

Another Cape Breton enterprise is on the *tapis*, and it is said that Halifax capitalists are looking to it with a view of investing. It involves the expenditure of half a million of dollars, and will give employment to a large number of our own people. This is as it should be, and a liberal investment of home and foreign capital would make this Province hum

Among the deaths in England from the prevalent epidemic of influenza is that of the wife, *de facto*, of the Duke of Cambridge. This lady was originally Miss Fairbrother, an actress of some celebrity and considerable attractions. Though not officially recognized by the Queen, it is said that Her Majesty always maintained friendly relations with her, and her connection with the Duke was a long and happy one. The Duke's sons are known by the name of FitzGeorge. One is in the Army and another in the Navy. It is rumored that the elder is to be created an Earl, and that his brothers and sisters are to be granted the rank of the sons and daughters of an Earl.

We do not envy the Minister of Finance the troubles that await him during the present Session of Parliament. The question of the duty on flour will probably probably prove a very vexatious one. While the Ontario millers have an undeniable grievance, there seems to be little doubt that an increase of the duty on flour would enhance the cost of bread in the Atlantic and Pacific Provinces. This is a promising dilemma by itself, and when we add to it the harassment of the opposition with their unrestricted reciprocity panacea on the one hand, and the demands of the various manufacturers for higher duties on the other, it seems pretty certain that Mr. Foster will not repose on a bed of roses for the next three or four months.

The two cent rate of postage on drop letters in cities and towns where there is free delivery by carriers has proved so unpopular in practice that the Post Master General should lose no time in submitting a measure restoring the old rate of one cent. It is an absurdity to speak of the free delivery by carriers when drop letters are charged one cent extra. But it is not the mere extra cent. The measure is a paltry one, and behind the spirit of the age, as the tendency in all progressive countries to-day is to reduce and not to increase postal rates. The time has now arrived for action, and if the Press of the Dominion will again unite in decrying the measure, the authorities will doubtless bow to the weight of public opinion, and restore the original fair and moderate rate.

There seems to be a growing sentiment in favor of the Government exacting from Banking Institutions security for their note circulation. An important meeting of bank cashiers and managers has lately been held to discuss the question and to resolve upon the position to be assumed by the banks in relation to proposed amendments to the Banking Act. It is stated that the Bank of Montreal favors the idea of security for note circulation as it is now enforced by the United States Banking Act, but that all the smaller banks are opposed to the innovation, and in favor of the present system which so far has worked most satisfactorily. The public at large will naturally incline to favor any legislation that will give added security to them, and will watch with considerable interest the fate of any amendments to the Banking Act that may be introduced into Parliament.

Much attention has been recently given by the Press to the vast importance to the Dominion of the promotion of her iron industry. This is as it should be. Sir William Dawson, than whom there is no better authority, says, "Nova Scotia is the richest place on the face of the earth for the size of it," and his opinion is fully endorsed by such other authorities as have had opportunities of observation. In the proximity of iron ore to coal, and in every essential of the iron industry, Canada in general and Nova Scotia in particular occupy vantage ground over every other country in the world. It is therefore with the utmost satisfaction that we notice the insistence of the press on the subject, and earnestly hope its continued ventilation may result in the attraction of capital to the development of these, the greatest of natural riches, in a country so abounding with them, and with facilities for utilizing them to our aggrandisement and prosperity.

We presume that "Dinah Sturgis," in her "letter to Cousin Caryl" in this issue, refers to the recent letter of Philomathes and to our brief editorial remarks on it, in deprecating any objection to the use of American school books in our public schools. We scarcely think that our esteemed contributor quite grasps the subject. Without thinking it necessary, or indeed feeling disposed, to decry or be little anything simply because it is American, it is none the less right and necessary that our school books should be Canadian and not foreign. It is altogether derogatory to our nationality that it should be otherwise. Doubtless, although we can scarcely concede that the American school system is "the best in existence," very many American school books are of a high order of merit; but, to take as an example—perhaps the most important one—books into which any teaching of history enters, the American school book must be deficient in the primary requisite. We are not speaking of the greater historians of the United States, though even these occasionally fall short of the dispassionate calmness which constitutes the chief value and reliability of history, but everyone knows that the ordinary crude versions specially garbled to suit American popular taste which find their expression in school books are altogether misleading, and it is not American versions of history, but the romantic (though true) and patriotic history of Canada we want impressed on the minds of Canadian youths.

The proceedings of the jury in the Cronin trial have naturally been provocative of numberless suggestions for the reform of the trial by jury system altogether. In reference to this system it has been well suggested by a contemporary that before any other measure of reform be attempted it might be well to take steps to make the proceedings of juries public. The public then, it is observed, would know how juries arrive at verdicts, and would be able to form an intelligent opinion as to what reforms are needed.

A drunken man in Wellington, New Zealand, walked into a photographer's recently, and insisted on having his likeness taken in his inebriate state. The sight of this presentment—for it is said his desire was gratified—certainly ought to act as a deterrent from excess, but the incident is further suggestive. When a man is "run in" for drunkenness the first time it might not be a bad thing to have his photograph taken at once, and impose the cost of it as a fine if the subject is convicted, furnishing the culprit with a copy as soon as completed. It would probably have a more telling effect on the drunkard than much magisterial admonition.

It is to be hoped that the Government and Parliament will deal with the promised amendments to the Acts relating to the N. W. Territories in a broad and constitutional spirit. As things stand at present we have the spectacle of a Governor empowered to choose his own advisers, and to dispose of nearly all the Territorial revenue without reference to the views of the representative assembly, which is reduced to the position of existing merely to "register the decrees of an irresponsible junta." No doubt the Ottawa Government was technically right in disallowing the Act by which the North-West Assembly sought to control the Governor's advisers, but it behooves them now to so amend the Act as to meet the reasonable demands of the Assembly—the alleged costliness of a responsible system of representation being shown to be illusive. In fact a very simple and inexpensive arrangement would seem to be quite practicable. Government responsible to the people cannot be too soon introduced.

It would almost seem that considerable trouble is looming up from the French claims on the shores of Newfoundland. Unfortunately, owing to the old time shortsightedness of English foreign policy, the French rights are matter of distinct treaty, and can only be dealt with in the spirit of justice, unless indeed war were to intervene, when the ill-considered concessions might be swept away with a justifiably high hand. But in the meantime the prosperity of our own people in the ancient colony is seriously imperilled, and if Great Britain elect to perpetuate her supine policy the Newfoundland question may go to aggravate that of the Behring's Sea outrages in the minds of American colonists. Of course there is plenty of tall talk in the French chambers, which may be nothing more than talk, but it is quite on the cards that the question may not only result in serious colonial discontent, but may prove the spark to set all Europe in a blaze, a result almost certain from the involvement of France in any serious war.

It has been stated that it is contemplated to introduce during the present session of Parliament a long-wanted measure for the retirement of Militia officers with something like a decent scale of means of livelihood. We trust that the question of rank, almost as important, will also be brought forward. The rank of full Colonel borne by three or four gentlemen of Ottawa, the place where Colonels "most do congregate," is no doubt satisfactory to the favored few who not only enjoy it, but are commonly reported to look askance at any proposal to increase the roll of honor. That Colonel Powell, as Adjutant General, should hold the rank is right and unobjectionable, and Colonel Gzowski's is a special case, well deserved by eminent service in a particular line. But for the elevation of Colonel Panet and Colonel Darby Bergin over the heads of the Deputy Adjutants General, who, as we have often urged, are the actual commanders of large forces, there is positively no valid reason. We draw the attention of our excellent contemporary the *Militia Gazette* to this subject.

The state of the pavements and crossings of the city is in everyone's mouth since the late rains, melted snow and frosts, and the only wonder is that we do not hear of more serious accidents. Halifax is wonderfully slow in her civic arrangements and regulations, and the reason is not far to seek. Everyone is afraid of everyone else, or at least of losing a vote by advocating any stringent measures of public safety and convenience such as prevail as matters of course and duty in other cities. The state and conduct of the Police has lately been under discussion, and is far from creditable. Nothing is enforced for the public good or convenience. If any merchant or shopkeeper chose to obstruct the whole pavement in front of his store day after day, he would find secret support from some member of the Corporation who required his vote. As to the state of the streets it is high time either that the Corporation should take the work in hand, or that, where ice unavoidably accumulates, occupiers of premises should sprinkle ashes or some such material over it. The crossings on our hilly streets are peculiarly dangerous, and these at least ought to be attended to by the City Council. In many cities in the United States the uniform paving of the sidewalks is compulsory on the owners or occupiers of premises, and if they demur to conform to the pattern laid down the Municipality does the work and the lot-owner is compelled to pay. If our citizens had the public spirit to insist on some such measure, we might miss the picturesque succession of patches of stone, brick, wood, asphalt and unmitigated dirt—this last in the largest proportion—but the loss of the pleasing variety might possibly be compensated by increased comfort and personal safety.