg to the City of Toronto. The great University of Toronto is the crown of the educational system of Canada. It is magnificently endowed, it is thoroughly Catholic in its teachings, and its staff includes many of the ablest men of this generation. Why, therefore, should each denominational college strive to maintain its individual existence, except as a great School of Divinity. Toronto University sits as a Queen with her satellites about her. The Divinity Schools of Knox, St. Michaels, Wycliffe and Victoria, which are affiliated with her, all strengthen the University, and in turn are strengthened by her. Each great School of Divinity is much more complete than it could possibly be if it were necessary to provide funds for the Arts' courses, instead of concentrating money and effort in the one department. Toronto can do on a princely scale what they at best could do but inefficiently with the means at their command. As a consequence of these affiliations there will soon be another generation of clergymen and ministers abroad, who will be more thoroughly trained than their predecessors, and whose minds will be greatly broadened by the contact with hundreds of other men fitting themselves for a like calling. Confederating is the true life of a University. Only through confederation can the best work be done to the greatest advantage. Germany long ago solved the problem. Toronto has solved it but recently, and it remains for our lesser colleges not to weaken themselves by continual bickerings, but to unite in a far-seeing effort to raise the whole tone of Provincial college life.

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There seems to be no doubt that "some one has blundered" in the examination of the Canadian cattle sent to Great Britain. Twelve hundred head were landed at Dundee. Among them were some diseased cattle, which were pronounced by the Board of Agriculture to be suffering from pleuro-pneumonia. Orders were issued to at once destroy the whole consignment, as the danger of introducing this dread disease among the Scotch herds was very great. Our Canadian cattle traders are not disposed to stand quietly by while their business is practically at a stand still. They protest that there are no cases of pleuro-pneumonia in those portions of Canada from which the cattle were shipped, and that the diagnosis of the Scottish Board of Agriculture was an incorrect one. Sir Charles Tupper is to return immediately from Paris to London in order to represent the interests of Canada in the pending investigation. The stoppage of the cattle trade even for a short time would seriously cripple our cattle dealers, and would also inconvenience the great number of Britons who habitually use the cheap and wholesome meat sent from Canada.

Our Newfoundland friends aver that if Sir Baldwin Walker should be sent in search of the North Pole, he would infallibly manage to sail into hot water, and certainly the commodore of Her Majesty's War Ships has been in trouble of some sort pretty much since his appointment. His last blunder has been an interference with Labrador fishermen by ordering their trawls out of the water. He has also set up some arbitrary rules as to the management of the fisheries which are not in accordance with the laws of "ye ancient colonie of Newfoundland." To crown matters he has followed the hated French precedent to the extent of taking French leave of St. John's on Sunday, in order to prevent a writ being served on him on a charge of the false imprisonment of two lighthouse keepers. What a peculiarly handy thing it must be to have the entire control of a warship when such a contingency arises. Sir Baldwin's action, though thoroughly undignified, was yet very human—and after all it is very possible that he is not the rogue he is painted, but simply an erring human being who has confounded his personality with his official position.

Diphtheria has made its appearance in several of the cities of Upper Canada to such an extent that in some cases it has been thought advisable to close the public schools. We trust that Halifax will escape the awful visitant this year, and we have every hope that the precautions which the Board of Health has taken to prevent its return will be successful. Parents and teachers cannot be too careful about the throats of the children in their charge. A simple sore throat predisposes a child to diphtheria, and even a slight irritation of the tubes should not be passed over without an examination by the family physician or by some experienced person. An excellent plan is to disinfect the throats, teeth and gums daily with a disinfectant solution such as permanganate of potash. Another most important fact is too often overlooked by parents. Children should be taught to gargle when in perfect health. Scores of children perish yearly because they have never been taught to gargle, and are therefore unable to take the proper treatment for their disease. As the old proverb tells us—"forewarned is forearmed," and we trust that many who have little children in their care will seriously consider these two most important suggestions.

General Booth, of the Salvation Army, has had many sharp encounters with adversaries who doubt his uprightness in financial affairs. These he has for the most part successfully worsted, and they are now taking issue with him as to the practical value of his work. The General makes a vigorous answer to this by calling for investigation into the character of the work done in his various factories and his new farm colony. This last gives employment to some 350 destitute men and women. Farm products are successfully raised and marketed—the poultry business alone has grown to fine proportions. Many of the men are kept at cattle-raising, and to crippled bodies is assigned the care of rabbit-warrens. Thus far the work is eminently practicable, for the occupants of the farm colony are being qualified for emigration. The city factories are doing a thriving trade, and they wisely do not attempt to cut prices on their manufactured goods, for the General is an astute financier, and does not propose to enlarge the number of destitute whom he proposes to aid by throwing regular workmen out of employment. If General Booth can hold his farms and his factories so that they are not asylums, but mere training schools for emigration, he will succeed in doing a better work for the poor of London than has yet been attempted.

The Royal Commission on Prohibition has gleaned some very discreditable facts as to the sale of intoxicating liquors in Canada, but the open boast of the Hudson Bay Company as to their rapidly growing liquor business is disgraceful, not only to that historic corporation, but it reflects on all Canada as well. It has been the policy of the Company in the past to restrain the liquor traffic among the various employees and fur-hunters, doubtless in part because it was found that the more temperate men were more profitable to the Company, and in part because of a desire on the part of the Company to establish a high moral tone in the large community affected by its action. Within the last few years the Company has done a large and ever-increasing liquor business, which they openly attribute to "the push of the Hudson Bay Company." "Push" of that kind is of the demoralizing down-bill variety, and is far from pleasant to reflect upon. If the great corporation has no soul, yet its individual members presumably have, and they are morally responsible for the policy of the Company. Let them reflect seriously before they again dare to boast that their "push" in wrecking the lives of our young Canadians demonstrates praiseworthy energy.

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