If the company were disposed to make some concession to them, such as in the conditions on which they would carry wheels, they would be putting new arms into the hands of their greatest enemy. If the company, supposing it to have the option, would agree not to water the tracks, just at the times, morning and evening, when the bicyclists most want to use the parts of the road adjacent to them, some community of interest might be established between the two. Then the question of the propriety of not watering at these times would interest citizens who walk and ride in the streets. At present, the bicyclists and the street railway company are antagonists, and if they maintain this mutual attitude, the chances of Sunday cars in Toronto will not be great.

When Senator Hill, at the Chicago Democratic convention, proposed that existing debts should not be payable in silver, the motion was rejected. But the platform framed by the convention, as officially published, contains this provision, and one of the officers of the convention says that it was adopted. How was this change made? Will it be adhered to? However made, it removes the most objectionable feature of the free silver plank, without having the power to make that plank harmless. If the debtor class who hailed the prospect of being able to pay in 53-cent dollars, find that they have to pay in gold, they will cool in their enthusiasm for the Chicago platform. If this change in the Chicago platform is to stand, the number of bolters, and the chances of a second Democratic ticket and platform, which are in contemplation, would diminish. The number of sound money Democrats who would elect to vote for McKinley would be greater than it is, if it were quite certain that McKinley would, under no circumstances, yield to the pressure of the free silver men. The most he has said since his nomination is that the Republican party is in favor of the maintenance of the parity "of all its money of every kind." What is there to prevent his afterwards explaining that he expected free silver would keep its parity along side of gold? He might point to France as an example of a nation in which this is done, without explaining that the Bank of France contains enough of gold and silver to enable it to pay all its notes, if presented at once, in either metal, but that in no other nation is such a state of things to be found. If it were certain that McKinley is not using ambiguous phrases to leave his future action free on the silver question, the best thing for the sound-money Democrats to do would seem to be to vote for the Republican candidate. A second Democratic platform and ticket can scarcely mean victory against the first, backed by the Silverites and the Populists.

The downfall of the Moores, the manipulators of three great trusts, the Diamond Match, the New York Biscuit Company or Cracker Trust, and the Strawboard Trust, may throw further light on the operation of such concerns. The price of the Diamond Match shares was forced up to 248, at which price the public was welcome to buy; and when the price began to decline last May, the Moores in their vain attempt to keep it up found themselves one day, after the lambs had unloaded, with about half the $11,000,000 of stock on their hands. Being a trust the concern made large profits at the expense of the public. If we are to believe the charges made by a rival concern, the Improved Match Company, who, a day or two before the failure of the Moores, got an injunction from the Circuit Court, at Detroit, to prevent the Diamond Match Company from unjust and oppressive interference with its business, it made use of incredible means of aggression to kill off competition. One charge is that of buying the rival's matches, and after using various means to render them valueless, selling them again. This is matter of future proof or failure to prove. The big profits of the Diamond Match Company gave birth to rivals. These the Trust fought with costly weapons, and it remains to be seen what will be the end of the crisis.

Some thirty vessels, including five Canadian, are reported to have been fined from $800 to $200 each, by the American authorities, for going faster than seven miles an hour in the Sault Ste. Marie river. This river is part of the international boundary line between Canada and the United States; the line is in the centre, and as it has been improved by the United States, the channel in which the vessels go may at some points be in the United States. Otherwise it is difficult to conceive why that country, acting alone, should claim the right of regulating the navigation. The question may arise whether Canada should improve its own side of the river. But in any case, it may be desirable to restrict the speed of vessels to a rate which will not injure the channel or create a danger of collision.

What is called the collapse of the Anglo-American Gold and Platinum Hydraulic Mining Company of British Columbia, is announced. Some eastern capitalists, it appears, advanced $40,000, which was used in the mine, with the result that 15,000 yards of gravel produced only $80 in gold and $3 in platinum. Some suspicion of "salting" has been expressed, though it ought to have been possible to guard against such a device if the precaution of examiners at different points of the material to be worked had been taken. But if no more money was spent than was necessary to test the value of the golden sand, the result, though unfortunate, is one that is liable to happen where any such test is made. The result in this case has no practical bearing on the gold mining region of British Columbia. It would be well if in all cases of failure the loss was measured by what had been expended on the experimental test.

CANADIAN TRADE COMBINATIONS.

The new Government might with advantage direct its attention to the trade combinations. There is no lack of material upon which to work, for conditions in Canada have proved peculiarly suitable to the growth of trade monopolies, and many staple commodities are produced under their control. If the old adage that "competition is the life of trade" be true, then trade in Canada lies in the throes of death. There are monopolies in England and on the Continent; the United States, with its powerful trusts, has been regarded as the kindly mother of combinations, but in no country, perhaps, have more determined efforts been made to put down competition than in Canada.

All "monopolies" or "combinations" do not come within the same class. They may be divided into two groups: first, a combination of producers in which all interests are merged in a common undertaking; second, a more or less formal agreement of those engaged in the same business to restrict competition.

A combination of the first class need not necessarily be opposed to the public interest. The saving effected through a union of productive forces may lead to a reduction of prices, and result in a benefit to the public. There are companies in Canada, formed by an amalgamation of firms that were working without a profit, who have successfully accomplished the feat of reducing prices, and at the same time making dividends for shareholders. If combinations of this class were prepared