

Milan has a curiosity in a clock, which is made entirely of bread. The maker is a native of India, and he has devoted three years of his time to the construction of this curiosity. He was very poor, and, being without means to purchase the necessary metal, deprived himself regularly of his daily bread, which he devoted to the construction of this curiosity, eating the crust and saving the soft part for doing his work. He made use of a certain salt to solidify his material, and when the various pieces were dry they were perfectly hard and insoluble in water. The clock is of respectable size, and goes well. The case, which is also of hardened bread, displays great talent in design and execution.

According to a German railway journal, some interesting experiments have lately been made in Germany as to the wearing qualities of steel rails of different degrees of hardness. The chemical and physical characteristics of the rails tested had been accurately determined, and the test for wear consisted in letting more than twenty-six thousand trains pass over them during a period of about five years. The rails were then thoroughly cleaned and weighed, and the difference between the initial and final weights accepted as giving the loss from wear and rusting. The result showed that the wear was in inverse proportion to the tensile strength of the metal, so that high tensile strengths would appear to be the best.

In dropping the Cornwallis Street scheme and adopting the water front extension plan for furnishing additional rail terminal facilities in Halifax, we think the Chamber of Commerce acted wisely. An extension of the Intercolonial along the water front, giving direct rail communication with the private wharves, would remove all possibility of delays for want of wharf accommodation, and the erection of a passenger station to or near the Ordnance, as suggested, would be an improvement that the travelling public, and especially the residents in suburban towns, would duly appreciate. The old station could then be turned into a freight depot, and large additional accommodation be thus secured. By all means let us have the water front extension without further delay.

McKinley, the author of the obnoxious tariff bill, which bears his name, and which acts so detrimentally to many of the industries of the Maritime Provinces, has been nominated by the Republicans of Ohio as their candidate for Governor. Ohio is a close State, having been carried last election by the democrats by a very small majority, and McKinley's nomination puts squarely at issue the question of high or low tariff. If there is a State that would profit by the Act it is Ohio, where the wool-growers are a power, and the Act was framed in their interest, so that the high tariff men have selected the most promising field for their purpose. Should they succeed, the McKinley Act will be boomed as a permanent plank in the Republican platform. If they fail McKinley will soon drop out of sight, and the tariff reformers will have things their own way.

Nothing succeeds like success, is a truism that is being continually verified by, we regret to say, more examples of a negative than of a positive nature. Mons. de Lesseps, when he so triumphantly completed the Suez Canal and placed himself on the highest pinnacle of fame to be reached in his profession, was dined and wined and decorated, applauded and rewarded, until it is a wonder his head was not turned. Seeking for new difficulties to be surmounted, he originated the Panama Canal scheme and pronounced it practicable. Money was lavished on the work until it was feared that France would become bankrupt if it did not succeed; but the great engineer, full of years and honors, had undertaken an impossible task. He failed, and now we have the sad spectacle of this once-honored man being summoned to Paris, where he is to be placed on trial on the charge of "misleading" investors who subscribed money for carrying on the Panama canal work. In plain words he is accused of common swindling. Mons. de Lesseps furnishes a striking example of the effects of both success and failure.

The steady and rapid advance of the age is evidenced by the almost complete removal of the obstructions, legal and otherwise, that in the past have hampered women in their efforts to maintain an independent existence. Physically, they may be the weaker sex, but morally and intellectually they are no way behind the sterner sex, and in fact their moral firmness and their comparative freedom from the smaller vices that are playing such havoc with men, will in time place them as a body in advance in their ability to provide for their material wants. Their intellectual attributes are of the highest order, and now that the great universities have been thrown open to them and they are placed in a position to compete with men for the highest educational honors, results prove that they have more than held their own, as in many cases they have carried off the highest prizes. That they have accomplished so much in spite of their physical inferiority to the male sex is certainly the more to their credit, and no man worthy of the name would to day think of hampering them in the steady advance they are making, or desire to see the old restrictions reimposed. We are led to make these remarks by the grand showing the sex is making in the Dominion, as is proved by the avidity with which they are availing themselves of the privilege extended by McGill College. Of the seventy-eight persons who have so far passed this year's entrance examination to the faculty of arts, just one half, thirty-nine, are women. As it is at McGill so it is at all other seats of learning where like privileges have been extended, and the results in all cases have proved the wisdom of what by many was considered a very objectionable departure.

Rudyard Kipling, we gladly note, is not dying of consumption, as was currently reported, but is in England in the best of health, and busily employed in writing another book, which will soon appear to the delight of the thousands of readers to whom Kipling has become a favorite author.

Of all the legislative bodies of the world the British Parliament seems to be the most sensitive to public opinion. The strongest party ties are at once broken if measures are introduced that members on the Government side cannot conscientiously support, and opponents of the Government are often found voting with them entirely regardless of party. Especially is this the case in measures of a humane nature; a late striking example being the defeat of Lord Salisbury on an amendment to the Factory Bill Act. Sydney Buxton, liberal, moved an amendment to prohibit children under eleven years of age from working in factories. Mathews, Home Secretary, opposed, but the amendment was carried by a vote of 202 to 186, a large number of the Government supporters voting for the amendment. Would such a case be possible in Canada? We fear not.

Common thyme, which was recommended for whooping cough three or four years ago by Dr. S. B. Johnson, is regarded by Dr. Nevins, who writes a paper on the subject in a Finnish medical journal, as almost worthy of the title of a specific. During an epidemic of whooping-cough he had ample opportunities of observing its effects, and he came to the conclusion that if it is given early and constantly it invariably cuts short the disease in a fortnight, the symptoms generally vanishing in two or three days. They are, he finds, liable to return if the thyme is not regularly taken for at least two weeks. Regarding the dose, he advises that a larger quantity than Dr. Johnson prescribed be taken. He gives from one ounce and a half to six ounces per diem, combined with a little marsh-mallow syrup. He never saw any undesirable effect produced except slight diarrhoea. It is important that the drug should be used quite fresh.

A Parisian surgeon has the credit of having obtained a remarkable result in a case in which he operated upon a child. The patient was a girl eight years of age, who, at the age of eighteen months, had been noticed by her parents to be deficient in intelligence. Subsequently she became subject to epileptiform attacks, and these had only ceased a year before she was seen by the surgeon. When she came under professional observation her physical development was normal, but her intelligence was that of an infant. The child had been sent to school, but she had never been able to learn the alphabet, neither could she talk intelligently. The conclusion was formed that the brain had ceased to develop, owing to the too early coalescence of the bones of the skull. The surgeon accordingly operated, removing several small pieces of bone from the top of the skull, and by this means relieving the pressure on the brain and allowing it to expand. The day following the operation the child took notice of every one, asked for something to eat, and cried for her parents. Before leaving the hospital she was able to talk well and amuse herself. The operation wound in the scalp had soundly healed in eight days.

The Dominion Franchise Act is a very stringent measure, so stringent in fact that there are few constituencies where the elections could not be set aside for some of the innumerable petty offences that are sufficient to unseat and also disqualify. By tacit consent of both parties the Act is openly violated in most election contests, and unless the majority is very small the successful candidate is seldom petitioned against, although grounds are not wanting. When he is petitioned against, unless the petition is set aside for some irregularity, he generally surrenders at discretion and resigns his seat, happy in escaping disqualification. This being the general rule, the large batch of controverted election cases, some eighty in all, to be disposed of, have a most important bearing on the future of the two great political parties in the Dominion. A number of these cases will doubtless be "sawed off," but at least twenty or more will be tried, and there may be, as a result, elections in twenty constituencies. Whether the present majority of the Government will be reduced still remains to be decided, but as a change of ten votes would virtually defeat them, it will be seen that those election contests may result in a change of administration.

If there is one thing more than another that the Dominion of Canada has to be proud of, it is its banking institutions, and of all the Provinces Nova Scotia stands highest in this regard. As the general public have very vague ideas regarding the volume of business transacted by the banks, and generally look upon bank employees as lucky individuals with little work to do and large pay, the following account of the transactions of one bank, taken from the *Montreal Gazette*, may prove instructive:—"Some figures given at the Merchants bank meeting last week will help the public to appreciate how immense are the sums a banker handles in the course of a year. In twelve months in the Merchants, customers' cheques to the value of two hundred millions were cashed at the counter; over one hundred millions were loaned to customers; one hundred and sixty millions were received on deposit, and a hundred millions more were collected and transmitted from one point of America and Europe to another. The aggregate of all this is five hundred and sixty millions, and the profit to the bank on the work it did was under \$580,000. The claim that this is a small remuneration for the trouble and risk involved in the care of such amounts does not seem unreasonable."

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