

sovereign of a vast and varied empire in stirring and stormy times. She publishes her diary, and in that diary from beginning to end appears hardly a trace of concern or anxiety in public affairs. Home and the family are all in all. If feeling is shown even about a war, it is because "my daughters and sons-in-law" are concerned, or because "my dear son" is in the field, or because my bosom friend, the ex-Empress of the French has lost her only son in such a shocking way. Everything outside the domestic circle is distant and strange. Surely this is the voice of nature.

THE season of immigration is at hand, and it may be interesting to exporters and importers of pauperism to know that the number of nights' lodgings given to wanderers at a single Police Station in Toronto during the single month of February was no less than 495, while between the first day of December and the last of February three charities, the House of Industry, the Ladies' Relief, and the St. George's Society, relieved in the aggregate 1,532 families. In the city gaol there is an increasing number of people committed for no real offence, but simply to dispose of them and save them from starving. The poor Irish colony has been, as it could hardly help being, a burden on charity throughout the winter. There are also in Toronto not a few young English gentlemen, lured by vague accounts of the boundless openings afforded by Canada, who find it impossible to get employment, and some of whom are on the verge of destitution. Naturally, when the callings suitable for gentlemen are already so over filled that an advertisement for a secretary at \$600 a year brings 72 applications. Control, therefore, ought at least to be exercised over the proceedings of Emigration Agents, and also if possible over the tongues of ex-Governors-General and other well-meaning persons with rhetorical gifts, who may otherwise become responsible for a terrible amount of disappointment and distress.

THE state of the night accommodation for tramps and wanderers also imperatively demands the attention of the City Council. In one of the police stations the room into which the crowd of unfortunates was huddled became so infested with vermin that strong chemical measures had to be adopted for its purification. In another, a policeman caught typhoid fever from the malaria which issued from the room in the basement used as a shelter. A proper casual ward, with labour yard attached, a city officer to relieve urgent cases of distress, and an infirmary to receive the broken down and helpless, instead of sending them to herd with criminals in a gaol, are necessities of a populous city, in providing which no time would be lost if popularity and votes were to be won by activity in such a matter. But here lies the difficulty. Nobody now-a-days suspects the existence of any grave abuses in the City Government. Nobody imagines that members of the council peculate, or even that they job, beyond the measure conceded to human frailty, especially to unpaid frailty, when called upon to exercise patronage, and award contracts. But the ephemeral character of the government and the constant dependence of its members on the popular vote are fatal to administrative excellence. The first precludes anything like forecast or plan, so that the same street is taken up several times within a few years to do, separately, things which ought to have been done at once; whence ensues great waste of money as well as much inconvenience. The second makes it almost hopeless to obtain a hearing for anything, however indispensable, which will cause an increase of the estimates without bringing anybody political capital or causing anybody's public spirit, energy, ability and perseverance, to be glorified in all the journals. So the Queen City of Ontario will probably go on using her gaol as an infirmary, crowding herds of wanderers nightly into her police stations till policemen die of the malaria, and running the daily risk of a case of death from hunger in her streets. If anywhere on this continent one city could be established with a stable and skilled government instead of an annually elected municipality, the benefits which would flow to all classes, but especially the poor, for its superior administration would so preach by their example that all except the ward politicians would give ear.

A RUMOUR has been afloat that the Co-operative Association at Montreal had failed. It appears, on the contrary, that the Association is doing a large and increasing business not only at Montreal, but at Toronto and elsewhere. There is no reason why any joint-stock association of this kind should do better than a private store. The keeper of the private store is, perhaps, more likely to be careful in the selection of his goods and the general management of his business than are the salaried officers of a co-operative establishment. The one great advantage which the co-operative system has, is the principle of ready money payments, inflexibly enforced, so that all who deal at the store can feel quite sure that they get the benefit. In the case of a private store, even though the ready money

principle may be proposed, people never feel sure that it is inflexibly enforced, or that when they pay ready money they are not paying the interest on the debts of others who are secretly allowed to run up bills. Let merchants at Toronto or elsewhere, who deem themselves threatened by the progress of co-operation, lay this truth to heart, and consider whether they cannot adopt the ready money principle, and not only adopt it but give the requisite security to the customer who pays ready money. Long credits are the bane of commerce in Canada, and not of commerce alone, for debt is moral slavery to the working man.

THE *Mail* thinks that in making the remark that nothing has been said about the coal tax, the "Bystander" must have overlooked the "elaborate statement" of the Finance Minister on that subject. Not only did the "Bystander" overlook it at the time, though he always reads the Budget Speech with care, but in the *Mail's* own report, which was the one he used, he cannot find it now. He can find nothing but a reference, comprised in a single sentence, to the increased importation and consumption of coal, which is tendered, truly enough, no doubt, as a proof of the growth of manufactures in this country. There is not a word directly about the tax, of the impolicy and injustice of which the "Bystander" was complaining. The coal burned in the furnaces of manufactories does not warm the people, nor is anything more certain than that within the range of the "Bystander's" personal observation a good many of the people during this hard winter have not been warmed. It was natural to expect that the Finance Minister would have justified the continuance of an oppressive impost on one of the first necessities of life. The "Bystander" said, and he repeats, that the responsibility for whatever the people may suffer rests almost as much on the Opposition, which connives at the tax for fear of offending Nova Scotia, as upon the Government which imposes it. Passive acceptance of the tax is submission to protection in its most pronounced form, and in a case in which its effects are most injurious.

AN allusion made by the "Bystander" to the contradictory accounts of the physiognomy of Robespierre has procured for him a sight of a curious and valuable little work of art which is in the possession of his eminent brother of the pen, Mr. Josiah Blackburn, of London. It is a portrait of Robespierre drawn in crayon by Mlle. Boze, after one by her father, the Court artist who painted Louis XVI. and Louis XVIII., and who though, as became him, a strong Royalist, seems to have taken a catholic view of the province of his art. The portrait differs from that given in the *Tableaux de la Revolution Française*, in being nearly full face, but corresponds in other respects. The face has the cat-like shape said to be indicative of affinity to the cruel feline tribe. There is intellect in the features and in the general aspect. But the expression bespeaks at once the extremes of self-conceit and weakness. As to the livid hue of the complexion all the witnesses are agreed. The dress is neat, almost foppish; it is well known that Robespierre's vanity always prevented him from adopting, like Danton, Marat, and other demagogues, sansculottism in costume. Allusion was made to the description of the terrible dictator given by Serjent, ex-secretary of the Jacobin Club, who, as was mentioned before, ended his days a nonagenarian at Nice. It has not yet, the "Bystander" believes, been published. "Robespierre," said Serjent, "had not been in any way favoured by nature. His figure was small and awkward; all the parts of his body were ill put together. He had also in his hands, his shoulders, and his neck a convulsive movement which made him at times absolutely frightful. His physiognomy lacked expression; there was nothing thoughtful in his look; his livid and bilious complexion, with the frequent contraction of his forehead, indicated a sour and atrabilious temperament. He had in his manner a roughness which, upon the slightest contradiction, broke out into brutal rage. His gait was slow, and when he wished to quicken his step became a succession of jerks. The voice of Robespierre was not less disagreeable than the whole of his person. His intonations and inflexions produced on the ear a sensation of shrillness, with a strong Artesian accent, which strangely disfigured an oratory in itself devoid of grace, life and genius." The weakness of the man seems incontestible; he had not the daring which plans and executes great deeds, good or evil; and Mr. John Morley is right in saying that his general share in the crimes of the Revolution was that of an accomplice after the fact. The question is how such a man can have raised himself over the heads of rivals who were, at all events, men of action; how he can have prevailed in that mortal struggle not only for ascendancy, but for life; how he can have crushed such a Titan as Danton, and remained for a time master of the blood-stained field, of the Convention, and of France. It has been remarked with some truth that his career is a more interesting subject of study than that of Napoleon, inasmuch as it is more unaccountable; every one sees how the successful soldier, being