

REMUNERATION FOR SERVICE ASKED FOR—The members of the British Parliament are becoming dissatisfied at receiving no financial return for their services to their country, and a formal measure asking for payment will shortly be presented. Our Canadian members receive a fair remuneration of \$1,000 a year. Representatives in France and Austria receive \$5.00 per day. German members are content with \$2.50 per day, and Sweden, although allowing \$3.50 for a four months session, deducts \$2 on a day for absence from duty. Portugal allows \$350.00 a year, Denmark \$3.00 a day, but Spain and Italy favor the former British policy of allowing the representatives to serve their country without remuneration.

BOTH HEARD AND SEEN.—Thomas A. Edison, that indefatigable inventor, has devised a kinetograph, which will probably be one of the great novelties of the World's Fair. The new instrument is a combination of the camera and the phonograph, for not only are the tones of the voice accurately reproduced, but a constantly changing picture on a screen near by, will give the exact position, gestures and expression of the features. With a keen eye to business Mr. Edison has arranged matters so that but one person can be entertained at a time, as the changing photograph can only be seen through a telescopic apparatus. There are, however, to be over 150 machines on exhibition, so that there will be ample opportunity for all to examine the new invention.

THE ROUMANIAN MARRIAGES.—A picturesque marriage custom still prevails in Roumania, whither Prince Ferdinand has recently carried his English bride, the Princess Marie of Edinburgh. In order to insure the interest of the newly married couple in the thirty-two districts of the little kingdom, a special encouragement to matrimony is given. Thirty-two young peasant couples, each couple representing a district, were brought to Bucharest, where their nuptials were celebrated in the presence of the royal pair. Thirty-two carriages in waiting conveyed the newly married couples to the palace, where the wedding dinner was served. King Charles then presented a purse of gold to each couple, and the young Crown Prince clinked glasses and drank with every bridegroom. This glimpse of half-Bohemian, half-Oriental life, must have been most interesting to the fair-haired English bride.

THE COUNTRY ROADS.—Our American friends are well stirred up on the subject of the improvement of country roads. During the coming year a great many experiments in road-mending and constructing will be tried, and by the close of the year we will be able to reap the full advantage of their practical experience in the matter. One of the ideas is to employ convict labor in road-making, and so relieve the community of a heavy tax. Another idea is to employ the surplus laborers from the cities in the work, and so lessen the misery of the crowded city life. It is claimed that good roads will correct a serious defect of the railroad system, by which the small towns and villages are robbed of their population and large line cities built. Good roads will build up the market towns and the farming communities—they being the property of the nation there can be no monopoly or tariff changes. The prosperity of the farmer is of great value to the country, and if good roads will materially aid him it is the duty of the State to provide them as soon as possible.

CO-OPERATIVE LABOR.—The toilers of the sea have found co-operative labor to be most successful when applied to their work upon the briny deep. The whale fishery in particular has demonstrated the value of co-operative labor, as for the past 200 years the co-operationists have brought every drop of whale oil to the markets. The division of profits is simply arranged, as each man or boy employed has a definite share in the enterprise. The least share will be a 1-170, while the experienced men, the steers, the mates, and the captain, will have a proportionate interest. This co-operative whale trade was begun and held by the sailors along the Nantucket coast, and is equalled only by the successful co-operative work of the New England cod and haddock fishers. The success of both these co-operative combines lies in the fact that the rights of the head man, the captain or skipper, have always been fairly recognized, and he has not been expected to use time, energy and thought for benefitting his comrades while the wage of a common working man has been assigned him. Co-operative labor with a cash recognition of the brain of the leader is usually successful.

FILTHY LUCRE!—A prudential measure has recently been presented in Congress with regard to the circulation of unclean paper money. The probable result will be that the Secretary of the Treasury will call in and destroy all ragged, worn or soiled paper money and furnish new bills. It has been demonstrated so often that infectious diseases are spread by continually moving paper money that little argument is needed on that point. The destruction of the dirty bank bills is a sanitary measure as necessary to the prevention of the spread of disease as are the strictest quarantine measures. As we have before pointed out, there are a large number of United States bills in circulation in Canada. Many of them are both filthy and ragged, and their recall and cremation by the proper authorities will not be gainsaid; but the condition of our own paper currency is much worse. The bills, especially of the lower denominations, are discolored by greasy handling, and are unfit for use. It is to our interest as much as to the interest of the neighboring republic that our people should handle clean bills, and a good half of our present currency will be the better for destruction by the bank authorities.

VICE VERSA.—The study of Australian politics discloses some curious phases of political life that have hitherto been unknown and unimagined. For instance, the Premier of Queensland, Sir S. Griffith, was recently obliged to be absent from the Colony, whereupon the Leader of the Opposition was appointed Treasurer and acting Premier until the return of the proper official. We doubt if the same method would work satisfactorily in our Provincial Legislature.

STOPPED IN TIME.—The circumstances of the mysterious Borden murder, which so excited the community last summer, are still involved in much doubt, and the long-delayed trial of the daughter accused of the deed is again beginning to excite public interest. Many wild and totally unfounded statements concerning the unhappy girl appear in the newspapers, who, on account of the desire of reporters to secure sensational articles, has many times figured as a brazen and guilty woman. The fact that she is innocent in the eye of the law until the serious charge against her is proven seems to have been completely ignored. The horrible deed has also attracted a class of morbid writers, who dilate on the nature and possible cause of the crime, and propound their theories as solemnly as if they had a backing of solid facts. Some writer, not content with the newspaper notoriety which his article had afforded, prepared a sensational novel on the subject, in which the real names of the prisoner and others connected with the case were used. Flashily illustrated pages were also prepared, and the choice collection of literary and moral poison was to have been at once put in circulation, when the counsel for Miss Borden made a protest which resulted in the prohibition of the intended publication. A legal question may be raised by the publishers, but the general tide of public feeling will be with the parties who would have been seriously injured by the publication of the tale of horror.

ANOTHER BLOW FOR THE CATTLE TRADE.—The deplorable action of the British Government in scheduling Canadian cattle has been found to be as injurious to the small farmers of Scotland as to our own cattle-raisers. The Government of the United States has also followed the action of the Home authorities, and has recently placed an embargo on the Canadian cattle trade, and a sentence of three months quarantine has been pronounced on all cattle landing or to be landed at the port of Buffalo. The cattle trade between Canada and the United States has not been carried on to any great extent, but the standing of our cattle dealers is seriously affected by this new restriction. There have been several routes to the markets of Great Britain used by the dealers for their export, and since the closing of the American routes they will be obliged to pay any price which may be demanded of them on the St. Lawrence route, which will now have the monopoly of the cattle traffic. A serious discouragement has been given to cattle breeders who wished to send the prizes of their stock-yards to the World's Fair. The expense and the stigma of three months quarantine will, unless the edict is speedily revoked, prevent any showing of Canadian live stock. The action of the United States Government is not based on the discovery of exported cattle affected with pleuro-pneumonia, but it is the direct result of the hasty scheduling of our cattle by the Imperial authorities. It is generally understood that if the embargo can but be lifted no further remonstrance would be made by our American neighbors.

THE MAIL SERVICE.—The Postal service of Canada is steadily growing in both extent and efficiency. Sir Adolphe Caron's report of the P. O. Department recently submitted to the House is most gratifying. He reports that mails were carried during the last year over 13,303 miles of railway, or an increase of 1,182 miles when compared with the rail service of the preceding year. The Provinces of Manitoba, British Columbia and the North-West Territory have now a complete service. The external service of the Dominion has also been greatly improved. The efficiency of the Empress line of steamers carrying the mail of the C. P. R. to Yokohama, Hong Kong and Shanghai has resulted in larger packages of mail matter being forwarded by that route than ever before. The number of letters and papers sent in 1891 has been nearly doubled in the report of 1892. The free delivery of letters has been widely adopted throughout the Dominion, and has been found in all cases to work satisfactorily, although the drop letter postage of two cents for city letters is still far from popular. Of the three millions of registered letters which have passed through the Canadian offices during the year but 147 were found to have been tampered with, delayed or abstracted. The business of the Money Order Offices and the Post Office Savings Banks is better than ever before. One hundred and thirteen thousand of our people have opened accounts in the Government bank to the extent of from \$1.00 to \$50.00. Arrangements have also been made whereby it is possible to remit money orders to the Leeward Islands, Bermuda and British Guiana. The report from the Dead Letter Department is of interest to all careless correspondents. Over a million of mis-directed, undirected, or unstamped letters have been received there during the year. Of these over 25,000 were valuable money letters. Many parcels carelessly secured, stray books and papers, have also been received, and wherever possible the letters or articles are restored to the sender. The few changes which the Department proposes to make in the coming year are not of special note. Larger post-cards and stamps of higher denominations for parcel postage are to be introduced, and every effort will be made to secure a thoroughly satisfactory public service of this widely useful Department.

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