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QUESTION!—It is stated that 129 persons have graduated from the Murphy Gold Cure Institute in this city, and that among the number there were several ladies. Would not a large sized interrogation mark be well placed after "ladies"?

A COLD WAVE.—Last week an icy breeze blew o'er the land from Manitoba and Northern Minnesota south to the Gulf of Mexico, and east to the Atlantic Coast. In the Western States the temperature ranged from 5 to 25 degrees below zero on Friday last. The Mississippi River is frozen from shore to shore, the earliest ice blockade in twenty years.

PREPARED FOR WORK.—The following students have recently completed the course at Whiston's Commercial College, Halifax, and were awarded diplomas:—Robert W. North, Sheffield Mills, Kings Co.; W. Dartt, Princeport, Col. Co.; M. E. Mason, Centre Rawdon, Hants Co.; Theresa Peverill, Sackville, Halifax Co.; Jennie E. Campbell, Halifax.

SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE.—The Committee appointed by the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association to establish a School of Horticulture, have secured the services of Prof. E. G. Faville, graduate of Ames College, Iowa, who will commence a six months' course of instruction at Acadia College, Wolfville, on December 1st. The tuition will be free, and it is hoped much interest will be evinced by our Provincialists in this important study.

HONORS FROM THE QUEEN.—It has pleased Her Majesty to honor Canada's Premier in appreciation of his services as an arbitrator in the Bering Sea case by appointing him a member of the Imperial Privy Council. The Right Honorable Sir John Thompson is now his title. Christopher Robinson, barrister, of Toronto, has been knighted, and Sir Charles Russell and Sir Richard Webster have each received the grand cross of St. Michael and St. George.

ENTERTAINMENTS TO COME.—The ladies' auxiliary of the Y. M. C. A. are arranging to give a concert in the C. of E. Institute, on Dec 7. The proceeds to go towards furnishing the parlor. The Sailor's Home performances take place at the Academy on December 12th and 13th, and St. Mary's dramatic class appear about January 1st and 2nd. A concert company, headed by a well-known lady violinist, will give a concert under the management of the Oddfellows on Jan 5th.

THE POOR OF HALIFAX NEED AID.—The annual meeting of the Association for the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor was held on Friday evening of last week. As the prospects of the work of breaking stone at the drill shed being carried on are unfavorable the outlook for the poor of the city during the coming winter is very dark. However, the Association is prepared to do all in its power to improve the condition of the unfortunate class of citizens for whose benefit it exists, and it is hoped that the resolution which was adopted at this meeting will prove a wise move. The resolution reads: "That the committee endeavor to secure the co-operation of congregations and societies in order to secure a more efficient system of charity relief." Officers were elected as follows: President, John Dull; Vice President, J. H. Symonds; Treasurer, James Forrest; Secretary, R. J. Sweet. Committee—W. Dunbar, E. C. Twining, C. C. Blackader, H. P. Burton, Thomas Ritchie, John Farquharson, W. H. Harrington, G. E. Faulkner, Saul Mosher, T. C. Allen, T. Mowbray, James Gordon, A. L. Wood, H. Troop. The committee meets weekly during the time the work of relief is necessary, and two members of the Association are on duty each day at the office of the Association. Their duty is to consider with friendly sympathy the case of each applicant for relief, to deny assistance to the undeserving, to scrupulously distribute necessary articles of food, fuel or clothing, to discourage idleness, and to foster a spirit of independence which only accepts charity when no other course is possible. The hearty co-operation and sympathy of a generous public should be given the Association during the next three or four months.

HOOD PILLS cure liver ills, constipation, biliousness, jaundice, sick headache, indigestion.

THE NEW DRILL SHED.—The site for the new drill shed has been selected. The properties from the corners of Cunard and North Park streets south to Park street church have been purchased for the Dominion Government by Jno. Naylor, and the work of razing them will be commenced at once.

NEW UNITED STATES TARIFF BILL.—After weeks of preparation involving an exhaustive study of the subject, from a Democratic point of view, the new United States Tariff Bill is at last completed and was made public last Monday. The Bill, it should be explained, is purely a Democratic measure. It is the work of the Democratic members of the Committee of Ways and Means who have jealously guarded its details even from their Congressional associates. Chairman Wilson and his associates have given their best thought and study to the work, in fact so great has been the strain on the Chairman that he is completely exhausted and is suffering from mental and physical overwork. So far only the summary of the Bill, furnished to the press by Representative Bryan of Nebraska, has been received, and this is evidently incomplete in several particulars that are of direct interest to Canada. In the main the Bill follows the principles laid down in the Chicago Democratic platform, protection pure and simple being ignored as unconstitutional and a revenue tariff substituted which it is claimed will give all the protection required. Free raw materials is an important feature of the new Bill, the idea being that this will assure more and continuous work for the wage earners and also revive the manufacturing interests of the New England States, which have been crippled by the competition of works located on the iron and coal fields of the west and south. The coal is also demanded by the Pacific Coast States. It is this feature of the Bill that is of particular interest to Canada, and especially to Nova Scotia and British Columbia, as coal and iron ores are on the free list as published, and it is understood that other metals, including silver lead ores are also in a similar position. Farm products are also on the free list, and if that is the case Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward's Island will have cause to rejoice as the New England States are the best markets for potatoes, oats, etc. With coal and iron on the free list the iron and coal mines of this Province will at once be favorably affected, and from this out we may expect to see these important natural resources of the country worked to an extent that will bring prosperity to the whole Province. The Bill has still to receive the sanction of Congress and the Senate, in both of which houses it will be vigorously opposed by the protectionists, and what its fate will be it is impossible to predict. If the Democratic majority stands true to its principles the Bill should go through with slight alteration. If, however, they allow selfish local conditions to divide their strength and fail to redeem the pledge of tariff reform on which they were elected they will simply be digging the grave of the Democratic Party. With so much at stake we believe the Bill will be speedily passed, although it is not unlikely that it may go into immediate operation. The following is the summary of the bill: "The Bill just completed puts wool, coal, lumber, salt and iron ore on the free list, and reduces the tariff on sugar from one-half to one-quarter of a cent per pound; it also provides for the extermination of the bounty by degrees. As a rule, the tariff has been made lowest upon the cheaper goods of necessary use and left highest upon the more expensive articles. The wool schedule will, perhaps, attract most attention. We have left no duty higher than 45 per cent. on manufactures of wool, and that only on ready-made garments, the average being less than 40 per cent. The cheap quality of blankets and flannels are only taxed 25 per cent., and the lower grades of carpets only 20. We have also applied a gradual reduction to the woollen schedule so that, at the end of five years, the highest duty will be 40 and the average near 30 per cent. Very material reductions have been made in the cotton schedule. We have placed iron ore on the free list and made a large cut all along the metal schedule, the duty on steel rails is reduced more than 50 per cent. Free lumber will be a great benefit to the people of the prairie states, and free salt will give to those who need salt for their cattle or for curing meat the same advantage which has been secured heretofore by means of rebate to those who cured fish. Agricultural implements have been placed upon the free list in order to enable the farmer to better compete in foreign markets, and because many of our agricultural implements are being sold abroad to-day cheaper than at home."

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