

it has been demonstrated that the average business woman has as keen commercial instincts and good judgment as any successful business man. The topic is one of present interest to Canadian women.

THE women have again won the franchise. This time it is in Idaho. The State Supreme Court has decided the question of majorities, arising from the results of the last State election, in their favor. This makes the fourth State in which full woman suffrage exists—Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, being the other three. New Zealand and two of the Australian provinces have also granted their women the parliamentary vote. The fight is a hard one, but the women suffragists are winning.

MARIE BARBERI, the Italian girl, who was sentenced to death in New York for murdering her lover, has been acquitted. The sentence was passed a year and a half ago, but American justice moves slowly, and the second trial has been delayed until now. The murder was clearly proven but there were mitigating circumstances in connection with the crime; public sympathy was with the girl, and the sentence was considered too severe. It hardly seems justice, however, that she should obtain acquittal. The hysterical sentiment which the New York press are responsible for arousing, in her case, caused quite a celebration during the first few hours following her release. The girl was besieged by women reporters; held a reception at her lawyers, was photographed, visited the Italian newspaper offices and banks, while the cab in which she rode was followed by cheering crowds. When she arrived at her modest tenement-home there were seven museum managers awaiting her.

Two ladies, well known in high social circles, have opened a tea room on Fifth Avenue, New York, which is to combine all the advantages of a dainty restaurant, supplying lunch and afternoon tea, with a resting and meeting place for ladies at the mid-day hours and again in the gloaming, when the fragrant cup is most acceptable. The rooms are fitted up in a tasteful and luxurious fashion, with easy chairs, sofas, and divans, and a staff of neat handmaids minister to the wants of customers. It is a pretty and comfortable lounging place, and the refreshments supplied are of the very finest. If the opening day were a prophesy, this enterprise will prove both pleasant to patrons and profitable to the ladies in charge. There is room for just such a tea room in Toronto.

THE most active and efficient "ward political workers" in the United States are women. In that country, and in Great Britain, the value of women in politics is recognized by both parties. In Canada this power is lying as yet latent. There is a colored woman who practically controls the votes in her district. And she is poor, and lives in a basement. She knows every man in the district, and by clubs, canvassing, speeches and bowls of soup, manages to keep them well in line. On election day she watches at the polls and if there be recreants among her knights, goes promptly in search of them, and marches them up to vote.

IN CANADA.

A FEW years ago the name "Lake of the Woods" formed a theme for romance in fiction and in the minds of young people, who pored over their school geographies and pictured its solitary beauty. The recent discovery of large gold deposits may disperse the romance, but it does not lessen our interest in the north-western lake of a thousand isles. Since it is asserted that the most valuable mines are around the shores of the lake, it will probably lessen its natural beauty however.

THERE is not much difference between the words

anthracolite and anthracite, nor yet apparently very much in what each signifies. But there is a world of difference in the profit accruing from each. To discover a vein of anthracite means millionaire-dom, to find one of anthracolite means—a newspaper paragraph. Yet the difference in composition is slight, only a question of more or less carbon. On such a trifle hinges fortune.

WE are informed that the new Dominion Bank notes of five-thousand, one-thousand and five-hundred dollar bills recently issued are intended exclusively for use by banks. "It is as well to know this, and that the notes will be dishonored if presented by a private individual, else the general public might be inclined to use them as small currency. The fact that the \$5,000 notes are ornamented with the head of Sir John Macdonald would, without doubt, bring a smile and ready joke at his own expense from that light hearted old statesman, if he were here. His indifference to money, and his frank poverty, gives point to the situation, which he would be the first to appreciate.

AGAIN the Salvation Army are ahead of the Church in practical Christianity. Twenty-one Armenian refugees have been forwarded by the Army in England to the Canadian contingent; and by the time this paragraph is in print they will be domiciled at the Army's Industrial Farm near Toronto, where they will be cared for until such time as work is found for them. Why is it that the churches do not reach out to do these things, or the numerous church societies, that are inane for lack of a vital interest?

A CURIOUS case of endeavoring to "make the punishment fit the crime" was that instanced by the principal of one of the Montreal schools, who discovering certain of his boy pupils with tobacco in their possession against the rules, compelled them to swallow a concoction of the tobacco mixed with water, thus producing extreme nausea. There is no doubt the punishment was salutary, and probably harmless in results; but the question of its expediency is worthy a debate.

THE recent public meeting called to discuss the Aqueduct question, was an amusing revelation of the crudities of municipal politics as carried on in Toronto. But it showed certain things clearly: that the project is making slow but certain advance in the favor of the citizens; that the working classes are largely supporting it; and that its chief promoter who has fought so pluckily is no longer compelled to do so, single handed. It is evident that both the general public and press are moderating their tone in regard to this question; and there is a probability that it will eventually receive the fair treatment that has certainly not been accorded it, up to the present. It is worthy of note that a year ago, the women of the Municipal Reform Association, endorsed the project, and decided to vote for aldermanic candidates pledged to its support.

MAYOR FLEMING's move on the Sunday street car question, shows that curious blending of principle and pocket view which is the nearest to majority of us get to clear vision.

Representing the anti-car element, he says in effect—"Remember, I do not believe Sunday cars are either necessary or right; but I have screwed an excellent offer out of the car company, which I really think we had better accept."

It is an excellent offer; and those in favor of the Sunday street car, endorse Mayor Fleming's efforts, without questioning his motives. But it is a curious compounding of a moral principle with material advantage.

WHATEVER may be the result of the municipal elections, it is to be hoped that men will be re-

turned who will bring to the council meetings something more of dignity than their predecessors have shown during the past year. We have not set a high standard for our city council board; but low as it is, it has been repeatedly disgraced during the past twelve months by the abusive personalities indulged in between members. If, under the circumstances, the women voters of Toronto decide that it is time to send women to fitly represent the decent element of the city at the Council Board, the aldermen have only themselves to blame.

THE attention being given in the present day to the value of foods, from both a physical and moral standpoint is one of the marked signs of advancing thought.

The majority of American schools have their cooking classes. The thin edge of the wedge has been inserted in the Toronto public schools during the past few weeks, when a class of little girls in Elizabeth street school have been given practical instruction in cooking. The children of this school are of the laboring class; and they have been learning how to make good soup and porridge, how to boil potatoes and make johnny cake. Through the benevolence of various city merchants, a range, flour, groceries and simple kitchen utensils were provided; and Mrs Jean Joy kindly volunteered to give the children lessons. It is to be hoped that the work begun in this small way will be carried on, and that manual training will soon be incorporated as part of the public school work.

THE second Theological conference, which took place in Victoria College during a recent week in December, was as markedly successful as the first. The results of such a conference are invaluable. Being unconventional within certain lines, they are both broadening and stimulative. The topics discussed are of wide range and large interest, extending from critical theology to current sociological views, while the ethics of national life are given prominent place. Although under the auspices of the Methodist College, denominationalism is subordinated, and the addresses are given by men of thought and standing, without regard to creed. The possibility of such a conference thus conducted is evidence almost startling of the rapid change of attitude the Christian church is assuming.

THE qualifications demanded in a minister of to-day—that is, demanded by the various church bodies—is curiously, if unintentionally, set forth by a letter forwarded by a laudatory member of the Rev. Mr. McCaughan's church in Belfast, and published in the Toronto daily press.

Point first.—He has raised the membership from less than 300 to 700 families in ten years.

Point second.—The revenue has been raised in proportion.

Points third and fourth.—He is a member of many committees, and convener of the most important ones.

Point fifth.—He is a man of marvellous energy, and "gets through" the work.

Point sixth, emphasized and enlarged upon.—He is a popular preacher, crowds the church to suffocation and draws more people to his own church than a stranger could. People have to wait for years for seats.

Point seventh.—He is a foremost helper in charities, and a strong friend of the Y.M.C.A.

Point eighth.—We could not afford to lose such a man.

This summary is not intended as a reflection upon the reverend gentleman in question, he may be much more than this. But it is made simply to show the modern church ideal of a successful minister. And yet we occasionally deplore the lack of spirituality in the pulpit.