

Crown have stated in Parliament that Her Majesty's Government would offer no obstruction.

On the other hand a strong attachment prevails toward the old country, as it is fondly recalled, to her institutions and its laws, while all respect and are proud of; but while this is the case the people are aware that if we were incorporated in the union, these birthrights would accompany them, inasmuch as the constitution of the United States affords the same protection.

tion to the rights of property and the liberty of the subject as that of England.

PUBLICATIO.
Charlottetown, P.E.I. January 31st 1882.

THE IRISH AND THE ENGLISH.

(To the Editor of the Witness.)

SIR,—The following language of the Rev. William Howels, a minister of the Church of England, is as worthy of consideration to-day as it was when it was uttered. Mr. Howels was a Welshman. He says: "Give the Irish the gospel and you not only bring them peace but you break down all their national hatred of the English race. The English are afraid because a fellow feeling between the people of these two countries. It has done it in Wales, and nothing but the gospel can do it in Ireland." These words looked upon the English as their greatest enemies, their irreconcilable foes. I know it. Till I went to Oxford I hated the English, but at Oxford the gospel first reached me, and I saw the English as Irishmen. From that time forth I loved Englishmen as warmly as before I hated them. There are hundreds of thousands in Ireland who bear the same race, the same blood, the same language, an abiding hatred but the gospel. Oh, emphasize them by the gift of the gospel! Nothing but the gospel can identify the Irish with the English. I have been in Ireland for two months any year, and travelling through the whole country, would reach the gospel and call these months my holidays."

Metic, Que.

TEMPERANCE IN THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY.

(To the Editor of the Witness.)

MEN.—It is with pleasure that I inform you
 that we, the lovers of sobriety, have this week
 organised a branch of the D. T. A. and you
 might scarcely credit it when I tell you it was
 much needed, even although we have a pro-
 hibitory law in the statute book. But it always
 has been the case that men were ready to evade
 law when it served their purpose. The only
 way to deal with them is to make them respect
 or suffer the penalty, and it is for that pur-
 pose that the adherents of the temperance
 reformer have carried a branch of the D. T. A.
 with the intention of carrying out law in all
 its force, for there are a number of settlers who
 have come to this country with the hope that
 there would be no temptation here to induce
 them to indulge in habits that was injuring
 them physically, financially and morally, and
 here are just as many who came in the hope
 that they were going to a country free from the
 restraint of individual habit that law in all
 its force have been blasted by the mercenary spirits
 of the devil. I think our Dominion Parliament
 made one grand mistake in putting in that
 quantity of liquor to any individual who ap-
 plied for it. Now that is just the loop hole
 that is being used to thwart the efficacy of the pro-
 hibitory law that they passed.

ROBERT THOM.

Minneapolis, N. W. T., Jan. 10th, 1882.

THE FIRST AND THE LAST FATAL
 WAY ACCIDENT.

(To The Editor of the Times.)

SIR.—The first railway accident occurred on
 the first trip of the Iron horse some fifty years
 ago, when the celebrated Mr. Huskisson, member
 of the Imperial Parliament and President
 of the Board of Trade, was killed. It will be
 remembered by all who were then old enough

large multitude had come to witness the first

[illegible]

000 of whom are Roman Catholics, and by regulations which are as old as the English occu

tion, the temporal affairs of the Catholic Church, there are administered by the vicar apostolic, in conjunction with the vicar apostolic and his vicar-general. These laymen represent are no longer contestable; they have repeatedly been confirmed, once by the Priory Council, and once by the pope. In the year 1840, six years ago, set himself against one of the decisions that support them, found himself laid under a ban for contempt of court, but the imprisonment was not sufficient to subvert the spirit of independence and an impatient intolerance of wrongs which are rare among Catholics. Some two years, or nearly, ago, he was again banished from the country in accordance with a suggestion made by him before his death. Dr. Gonzalo Canilla was named as his successor. Dr. Canilla did not appear to be a man of a different character from his predecessor; he was young; he lacked the proper attainments; he had formerly been only an assistant military chaplain; moreover, he lacked the confidence of the people. The only person who was to fill so high an office. Hence, they thought that, much as they esteemed him personally, they would have none of him as vicar apostolic. He was, however, so much attached to the office, and he expressed such high feelings in opposition the nomination, that he would not accept the office, proceeded to London to be finally installed by Cardinal Manning. Returning to his country, he found that the people had not been satisfied with his entering into his episcopal cathedral church. He walked up to the altar alone with his brother, and on reaching the altar the church was met by a large crowd, and he was forced to go rapidly home without entering the place. Repeated attempts were afterwards made; mediation was attempted, but to no purpose. He was, however, so much attached to the office, that he refused to be prevented his entering, until at last he came from Rome a Canon Veld, charged with the restoration of peace and authority.

but they were both forced to return home, followed by a noisy mob. Finally, Canon Wel-

got into the residence of the Vicar-Apostolic attached to the cathedral, and settled himself permanently there. He was sent word by the people to leave the rooms, else he would remain in them at his own risk. Getting no reply, they broke through the doorways of the residence into Mr. Weld's apartments, and, amid much confusion, expelled him violently into the street, which he reached without hat or slipper. Here the matter now rests, with little likelihood that the troubles will cease so long as the appointment of young Dr. Canilla is insisted upon. — *N. Y. Times.*

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ISSUED LAST WEEK.

Number copies of WEEKLY WITNESS	26,000
" " DAILY WITNESS	73,468
" " MESSENGER	58,000
" " AURORA	1,277
Total	160,345

We invite communications from farmers giving their experience on matters interesting to them as a class, also enquiries which, if we cannot answer ourselves, some of our readers may.

The Witness.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1882.

THE PICTURES.

Our picture makers have been unable to supply the great demand for our pictures this year, and therefore many of our subscribers have been disappointed in not receiving them as soon as they expected. We have reason to believe, however, that in a week or a little more all who will have renewed up to that time will have received the pictures. No one can regret more than we do any delay in this matter, but the process of making pictures such as those we give our subscribers is a slow one and cannot be hurried without deterioration in the quality, and we wish every copy to be perfect.

ONE AND TWO.

During the holiday season a very large proportion of subscribers sent in a new subscription with their own. Cannot those whose time expires in February do likewise? They will find that in most cases the new subscribers will thank them for the recommendation, and we certainly will thank them for their kind remembrance and assistance.

ARE JUDGES NEEDED?

There are now two vacant judgeships to be filled. These places politicians are already eagerly striving for. It is quite amusing to see the zeal with which friends of rival candidates spread through the press the announcement of their appointment, in hopes that the news will be accepted by the Government as a declaration of public opinion in favor of the applicant. In this way, we presume, the news was spread that Mr. Cyras Peltier, of Quebec, had been selected to succeed the late Mr. Justice Laframboise. Mr. Peltier has been an active and zealous, and no doubt useful political canvasser, for Messrs. Langlois, Tarte, Angers and other Conservative candidates, presenting themselves in the constituencies about Quebec, and, more especially, in the counties of Montmorency and Charlevoix. But, except his usefulness as a political wire-puller, we fail to see what claim Mr. Peltier's friends can make to a seat for him on the bench. We cite Mr. Peltier's case, because it is the last which has come under our notice, and for no other reason. There are, no doubt, men on the bench, not much better qualified than that gentleman now is, who were appointed when they were much older, and who during their professional career, had not had the advantage of more extended experience, or a larger practice. But, because unwise appointments have been before made, is no reason why such appointments should continue to be made, for ever more. There are a great many men at the Montreal bar and at the Quebec bar, who, by their age and experience, and the confidence which has been shown in their professional ability by the public, must be presumed to be much better qualified to fill a place on the bench than Mr. Peltier, and the mere fact that he has been a successful and useful political wire-puller, is no reason why he should be raised over their heads. We have already protested against a place on the bench being made a reward for political service. It has degraded our judiciary, and has tended to shake the confidence of the public in the administration of justice, by placing it in the

hands of politicians of inferior legal attainments, and sometimes of anything but spotless antecedents. The first question, however, is, are judges needed. We have too many judges as it is. What is required is not to increase their number, but to distribute more fairly the work to be done by each. We are promised during the coming session a new judiciary bill. Legislation on this matter is very urgent and might do a great deal at once to reduce the cost and improve the standing of the Bench. The only persons who know much about the condition of our courts are the judges and lawyers. Judges naturally like to see their individual work lessened by being parcelled out to a greater number of judges, and lawyers like to see openings on the bench multiplied. The Government dearly likes the patronage so that reform is little to be looked for from that source. The public which is really the only quarter from which pressure can come knows nothing and cares little about the matter. The fact remains, however, that our complicated system of courts might be greatly simplified and that the work might be distributed into fewer hands without losing but rather gaining greatly in dignity, efficiency and public deference.

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.

The Speech from the Throne this year is one of the old order which has been generally taken for granted had passed away for ever. It appears to set forth pretty fully the Government's programme for the session; if much is withheld the session will not prove the short one which it is understood the Government promised. The condition of the country justifies the plan of peace and prosperity with which the Speech opens, unless it be for the war which Ontario is about to declare against the Dominion over the boundary question. Last year was, as compared with preceding years, a very prosperous one, and the Government's claims for the National Policy as a cause of the prosperity are more modest than hitherto, as it is only stated that our "manufactures and other industries have developed under favorable auspices." It would be strange indeed if under a fiscal system which grants a round bonus to manufacturers they were not developed; the question is whether it is fair to make the many pay to enrich the few, and whether manufactures which are thus developed are a cause for congratulation. We think that manufactures which were established in the face of fair open competition, and which were dependent for success only upon superior work and greater cheapness, would be more satisfactory not only to the people generally, but to independent minded manufacturers, who, under the present system, must feel like public beneficiaries. The success of agricultural operations and the high prices are not apparently ascribed to the National Policy. Does the abandonment of the claim foreshadow the abolition of the duty on breadstuffs? We are afraid not. The division of the North-West Territories into provisional districts with proper names is a proposition which, notwithstanding the rapid settlement of the North-West, will take most people by surprise. If no local government organization, which would be worse than useless in such a sparsely settled country, is intended, the proposition is a good one, as a large unnammed territory is not likely to prove attractive to the ordinary settler, who is apt to invest a *terra incognita* with vague terrors or discomfords. The idea, which prompts the laying out on maps of "Edens" can be and should be legitimately employed to induce settlement of really good land. We have always prided ourselves upon our good and humane Indian policy; it is to be hoped that, now that policy is about to be put to the test, it will really prove all that it was claimed to be; the increasing of their grants and the enlarging of the Mounted Police force are, it is to be hoped, more precautionary measures than anything else. This mere handful of men have had an immense work, altogether disproportionate to their numbers, to perform, and that they have, as a general rule, performed it wisely and firmly is proved by the fact that they have performed it at all; but now that the settlement of the country is rapidly increasing the danger it is wise to strengthen their force. It is to be hoped that the Civil Service measure promised will be a thorough one, that will make for ever impossible the adoption of the rule unblushingly advocated by one of the Government's organs that the victors should belong the spoils, a rule which has made the United States system a mass of corruption, and which has had for its latest result the assassination of the President and all the horrors of the Guiteau trial. Ontario and Manitoba are to have the number of their representatives in Parliament increased as a result of the last census. A bill providing for the winding up of financial and commercial corporations is needed, but a bankruptcy act is much more necessary. It is to be hoped that the amendments to the Supreme Court Acts have been better considered by the Government than those which had to be dropped last session. The Canadian Pacific Railway, which the Government handed over to a Syndicate to get a large share of, and always will occupy, attention. The Government congratulates itself and also the company, and with reason, on the energy with which the work is being carried out. A very important question is that of the regulation of factory labor. The readers of this paper have been made acquainted with many of the evils which exist and which demand a prompt remedy. It is to be hoped that the Government has prepared a measure in accordance with the report of the Royal Commission appointed to investigate it, and that the interests of the operatives have not been sacrificed to those of the manufacturers, who have surely been sufficiently cared for. It is satisfactory that the expenditure for the year has been kept below the estimates and that the revenue is above them, and long may these relative positions be maintained. The lessening of taxes, which are too heavy, is more of an object than the reduction of the public debt at the present period of our history, and it is to be hoped that, although it is not foreshadowed in the speech, the tariff duties on the necessities of life will be reduced in such a way

as will give the consumer the greatest measure of relief. The surplus of four millions could and would be better used by the people than by the Government, which would find it hard to defend it against the vultures that are always gathered together where the carcass is.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

The relatively small portion of the Queen's Speech devoted to foreign affairs is the very best possible evidence of the sincerity of, and success which has attended the Liberal Government's purpose to rid the nation of the entanglements with foreign powers, and of the numerous small wars which were the main, if not the sole, results of the vigorous foreign policy of their predecessors. Only one European question is referred to, and that only to notice its satisfactory settlement, unless indeed the Egyptian question is to be called a European one, which it has certainly become since all the powers have claimed the right to be consulted in the final settlement. It is perhaps significant that the British Government does not in any way recognize the participation of Germany, Austria and Italy, which appears to confirm the opinion that England and France are determined not to allow their intervention if it is possible to prevent it. The prosperity of India, and the successful settlement of the Transvaal question are the only other matters dealt with as foreign, and these can hardly be regarded as such. One other question, indeed, concerns another nation as much as Great Britain, but still it is essentially a domestic one, and that is the commercial treaty with France. The clause treating of the question is somewhat vague. The negotiations are, it is clear, closed, but it is not certain whether they have been successful or no. That foreign and domestic trade have been improving in England there can be no doubt, but after the experience of last year agriculturists may be excused from auguring fair prospects for next summer's operations from fine weather at this season. The clause referring to the condition of things in Ireland though hopeful in tone is not as cheerful as was generally looked for, which is somewhat disheartening, as it seems to imply that the reality of the pacification of Ireland, which the Government is best acquainted with, is not so great as the appearance. Perhaps the most important clause in the speech is that which foreshadows the Government bill for the establishment of local self-government by the counties throughout Great Britain. This is intended to relieve Parliament of the great mass of local work which cannot be thoroughly dealt with by it, and which takes up so much of the time of the House to the exclusion of matters which Parliament is more fitted to deal with. It is to be regretted that the Government did not see its way clear to make the bill extend to Ireland. We think that in the county council system is to be found the true solution of the Home Rule question. It is to be hoped that when local government is granted to the counties of Ireland that it will be even with more rather than with less power than that is given the English counties. The reform of the Corporation of London is to be much greater than was generally supposed. The municipal system which has hitherto been confined to what is in reality a small portion of the business part of the city where few people lived, is to be extended over the whole city. The various measures which were dropped last session, including the Bankruptcy corrupt practices bill and others, are to be proceeded with this session. This is the Government's programme. Of course the Opposition, Lord Randolph Churchill and the Home Rulers have their programmes also, but what these are time alone will reveal.

THE CLOTURE.

The most important question which Parliament will be called upon to deal with this session is one that is not mentioned at all in the Queen's Speech. We suppose that it would be a breach of their privileges which the House guards with so much jealousy if the Speech from the Throne contained any reference or made any suggestions as to the procedure of the Commons. The House adopts or amends its rules of procedure, and puts them into effect without consulting either of the other estates. In accordance with the declarations of members of the Cabinet during the recess, the Government is proceeding at once to deal with the question. This is necessary unless the House is prepared to waste its time even more completely than it did during the last two sessions. The time of the House would, no doubt, be occupied during the whole session if the Home Rule members had their way in considering Irish affairs, and as no remedial legislation is proposed this session, it would be a less fruitful one than the last when one great measure was passed. Lord Randolph Churchill and the fragments of his party of four could, under the present rules, make it extremely difficult for the House to deal with the question of the admission of Bradlaugh. Government measures of the most pressing character, which have lain over for two sessions, such as the Bankruptcy Act, would probably be crowded out again this session if the obstructive tactics pursued last session were again to be followed. The telegraphic summary of the new rules of procedure to be proposed by Mr. Gladstone in the House on Monday next is not a very explicit one, but it suggests a measure which could only be proposed as a *dernier resort*, and which could only be adopted in the hope that it was temporarily necessary, or that some safer expedient would some day be discovered to replace it. The Speaker, or the chairman when the House is in committee, is to be empowered to close the debate and put the question if, on a division, he is supported by a majority consisting of more than 200 votes, or is opposed by less than 40 votes. If we understand the intention of this rule, a bare majority only is necessary to carry the closure in a House of over two hundred votes, if the House are in favor of doing so, or in case less than forty are opposed to it. If forty or more are opposed to the putting of the question the majority carrying it over their heads must number over two hundred. Thus

forty members could successfully oppose the putting of the question in a House of two hundred and forty. This rule would enable the Government to carry closure at any time in spite of the combined opposition of the Conservatives and Home Rulers as they possess an absolute majority of the House over these two parties. If a majority of two-thirds were required to carry the closure the Government would be dependent upon the Home Rulers to protect it against obstruction on the part of the Conservatives, or on the Conservatives to protect it from obstruction on the part of the Home Rulers. The rights of a member to occupy the time of the House are restricted by the next five clauses, hoots and cat-calls and empty benches not being a sufficient protection nowadays against bores who have grown more callous or more selfish. That terrible punishment for disregard of the rules of "naming" members having lost its sting, they were suspended for a day or more according to the will of the House; it is now proposed that the period of suspension shall be fixed to one week for the first offence, a month for the second, and for the remainder of the session for the third. One of the most radical reforms proposed is that of adopting the Standing Committee system which is in use in the United States Congress and the French Congress. At present every bill relating to home trade, shipping, &c., is discussed by the committee of the whole House. Large standing committees of authorities on each subject will be named and the bills will be referred to them, and the House will then discuss and pass them when the committee's report is presented, in the regular way. The business of the House will be greatly expedited by this method.

COLLAPSE OF THE NEW WORLD RUGBY.

The Rugby colony of Tennessee, that Trojan scheme commenced under such bright auspices about a year and a half ago by Mr. Thomas Hughes, the well known author of Tom Brown's School Days, has collapsed. The last number of the *Rugbyman*, a journal issued in the colony by one of its members, makes the announcement: "It is with considerable pain and confusion of face that we have to announce 'what has been darkly foreshadowed for long time, that, as far as the Board of aid to Land ownership is concerned, the 'Rugby colony' is a complete failure." The name of the board is sufficient to explain its purpose except that the operations of the company never extended beyond Rugby colony, and, in fact, its capital, according to the *Rugbyman*, "was never a safe nor a sufficient one," for even the purpose of establishing that scheme, and hence its collapse. Mr. Hughes' ideas seem to have been that cultured people could in some way become successful and prosperous emigrants without having recourse to hard work. A mountain in Tennessee was chosen as the home of the colony, apparently because the climate was mild and pleasant to people who had been accustomed to the dull climate of England, and the methods of agriculture were novel and, therefore, less common-place than those of a country where products were similar to those of the colony they were leaving. When they gave their attention to the picturesque scenery, to landscape gardening, building gymnasiums and the laying out of lawn tennis courts, &c., apparently supposing that if the luxuries and elegances of life were looked after, bread and butter would look after itself. So long as the capital of the "Board" held out, all went merry as a marriage bell, and Mr. Hughes' letters to the *Spectator*, and Mr. Boyle, the Vice-President's, reports set forth in the most glowing terms the success of the colony. After a time, however, troubles came; although the lawn tennis courts were all that could be desired owing to the great care that they had bestowed upon this important matter, the wells which supplied the drinking waters, and which were, of course, a minor consideration, were not carefully attended to, with the consequence that the colony was prostrated by fever, from which some of their number died. Then the State authorities called upon the colonists for the taxes due upon the large extent of mountain land they had taken up, and as the landscape gardening and luxuriously furnished houses, the gymnasiums and the lawn tennis courts had swallowed up the ready money, and as, of course, the produce of the colony had not been very great, the taxes had to go unpaid, whereupon, large tracts of the colony were sold by the State in order to pay them. The capital of the Board was all but exhausted, and Mr. Hughes who had promised to raise more money when it was necessary, lost his health and with it his interest in the management of the colony, and so the Board had nothing to do but to order the closing of all the works—the lawn tennis and the gymnasiums—supposed—carried on and to wind up the whole affair while it had money enough to do so. Some of the colonists will find themselves stranded on that mountain like Noah and his family on Ararat after the flood, but they will not prove as successful in multiplying and replenishing the earth as their antetypes.

THE INDIANS.

The discussion of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne has brought out the fact that the Indian question is becoming a very grave one indeed, and that the Government are perplexed over it and are without any definite policy on the subject. Some years ago when the Indians were threatened by famine the Government placed in the estimates an amount with which to furnish them with food and supplies, stating that the item was an exceptional one. They were warned then that unless some other course was taken that the Indians would become regular, as to look to the Government to supply their needs. This has, it appears, turned out to be the case, and now the Government says, "Well, what would you have us do; we cannot allow the Indians to starve, we will have to supply them with food until they have learned to supply their own

wants by farming." The Government is forced to confess that the efforts to teach the Indians agriculture have not been very successful. It seems to us that the Government is putting forth its efforts in the wrong direction in trying to instruct the plain Indians in agriculture. The best employment, the one most easily taught them, and by which they would become soonest self-supporting would be that which was most similar to their own former pursuit. These Indians have been accustomed to live by following the vast buffalo herds over the great plains, and they are in want because, as Sir John Macdonald says, the buffaloes are fast disappearing. Now, why should not the place of the buffalo be supplied by cattle and the Indian taught to herd them. They would take to it almost naturally. White overseers would have to be placed in charge at first in order to teach the Indians the care of the animals, and to prevent them from slaughtering them wastefully. Large ranches are being established by cattle breeders in the far West, and many of these Indians are likely to be employed as herdsmen by the ranchers. If Government could give any financial encouragement to such employment of Indians it would, we think, be a very legitimate use of public money. When Indians are furnished with supplies beyond treaty obligations, it ought always to be in return for service rendered.

ANOTHER GREAT MONOPOLY.

Immediately after the triumph of the Government at the general elections, the stock of the Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Company advanced considerably in value and large amounts of the stock changed hands at the higher figures. It was reported on the street at that time that the Government had promised certain French-Canadian capitalists that in event of its success at the elections, it would make the purchase of the Richelieu line on advantageous terms for the company a condition of the sale of the North Shore line, for which Mr. Chapeau gave the people to understand previous to the elections he had already received offers which he would lay before the Legislature at the next session, provided the Government was sustained. It was said that the promise of the Government was made to these capitalists on the condition that they should do all in their power to promote the success of the Government. The Government was successful and Mr. Senechal, whom Mr. Chapeau had kept in the background and whom he was understood to refer to, at least before English audiences, in rather slighting terms, was found to have been the Premier's right hand man, and to have contributed much to the success of the Government during the elections. Since Mr. Senechal has been handed in-glove with Mr. Chapeau and has been his chief adviser, it would appear, in all matters pertaining to the sale or lease of the railway. The very man to whom Mr. Chapeau at a meeting in Montreal, just prior to the election, was understood to refer when he declared that when he laid the scheme for the sale of the line before the Legislature it would show that he was independent of any employee of the Government, has been his companion on trips to New York connected with the railway and on other occasions here when it was understood that negotiations for the sale or lease of the road were being discussed. The Government is supposed to have two offers under consideration since the election, one for the purchase, the other for the lease of the road; the first of which came from Sir Hugh Allan, and the next from a company of which Mr. Senechal was the promoter. This morning's organ here announces that the Government has made arrangement to lease the road, and at the meeting of the Richelieu Company held on Saturday afternoon the old directorate of the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company was turned out and what is generally known as the Senechal ticket, which includes Mr. Senechal and his friends, was elected. It would, therefore, appear that there was something at the bottom of that report of the scheme to amalgamate the North Shore Railway and Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Company's line, and that that something has finally determined the decision of the Government in dealing with the question of the disposal of the road. It may be that the Province's interests have not been sacrificed to those of the Government of the day and its most generally detested supporters, but certainly the circumstances are suspicious. Certain the amalgamation of the North Shore line and of the Richelieu line will be anything but advantageous to the public, and it may pave the way for an understanding with the Grand Trunk which would leave the people at the mercy of a practical monopoly for a time. It would be no use urging at Quebec that a vastly better bargain for the country could have been made with Sir Hugh Allan. Sir Hugh is not *de nos autres*.

CHANGES IN THE TARIFF.

It is rumored that there are to be important changes made in the tariff besides those already announced, namely, the abolition of the tea and sugar duties. Some believe that the Government intend abolishing the duties on coal and flour, the former of which has proved such a source of complaint from Ontario, and the latter from the Lower Provinces and the millers. It is certain that the Government dare not remove the duty on coal without removing that on breadstuffs also. A definite statement by certain parties that under certain conditions the Government is willing to abolish the coal duties is, therefore, important not only in itself, but inasmuch as it, if true, portends further and very considerable changes. It appears that certain Americans who own large tracts of iron ore lands in Canada are at Washington with the object of inducing Congress to take off the duty on Canadian iron ore entering the United States, in return for the abolition of the duty on American coal entering Canada. They claim, according to the Boston Journal, to have authority to speak for the Canadian Government on the subject. Viewed from a merely fiscal point it does not seem likely that the Government would consent to such a one-sided arrangement as this would be. The Journal says:

"The present duty on iron ore is 20 percent ad valorem, or about 60 cents per ton. The total number of tons imported last year was 621,073, of the value of \$1,725,585, and of this amount a comparatively small percentage has thus far been imported from Canada. These ores are used in the Pennsylvania Bessemer Steel Works, &c., at Erie, Ohio. The only mines which yield but a small percentage of the amount needed by the American iron masters. For this reason the measure has already in its support the Pennsylvania and Ohio protectionists. The amount of coal exported from the United States to Canada last year was 1,211,134 tons, of the value of \$4,242,568, which was required to pay duty to the Dominion Government of \$600,000. The amount the United States Government received therefrom was \$231,000 for duty on iron ore that was imported to this country."

The abolition of the iron ore duties would have the beneficial effect of hastening the development of our iron ore mines. If the Government had therefore made up its mind on other grounds to abolish the duties on American coal it would of course be a good idea to obtain some concession from the American Government in return. There is little hope we fear, however, of the Government abolishing the coal duties, and Sir Charles Tupper in speaking to the Nova Scotians asks their continued support for the tariff, on the ground that it has benefited the coal industry.

THE MANNER in which the Mechanics' Bank estate has been wound up is certainly a subject for congratulation to all concerned. Had the creditors impudently seized upon the first offer made, which they were strongly urged to accept, they would have realized but a third of the dividend they have already received. It is gratifying to note the cordiality with which the assignee and those connected with him in the winding up of the estate have been thanked by the creditors, particularly considering that unanimity and cordiality have not been characteristic of defunct bank creditors' meetings. The opinion was expressed yesterday, that the forty percent liability should have been enforced against those liable, and that the responsibility and inconvenience of litigation should not have been thrown on the preferential creditors, who possessed a residuary right to recover any asset of the bank which had not been collected, even after the final dividend. It was, however, explained that these claims could not be realized upon until it was ascertained what the estate would pay. Mr. Court stated that the final dividend would likely be twelve and a half percent, so that the creditors will have realized fifty-seven and a half percent from an estate which, in the excitement following the suspension, was thought scarcely worth twenty percent.

ACCORDING to the conditions of free or partially free homesteads in the North-West, settlers are required to erect certain buildings upon their plots before procuring their titles. This has given rise to the practices, by dishonest adventurers, on the one hand of putting up temporary structures, and securing their titles, not for purposes of settlement but of speculation; and, on the other hand, of taking advantage of real settlers, who, from unavoidable and unforeseen causes, are behind time in fulfilling the conditions of settlement, by "jumping" the said real settlers' claims, putting up buildings upon them, and applying on the strength of such work for the titles. Some people who went out to the new territories of the United States had their claims to the land they selected "jumped" while they were too ill from the change of climate to fulfil the conditions of "squating"—as this kind of settling is called—or to defend themselves against the marauders. The scoundrels now operating in the Canadian North-West have gone so far as to burn down a settler's buildings to destroy his claim and seize his homestead. The Government can adopt no measures too severe to stamp out this evil in the Canadian domains.

WE DO NOT ATTACH so much importance as the American does, and as many Americans are likely to do to the fact that some London paper, not named, criticised the appointment of Lord Lorne as Governor-General as one from its highly aristocratic character likely to be distasteful to the Americans, but there is undoubtedly ground for that paper's boast that Great Britain has a far greater regard for the United States than for Canada. This is partly because Canada is confessedly an insignificant country compared with her large neighbor, and partly because she is less self-asserting. It is perhaps human that John Bull should have more respect for the strong, dominating and independent son who takes after himself in these qualities, than for a growing son who is quiet and modest. He is rather apt, too, to value what he has lost and to depreciate what he possesses. The Manchester idea is that when colonies cease to be a source of profit they should be discarded, and of course, judging us by ourselves, Canada's loyalty can only appear to persons so minded to be a mere sham, betokening a desire to maintain a profitable connection.

ISLAM is tired of the Turk. The Sultan is a sort of King Kong in the eyes of enthusiastic Mussulmans. He is too much worried with his turbulent subjects and his European neighbors snarling at each other over the partition of his empire to take very much interest in the honor of the prophet. The Arabs, who claim the prophet as their own, and who would never have allowed the Caliphate, that is, to speak the Mohammedan popedom, to pass into the hands of the alien Turks if they could have helped it, are at last in arms to resume the primacy of Islam. In doing so, they are likely to have the passive support of all Mohammedans who are not Turks. The Moors and others, who have paid homage to the Porte, in case of such a change, hardly see why they should continue such allegiance which the Porte is notably unable to enforce. An irresponsible caliph in Arabia might give a good deal of trouble by proclaiming holy wars in Europe, Asia and Africa. England can deal with the present caliph the Sultan, but what could she do with a Bedouin?

THE AGREEMENT between the three Emperors upon the Eastern question, which was said to have been the object of their meeting last fall, has not lasted very long. Russian intrigue is as busy as ever in the Balkan peninsula, and Pan-

slavist agitators are at work in the Austrian province of Galicia. Austria is hurrying far more troops into Herzegovina and Bosnia than are necessary to hold down, if not stamp out, the rebellion aroused by her attempts to force army conscription upon people who have hitherto had immunity from such service and upon the people of the Turkish provinces over which Austria has assumed a protectorate. It is believed by the press of England and France that Austria invited the rebellion in order to have an excuse for moving her army southward, and that Austria's real object is to extend her dominion to Salonica on the Aegean. Austria and Russia's jealousy and suspicion of one another are rapidly growing, and it does not appear unlikely that they may drift into war.

THE COTTON SPINNERS of Fall River complain that they are not receiving enough pay to support their families. There is no remedy for this but to give up cotton spinning. Protection is not designed to protect operatives. While manufacturers flourish, skilled labor may demand what it likes, but unskilled labor must always take what it can get. Manufacturers which employ a great many hands for work which taxes neither mind nor muscle—work in fact which almost anyone can do after a little showing—produce masses of population of the very lowest order, with little intelligence and no stake in the country. The reason why these spinners cannot support their families is because there are enough of people willing and able to do the work for the low wages they are getting.

PRESIDENT ARTHUR is being treated to a deluge of letters, asking for offices. Happy the nation whose grave affairs of state afford its chief ruler sufficient time to weigh thousands of claims of office-seekers to the pettiest as well as the proudest positions under the Government! Lincoln is said to have been once reduced to such extremities in an individual case, where two rival candidates were each supported by a vast and daily increasing quantity of influential testimony, that he gave orders that the letters of each should be carefully weighed and the office given to the one which outweighed the other.

THE DEATH is announced of the celebrated German novelist, Berthold Auerbach. Born in 1812, he was seventy years of age. He was learned in theology, jurisprudence, philosophy and history, and his first literary productions, "Spinoza" for example, treated largely of Judaism. His later writings are noted for descriptions of German village life, abounding in philosophical reflections and poetic feeling. Many of his works have been translated into English and French. He accompanied a German Prince during the Franco-German war and wrote letters to a German newspaper.

TRICHINE is what the hair-like worms that often infest raw pork in millions are called, and trichinosis the sickness caused by those worms being transferred to the flesh of a human being by eating pork thus infested without its being properly cooked. There have lately been many cases of sickness and death in the Middle States, from the eating of raw ham, and there is a case reported this week of a family of five in Fort Wayne, Indiana, who are suffering great agony from the same cause, and it is believed the children will die.

TO WARD OFF the small-pox, Andrew Olsen, of Chicago, drank three quarts of whiskey and died, the remedy certainly proving in his case efficient. Whiskey as a cure for small-pox is, if we are not mistaken, a new discovery, and will be chiefly used by those who, like the Indian applying to an agent for some to neutralize the effects of an alleged rattlesnake bite, urged the white man not to be stingy as he had a "heap big bite."

IT SEEMS A VERY HARD application of a good law to refuse permission to a shipful of steerage passengers, who might have numbered twelve or fifteen hundred instead of less than one hundred, to leave the ship on which they had crossed the sea simply because there was a case of small-pox on board, which was doubtless much more carefully isolated than dozens which occur ashore, and with the contagion of which people, without knowing it, must be constantly coming into contact.

CHURCH LOTTERIES, which by very anomalous legislation have been legalized, while those conducted under secular management are liable to prosecution, having proved insufficiently remunerative, at least in Thorold, a feature which we have heard of before has been proposed, the Toronto Telegram stating that a mass a week for two years for the souls of deceased friends of the purchaser of each lottery ticket is being now thrown in.

THE REVIVAL of the whipping post has occasionally been advocated for certain classes of crime, but its introduction must be guarded against abuse, as people claiming but an ordinary share of humane feelings will never consent to the whip being applied to such an unmerciful extent as in the case of a convicted burglar in Lynchburg, Virginia, who has been sentenced to receive a hundred and fifty-six lashes on the bare back.

A SENTRY in Germany was teased by two boys. A big Newfoundland dog would have looked disdainfully at the annoyance. The sentry shot the boys. He was tried by court-martial. It was found that the soldier represented the Emperor and that boys that tease so great a man should be shot. The people would have thought so too a hundred years ago, but they do not think so now. They are very warm about it. Such heat sometimes causes explosions.

IT IS A VERY PLEASING THING to hear of the Irish societies repudiating the fenish behavior of the cowardly assassin who attempted to blow Mr. Forster to pieces by means of an explosive ticket. Such repudiations have often been looked for when their absence could only leave the impression that barbarities done in the national name were looked upon with allowance if not with positive approval.

SPAIN is just now diligent in maternal offices toward her remaining colonies, to promote the prosperity of which a royal

