

STRANGER THAN FICTION—There have been many strange and romantic occurrences in the mining business, but it is probable that the famous Broken Hill Silver Mine in Australia has had the most curious history of any mine in modern days. It was originally a grant to seven prospectors who, having obtained it for nothing, here were dissolved. The mine was then sold for a trifling sum to some members of the present company, who soon cleared \$20,000,000 from the concern. It is now owned by a dozen partners and is valued at \$80,000,000.

BOYS' BRIGADE—When Lord Aberdeen is installed as Governor-General he will probably take a great interest in an organization of which he is the President, viz. the Boys' Brigades. The movement is already popular in Canada, and 32 companies have already been formed, 4 of which are in our own Province. The Brigades are usually in connection with churches, and their avowed object is to promote Christian manliness among lads of from 12 to 17 years of age. A course in military drill and in gymnastic exercises is given to the members, and a steady and friendly moral supervision is kept over them during the trying years of laddish-debbyhood. The Brigades are popular with the young people, and a glance at the corps at Halifax, Truro, Springhill and New Glasgow, will demonstrate the value of the physical and moral work which is being accomplished.

A CLERGY HOUSE OF REST—A very thoughtful and kindly work has been carried out in Cacouna, Ontario. A House of Rest has been established there for clergymen of the Church of England in any part of the Dominion of Canada, who wish to spend a pleasant holiday. It was founded a few years ago by some benevolent people who recognized the hardships of the average clergyman's life. The idea was to found a pleasant home, where, for the nominal sum of 50c. per day the tired servants of the church might recruit from their labors. A pleasant reading hall and a small church are built on the ground adjoining the Home, and every effort is made to carry out the original idea of the founders. The town of Cacouna is a bright and health-giving place, and it may be that these lines will attract to it some of our own hard-working clergymen who are planning a summer tour.

A COMET ASTRAY—A long-tailed comet has disappeared from its lair, and vast rewards are being offered to the astronomer who can capture it, dead or alive. It is believed that if same matter could be placed upon its caudal extremity at its recovery would be certain, but failing this, there is little to hope for. On the 10th of July the comet was within 38,000,000 miles of us, and was heading straight for our little planet. According to calculations it should have reached us on the 14th instant, and have proved a fatal visitor. That it did not arrive is not the fault of the astronomers, for they mapped its route out carefully and cold-bloodedly. It may have been that it realized that with Wiggins gone from his post of weather prophet the atmospheric changes would not be keenly appreciated or realized, or it may have been a strong-minded or even a trap comet. At present it is journeying with the constellation of Leo Minor, and has not signified any desire to retrace its steps. Perhaps had it known how many distinguished strangers are "doing" our continent this summer, it might have included Chicago at least in its summer tour.

KNIGHTS OF THE WHEEL—It is probable that the legal status of the bicycle will have to be defined ere long. In our own city, in many parts of our Province, and in American cities, the rights and duties of the bicycle rider are ill-defined. The only thing of which our wheelmen are assured is, that they are not to ride on the sidewalks. It will soon be necessary to interdict fast riding on the streets, for already hundreds of accidents have occurred; and it may be necessary to apply the regulations which exist with regard to fast driving to the Jehus of the wheel. In Portland, Me., it is legal to confiscate a cycle that has caused an accident, although it is not legal to confiscate any other form of vehicle for the same offence. In some cities the riders are compelled to pay a road tax, on the supposition that their pneumatic tires are rutting the roads perhaps, and as a consequence cyclists all over the continent are demanding that their responsibilities shall be plainly defined. Our sympathy is divided between the wheelmen and the unfortunate victims, and we shall be glad to know that a just code of regulations has been decided upon by our law-makers.

A SKY TALKER ABROAD—We have not heard as yet that Prof. C. A. Johnson is to lecture to Nova Scotian audiences on the subject of astronomy, but should he care to take a Provincial tour, we bespeak for him large and semi-critical audiences. The Professor scoffs at the discoveries of Herschel, Copernicus, and others of their ilk—it appears that they argued always on false premises, while the Professor is certain of his facts. Mars, so he tells us, is the coming planet. Our own sun, which by-the-by is but a vast coal mine on fire, will be a mere cinder in the year 1900, and thirty years later, our earth too will meet with the same fate. Professor Johnson has theories of his own about rain-making as well. He claims that he has invented a never-failing rain-producer, consisting of a gigantic squirt for charging the atmosphere with carbonic acid—the result being in all cases a copious shower. He has also many novel facts about the wind at his command; but the most interesting thing of all is the condition of his own wind bag, and the pertinacity and gall which the man exhibits. It would have been more to his credit had he exploited his rain machine during the recent drouth and used his carbonic acid gas to some purpose.

K. D. C. acts as a Cholera preventive, by restoring the Stomach to healthy action.

SPRING NEGLIGENCE—It is at this time of the year that our farmers recognize the discounts which will be made on the coming crop. It is now too late to remedy matters, and the only thing that remains to be done is to take every precaution to preserve the crop. Early in the season it would have been possible to replace in the potato rows the vacant hills. The bits of potato that did not sprout could have been removed and good "eyes" inserted. The broken rows of corn, caused by the crows pulling up the seed could have been filled. An eye of a potato or a grain of corn is a small thing in planting time, but at harvest time it is just so much money in or out of the farmer's pocket. A little care in the beginning will prevent these unnecessary and wasteful harvest discounts.

HOUSE-BUILDING FOR JAMAICA—Our enterprising friends, Rhodes, Curry, & Co., of Amherst, are now engaged in a novel business—that of building houses for use in Jamaica. Contrary to the general usage the houses are not being built in the place where they are to remain, but are constructed on the portable plan and sent as freight to their destination. The sample house now forwarded is built of hard pine, and is neat and pretty in its make up. Special pains have been taken to adapt the work to the exigencies of the Jamaica climate, and to combine comfort and good appearance in the structure. The portions of the house are numbered in proper order and packed in not more than one-third of a box-car for Halifax, from whence they travel to Jamaica by steamer. For many years the Dacker Portable House Co., of New York, have had a monopoly of this business, but the cheaper Canadian house, which is equal to the American house in quality, may divert the trade to Canada. Whatever is the result of the experiment, our friends are to be congratulated on the push and energy which they have shown.

DIRECT CABLE CONNECTION.—The agitation now being made by the British and West Indian Alliance Cable Co. is most timely. Since Russia and the United States have formed an offensive and defensive alliance, it behoves Great Britain and her Colonies to look closely to the condition of telegraphic connections on which, in this age of electricity, so much depends. It is now urged that the Halifax and Bermuda Cable Company shall extend their cable to the West Indies, and so establish a complete line of communication within the empire. The cable service is excellent in times of peace, but in the event of trouble with the United States or with almost any European nation, the important connection could easily be cut. The line now in use is for a great portion of its length controlled by the United States, from which it passes into the possession of the Spaniards at Jamaica, and further along is again intercepted by them at Porto Rico. At St. Croix and St. Thomas the Danes are in possession, while at Martinique and Guadeloupe the French are in full control. When we remember that at any one of these stations the whole service might be demoralized, we cannot but agree with the promoters of the extension scheme. The service is far too valuable to be so poorly guarded, and the uncertainty which now prevails throughout Europe should hasten the establishment of a thoroughly safe British cable.

SOME CURRENT SLANDERS.—Lady Jephson has undertaken to explain Canadian society, and especially Canadian women to the British world of fashion, through the pages of the *New Review*. In her short article, she has managed to put together more untruths and inaccuracies than we could have believed possible, and it is with annoyance well spiced with amusement that we quote a few of her ill-advised conclusions. She states that simultaneous with the withdrawal of the British troops pure English ceased to be spoken, and that a twang, which for ugliness is unequalled in the world, is the birthright of every Canadian. The impossibility of any improvement being made in this respect she demonstrates, first by pointing out that the people are unaware of the peculiarity of their speech, and secondly by stating that "Canadians pride themselves" on their mongrel pronunciation. Having thus disposed of our rice-tongue, she adds that few of our women are fitted for Mayfair society, but that the young Canadian—the male variety—is especially fitted to shine in African jungles, a fact which she attributes to their being "brought up in the bush." For amusement in our native wilds we picnic at frozen falls, bathe "in companies," hunt moose and cariboo, and "live from morning to night upon each other's verandahs, for there is no privacy in Canadian life." Fortunately, Lady Jephson is so wide of her mark that well-informed persons will not heed her ridiculous twaddle, and those who are weak-minded and ill-informed enough to heed it will probably soon forget what she has written. We wish sincerely, however, that she had left Canadian women alone, for with all her untruths on the subject, there is yet an undercurrent of fact which make the lies hard to combat. She states that the emancipated women, the political women, and the professional women, are unknown in Canada, while in fact all three types are well represented. The only physical beauty that she sees in our women is of the New England variety, the early quickly fading type. The common type of beauty is dark eyes with yellow hair—a type in fact so uncommon that one can scarcely think of a half-dozen women who are so favored. That the Canadian woman is illiterate and has little ambition beyond being a German *haus frau*, is another statement from the same source, which it is galling to record. We would suggest that Lady Jephson should come to our wilds and live in the bush with us, both in "the hot fierce summers which she describes, and in the "terribly severe winters" She can never be acclimatized, either socially or otherwise, if she keeps her head in a wholly imaginary region.

Cholera threatens Dyspeptics. K. D. C. cures Dyspeptics and makes them Cholera-proof. Try it while Cholera threatens.