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NOTE AND COMMENT

The first steel section of the Michigan Central tunnel under the Detroit River, connecting Detroit with Windsor, will be laid from the Detroit shore in a few days. The engineers expect to have the big subway completed by the fall of 1910.

"The Living Age" for September 14 opens with an "appreciation" of Mr. Chamberlain, reprinted from "The National Review," which gives the great English statesman at least his full deserts—and some will think more than his full deserts—as a force in British politics and imperialism.

One of the world's great musical composers is removed in the death of Edward Grieg at Bergen, Norway, Sept. 4. He was of Scotch ancestry, but of Norwegian birth, and while Norway especially mourns his death she is joined by the whole world of good music lovers. Grieg was born in 1843.

The wealthiest parish in America, if not in the world, is stated to be Trinity Episcopal Church, in New York City. It is assumed that a large part of the income goes to the support of eight chapels, twelve parish schools, and a hospital, in addition to the aid which the church gives to twenty-six other churches, hospitals, and missions.

As a result of the recent observations of the planet Mars, Professor Percival Lowell makes the positive declaration that the planet is inhabited. While many have indulged in theories and conjectures, this is the first time that a distinguished scientist has positively committed himself to the declaration that life exists on Mars.

"The Quarterly Review's" fair and well-considered article on "President Roosevelt and the Trusts," has been reprinted in full by "The Living Age," and may be obtained in the issues of that magazine for August 24 and 31. It was written before the thumping fine imposed on the Standard Oil Company by Judge Landis, but is thoroughly up-to-date, and covers the earlier phases of that famous case as well as other aspects of the administration's war upon the trusts.

A Silence Club has been formed in London, England. Its membership is limited to ten, all of whom are season ticket holders on the London Subway Railway, and the subscription is sixpence weekly. It was established to enable the members to read the paper on the way to town, the club never meeting on any other occasion. The revenue is handed to the guard every Saturday morning, and in consideration of this he makes a point of reserving a carriage for the members of the club.

Despatches from Wellington, N. Z., state that the Court of Appeal there has finally declared that the strike of the slaughterhouse men and their sympathizers is illegal. The workmen who are participating in it, the court holds, are violating the award of the court of arbitration, and may be fined, and, in case of non-payment, may be imprisoned for a term not exceeding one year. The situation is interesting, because of the advanced socialistic labor laws under which the convictions were obtained.

It is reported from Vancouver, B.C., that J. T. Stradforth, an iron-master from Newcastle-on-Tyne, one of the organizers of the North Pacific Iron Steel Corporation in British Columbia, is arranging for the erection of modern steel works at Vancouver. The new company will manufacture steel of all grades, and it is also reported that there will be a big ship-building plant. The capital is to be secured largely from England, although some will be forthcoming from British Columbia. We trust the scheme will be carried through successfully. We believe that the development of our great Pacific Province will be one of the leading features in national progress in the near future.

What is characterized as "the most disastrous salmon fishing and packing season in the history of British Columbia" has just closed. The total output of all the canneries is only about 285,000 cases of sockeyes. On the Fraser River the pack is only about 55,000 cases. This means a real loss to the Fraser River. The Sound pack, by Canadian count, will total only about 73,000 cases. The Canadian pack is about as follows:—Skeena River, 110,000 cases; Fraser River, 55,000 cases; Rivers Inlet, 87,000; Naas, 14,000; outside points, 19,000. Of this amount Canada takes 120,000 and Australia 75,000 cases; leaving only 90,000 for the English market.

The Presbyterian Department of Church and Labor, in the United States, has inaugurated a new departure, by which it is hoped to keep the ministry of that church in touch with the changing sociological conditions of to-day. A correspondence school has been organized, and any minister can through it receive instruction in socialism, trade-unionism, tenement house and other civic problems. The faculties of the seminaries claim that the rapidly changing conditions make it difficult to properly train ministers for their work, and the new school will aim to afford an up-to-date curriculum, that will enable the minister in a charge to keep thoroughly posted as to the newest developments in sociological science. The move is one that will commend itself to many; and it is in line with recent efforts to bring the university life of the country into closer touch with the national life.

The recent declaration of the Pope and his advisers against prevalent erroneous teaching by scholars, within and without their Church, received a kind of authorization which might have been expected in the middle ages, but which seems very unusual at this time. A dispatch to the New York "Times" says:—"The Pope had been extraordinarily cast down by the tension between the Vatican and a large section of the German Catholics. A few hours later his Holiness was on his knees in his private room fervently praying for the good of the Church, when he became aware of an added light in the room, and, turning, opened his eyes full on the glorious vision of the Madonna, surrounded by a golden light. She bade him be of good cheer, saying he would live to see an improvement in the affairs of the Church, and then gradually faded from view with a smile of blessing and encouragement." The Pontiff is reported then to have arisen from his knees and signed the decree!

Just before Wendell Phillips died he said to a friend, "When I was fourteen I heard Lyman Beecher preach on 'You belong to God.' I went home, locked the door of my room, and threw myself on the floor and prayed, 'O God, I belong to thee; take what is thine own.' From that day to this it has been true that whenever I have known that a thing was wrong, it had no temptation for me; and whenever I have known a thing to be right, it has taken no courage to do it."

While no doubt the courtesy of street-car conductors and minor city employees isn't all that it might be, the public is hardly justified in demanding Chesterfields and Brummels on wages of two dollars a day. Many years ago an indignant citizen complained to old Mayor Quincy, of Boston, that the street sweepers were an ungentlemanly lot. "I know it, I know it," acknowledged the old gentleman sadly. "I've tried to induce the members of the first families of Commonwealth Avenue to handle the brooms, but they won't do it."

It is remarkable what a very much easier existence the present Prince of Wales enjoys than did his Royal father before him when he bore the title he graced so well. As heir to the Throne, King Edward practically fulfilled all the obligations of kingship without its advantages during the last half of Queen Victoria's long reign. But whereas the Prince of Wales of yesterday was perforce obliged to lead a strenuous life of "representation," the Prince of Wales to-day has comparatively very little to do.

In the September number of "Outing" there is an article in which the condition of the poor of London is stated in figures that are almost beyond belief. According to it, there is continually in that city an army of 80,000 unemployed. Besides this number there are 30,000 women very badly employed; 35,000 homeless adults; 35,000 wandering children of the slums, and 15,000 criminals at large. There are 300,000 people living in one-room tenements in which decency is impossible. Every night 30,000 Londoners sleep in four penny lodging-houses. In London, continues the writer, there are 1,292,737 workers who get less than \$5 a week per family.

It was a favorite saying of Bancroft, the historian, who was a vigorous old man at ninety, that the secret of a long life is in never losing one's temper. The remark was simply a concrete way of expressing the hygienic value of amiability—a principle which, until lately, has scarcely been considered in the training of children. Hitherto we have regarded fretfulness, melancholy, and bad temper as the natural concomitants of illness. But modern science shows that these mental moods have actual power to produce disease. No doubt in most cases imperfect bodily conditions are the cause of irritable and depressed feelings, yet sometimes the reverse is true, and a better knowledge of physiological laws would show them to be effect rather than cause. The fact that discontented and gloomy people are never in good health is an argument in favor of the theory that continual indulgence in unhappy thoughts acts as a poison and creates some form of disease.—Congregationalist.