

POTTLER-BLOWING BY MACHINERY.—An interesting experiment in glass-blowing is now being made in the little town of Woodbury, N. Y., where the Ashley bottle-making machine, which since 1889 has been talked of, is now at work. The machine is not wholly an automatic one, as it requires the constant attendance of two operators, a "feeder" and a "carrier." The machine mechanically moulds the shape, and by means of compressed air blows the interior and delivers it to the carrier, who deposits it in the annealing oven. It is thought that the machine may be greatly improved, and that its present output of two bottles a minute may be improved upon.

SOME ONE GOT LEFT.—Notwithstanding all the hullabaloo which our American friends have been raising over the Hawaiian disturbance, and all hot-headed editorial paragraphs on the acquisition of that valuable property, the islands are still far from annexation. The Stars and Stripes, which for two months floated from the Government building, has been ignominiously lowered, the dusky queen is still in favor with many of her subjects, and the future prospect for the royalists is not unpromising. The late "protectorate" was evidently not wholly a success, as the Washington administration has refused to ratify it. It is probable that the present aspect of affairs is owing to the growl of the British Lion, although just what the utterance of that noble beast implied is known to but a few initiated parties.

MCALLISTER IS NOT WANTED.—Chicago society leaders have been much incensed by the public utterance of Ward McAllister on a matter which appeals to the pride of the aristocracy of the pork-packing city. Mr. McAllister congratulates Chicago on the large number of New York tourists who are soon to visit the World's Fair. He thinks that they cannot fail to have a most improving effect upon the Chicago residents, and that the whole social fabric will be greatly benefitted by even a distant association with the elite of New York. The Western papers are of the opinion that the more distant the association the better for Chicago, and they hotly resent the braying of the mouth-piece of the four hundred, and imply that the World's Fair, while it might lose in advertising, would be benefitted socially by the absence of the "mouse-colored ass."

FORWARDED IS FOREARMED.—The shoddy goods peddlers are about again, and it is probable that a new little game will be worked off on credulous customers unless a widespread warning can be sounded. The gang which have recently been doing the Province of Ontario represent themselves as agents of a well-known tailoring establishment. They travel singly through the country, selling cheap tweeds, serges, prints, etc., at exorbitant charges, stating that a tailor or dressmaker is travelling in their wake, and that the goods will be made up in the latest cut without further charge. Naturally, this latter individual does not materialize, and a complaint to the firm in whose employ the agent was supposed to be unmasks the plot. It is very seldom that a fraud which is successfully perpetrated in Upper Canada fails to travel down to our Provinces, and the only protection which can be vouchsafed our people is, that in each case they look fully into the matter before making any contract or agreement.

STILL ON THE TRACK.—The more complete reports which are available of the suit brought by the Ann Arbor Railway against the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, lead us to believe that the decision of the judges bears heavily, not only on the boycotting order in question, but on all other trade-unions, associations and brotherhoods. According to the decision, an engineer is forbidden to abandon his work in such a way that the railroad may be compelled to violate the contracts made with passengers or freight owners. The strikers are also warned by the judges that they will not be upheld by the courts, if, while retaining their positions and attending to their duties satisfactorily, they yet induce the employees to quit the service and thus undermine the company in whose employ they are enrolled. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Drivers have accepted the decision, but it is probable that a demand will be made that the railway's right to discharge an employee at any time may be restricted, so that employee and employer may meet alike on an equal ground.

THE COMING ARBOR DAY.—Many of our Provincial teachers are looking forward to the celebration of Arbor Day in the near future. Many of them are also looking backward and considering whether their schools have reaped any actual benefit from the celebration of last year. Perhaps the majority of the saplings then planted are now dead, and as a natural result the pupils have lost interest in the scheme. This shattered faith can easily be revived if the teacher will but show a genuine interest in the day's work and carefully direct the young helpers. If the trees are to be obtained from a neighboring wood the roots should be carefully trimmed and the limbs well pruned. A soil similar to that in which the tree has been growing should be prepared, and, if the surrounding ground is poor, a large hole should be dug and filled with a proper compost. The roots should be well worked into the soil, and a stake or tree box should be put up to protect it. All of this work can and should be done by the pupils, who, if encouraged, will take a lively interest in the proceedings. The teacher should merely direct the work of the "Tree Committee," but should his or her interest in the planting fail to be of the genuine order, the scholars will by no means fail to detect the false tone. The full benefit of Arbor Day is never felt in a school where the teacher does the entire work, for the best lessons to the young people in husbandry, method and responsibility are missed, and the greatest protection that can be assured a sapling, a class pride in its growth, is entirely lost.

LITTLE BUT PLUCKY.—There is trouble brewing in the little kingdom of Belgium over the suffrage question. At present the representation is so purely nominal that out of a population of 6,000,000 but 135,000 persons have the right to vote for members of the Chamber of Deputies. The Conservative and Clerical parties are responsible for the hampered condition of the electors, and they have also required, in order to prevent the possible election of people's candidates, that each senator shall be a taxpayer to the extent of \$425 annually. The King of Belgium sides with the mass of the non-enfranchised people, and is well backed in his position by liberty-loving France. The real opposition comes from the political parties mentioned and from the strong disapproval of the extended franchise which Germany vouchsafes.

THEY RULE IN HALIFAX.—A new generation of men have arisen who disapprove of the ordinary treatment of that household tyrant, the baby. The feeling is not confined to men of one particular class, but seems to be shared alike by house-breakers and evangelists. In future, the babies' rights and privileges are to be scrupulously guarded. Recently, a couple of burglars, presumably advocates of baby rights, stopped their work long enough to procure a bowl of pap for a howling infant. When the little one's wants had been attended to, and peace reigned once more, they quietly resumed their purloining of the household plate with untroubled consciences. An ardent evangelist, now in Minneapolis, vindicates the disputed right of baby attendance at revival meetings. He has a corps of bright nurses in attendance who receive and check the living luggage, and when squalls prevail a special detachment of young ushers are sent to assist the pretty girls in their arduous duties. It is to be hoped that the infantile generation appreciate the efforts which are being made on their behalf.

YOUNG AND SMART.—The boy King of Servia is a spirited young man, and one who is not afraid to take upon himself the full responsibility of his actions. Hitherto the country has been governed by regents, as King Alexander was still a minor. Many complaints have been made of abuses of public trust by the regents and state officials. The Servian Army has for some months been at odds with the Government, and the young ruler is backed by the entire military force in his present action. On April 13th the King gave a dinner party to the regents and cabinet ministers, at which, by way of desert, he asked for their immediate resignations. When the modest request was refused, the party broke up, the guests retiring under a strong military guard. So far the Revolution has been a bloodless one, and although a strong attempt will be made by the regents to regain their powers, it is hardly probable that the King will again be put in leading reins. The young ruler has already dissolved the old skupchina or parliament, and has issued writs for a new election, and his prompt action has won him many friends among all classes of his people.

A FIGHT OVER PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.—Victoria and Vancouver are the rival claimants for the possession of the new Parliament Buildings for British Columbia. Victoria, the former and present capital, is unwilling to relinquish her historical honors. The city is beautifully situated, has a delightful climate, and is fast becoming a fashionable watering place. The representatives of Vancouver Island, on which Victoria is situated, have still a fair majority in the Government of the Province, and the prospect of the success of Victoria in the contest is therefore bright. On the other hand the inhabitants of the city of Vancouver ask for a redistribution of seats in the Assembly. If this request is granted and the representation is allowed only according to population, Vancouver will easily secure the coveted boon. Vancouver has also other claims which she urges with much persistency. Beyond doubt she is the commercial and industrial capital of the Province. She has the best shipping facilities of any Western cities, and she has the full benefit of all through C. P. R. trade. Each city threatens to break with the Province if their demands are refused, but it is not probable that the quarrel will be carried to such an extent. Tax-payers will think twice ere by dividing their Province they double their taxes and assume debts vastly out of proportion to their size.

SCIENTIFIC CRIMINALS.—There are few scientific discoveries made nowadays that do not eventually benefit a class of men for whom they were not originally intended. A famous chemist recently demonstrated that all traces of writing might be removed from paper and fresh writing be placed on top of the erasures, so that the forgery would defy detection, and that the paper, although subjected to many tests, would yet present a perfectly smooth surface. The process consists of bleaching out one writing and replacing it by another. Some clever forgers have recently learned the process, and several false notes have been presented in the New England banks. In each case the signature of the disputed note has been genuine beyond doubt, but the note to which it has been before attached has not been seen before by the alleged maker. An ordinary letter has been taken by the rascals, the correspondence has been obliterated, and the note written above the signature. So far the cases tried have gone against the dupes of the forgers, as, although the process is known to be possible, yet there is no way by which fraud can be proven in the cases before the courts. The new process has also been used in changing the figures on checks and for the purpose of forging letters of introduction. As the burden of proof is put upon the contestor of the forged document, business men thus imposed upon have a new and difficult task to perform.

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