

that it should also take over the newspapers, and form a Government Department of News, with uniformed reporters, &c. This was ironical, of course. But this Senate witness has no notion of irony here; he is in dead earnest. Such being the case, he cannot, tho' some other people may, understand why publicists who have given thought to matters of so grave import laugh at him after the fashion of the *N. Y. Bulletin*:

"By all means let the thing have a full trial, in order to a final experiment, nor let there be any half-way work about it. Do not stop with 'control' of the telegraph, or the post office, or the railroads or anything of the kind, but 'go on' with say, the hotels, the boarding-houses and the restaurants; the street cars, the ferry boats, the electric light, the bootblacks and the Chinese laundries, and for that matter, the whole round of our manufacturing industries, great and small. In short, let us get rid of this Government of 'limited powers' (see Federal Constitution Amendments, Art. 10), and let Uncle Sam become at once a big, universal 'Boss,' so that he can do everything for everybody everywhere, and pay everybody's expenses—in short, run the whole machine, social, political, educational, commercial and industrial. It is about time that we had Arcadia in fact as well as in fiction, and the Brotherhood will make a great mistake if they do not insist that the Government shall somehow proceed at once to it."

—The accounts from the various fisheries of the Maritime Provinces vary in tenor a good deal. From a Halifax exchange we learn that mackerel have struck along the shores of the Northumberland Straits in great numbers, and some fine hauls have been taken. Reports to the *Quebec Chronicle* from the Labrador coast and round the island of Anticosti are to the effect that the weather has been too rough for fishing and so wet and foggy that much fish is spoiling. As to cod, the catch on the French coast of Newfoundland has been good and the vessels about Blanc Sablon and Bradore Bay have done fairly well, but between Bonne Esperance and Natashquan the failure has been complete. At Natashquan the fishery has been good, and above Natashquan the fishery is everywhere below the average. The Gaspé fishermen on the north side of Anticosti have done well with the cod, the latter having taken a considerable quantity of herring. The Government steamer, "*La Canadienne*," reports very few fishing vessels on all Labrador this season. Most of Nova Scotia fishermen have gone away to the north. Salmon fishery with nets has been poor on the Labrador, but the fly fishermen have done well. The cod fishery in the Bay and along the St. Lawrence is poor at present, some mackerel and herring catching and of pretty good quality.

—Cattle raising in the North West is being engaged in with energy. Many of those who have gone into it are wealthy residents of England. Several of these gentlemen came out by the *Sarmatian*, this week. Among them is Mr. Grenfell, Deputy Govern-

nor of the Bank of England, who takes an active interest in the development of the Canadian North West; the Earl of Latham, who with Mr. Stavelly Hill and Mr. George Baird, own a rancho of 100,000 acres in the district of Alberta. Lord Elphinstone, President of the North West Land Company, was a passenger by the same steamer as were also the Prince of Hohenlohe and his brother Count Gleichen. The Prince of Hohenlohe is interested in our North West, as President of the German Colonization Company. These gentlemen in company with Mr. George Stephen, Messrs. Angus and McIntyre of the Canada Pacific Railway, and other visitors are now on their way to the North West. Such of them as are interested in ranches there, are not agreed in the opinion whether the fencing of the ranches ought to be made compulsory. One of them is anxious that the government should enforce such compulsion; but the other are opposed to it, from the possible danger that cattle might be exposed to by being driven pell mell against a fence during a blizzard, when they might possibly destroy one another. We do not know whether the present stock of experience can throw any light on the subject. The Canadian North west, it is evident from the visit of these gentlemen, is bound to attract a widely extended interest in Europe.

—In a letter to the *Winnipeg Free Press*, Mr. C. J. Brydges remarks upon the increased acreage under wheat in Manitoba. In the Mennonite settlement alone, he says, the acreage under wheat is 65,000 acres: estimating the yield at twenty bushels to the acre, this will give an aggregate yield of 1,300,000 bushels. "It is not unreasonable, from the best information in our possession, to place the total probable yield of wheat in the Province at from 8 to 10 millions of bushels, and of that there should be a surplus for export of from 2 to 3 millions of bushels." In view of the short crop of wheat in Ontario, and the prospect, according to recent estimates, that we shall not only have none to export but may have to buy, every one will hope that the prospect held out in Manitoba may be realized.

DOUBLE STAMPING NOTES.—We had occasion recently to refer to the conflicting decisions of the Courts of Ontario and Quebec upon the question of the right, since the repeal of the stamp law, to double stamp negotiable instruments, the stamping of which had been omitted or improperly done. The decision of the Quebec Court it will be remembered, was to the effect that the right to double stamp no longer existed, since the statute under which it existed had been repealed. The Chancellor of Ontario on the contrary, held that though the stamp Act had been repealed such repeal did not affect the rights of the holders of instruments made before its repeal; and these rights were still governed by the repealed law in the same way as if no change had taken place. It now appears that the same point came up for discussion before the Queen's Bench Division of the Ontario High Court of Justice in the case of *Coughlin vs. Clark*. The question in that case really turned upon the propriety of allowing the defendant in a suit on a promissory note to amend his pleadings so as to set up the absence of stamps as a defence. Incidentally the effect of the repeal of the Stamp Act in such cases came up for consideration. Mr Justice Cameron

in his judgment expressly lays it down that the repeal of the Stamp Acts leaves the law where it was before these Acts were passed and that the note in question was therefore valid. This would appear to introduce a third view of this vexed question, viz., that the law is the same now, even as to instruments made while the stamp laws were in force, as if such laws had never existed. This it will be observed would do away with the necessity of double stamping. In view of this added diversity in judicial opinion on a point which is still of some importance, it becomes all the more necessary that the House at its next Session should remove all doubts by providing that double stamping shall no longer be necessary even as to instruments made before the repeal of the law. According to Mr. Justice Cameron's view, this is the state of the law already, but the fact that different views are taken by other judges makes it advisable in the public interest that the matter should be placed on an unmistakable footing.

—Professor Tanner, who is at the head of the English Institute of Agriculture, whose affiliated colleges contain some 8,000 students of that art has arrived in Canada, visited the experimental farm at Guelph, and is on his way to the North-West, probably going to Calgary. His report upon the capabilities of Manitoba and the prairie regions beyond, will doubtless reach and influence a large circle.

—Returns of the blast furnaces active and idle in the United Kingdom on 1st inst., says the *Iron Trade Journal*, show that of 912 furnaces built, 545 were in blast and 367 out of blast on the 1st instant. On August 1st, 1882, there were 563 furnaces working and 363 idle. The present working total is, therefore, less by 18 furnaces than at this time last year. During the past month various changes have occurred principally in Cleveland, Scotland and South Wales, resulting in an increase of five in the number of furnaces working.

—Immigration into Canada is not slow this year as may be seen by comparing this year's figures with those of last. The aggregate number at 31st July last, reached 72,281, as compared with 59,989 to same date last year. The total arrivals numbered 121,019 as against 114,078 in seven months of 1882. But of these 48,838 persons were passengers through Canada to the United States, a smaller proportion than in the previous year.

—The rain storm of Saturday night last has occasioned serious loss, spread over a wide tract of country. A strip from fifteen to twenty miles in width and extending in a northwesterly and southwesterly direction from Listowel in the north and Paris in the south and covering part of the counties of Huron and North Perth, most of the county of Waterloo, the eastern townships of Oxford and some of those of Brant, was deluged with rain. This section of country is drained in two ways, the height of land being about Listowel from which the river Maitland flows westerly into Lake Huron at Goderich, and the river Nith southerly to its junction with the Grand River some twenty-five miles south at Paris. The water set out in these two directions and did immense damage, destroying bridges, mill dams, etc. The heaviest losses were at Listowel, Wingham, Bluevale, Ethel, Henfryn, Brussels and down the valley of the Nith, and the little Ousestogo creek. Much damage was sustained in Millbank, Waterloo, Elmira, Heidelberg, New Hamburg, St. Jacobs, Ayr, and Paris. Crops, houses, factories, barns, &c., were damaged or destroyed. During the storm a house and couple of barns were destroyed by lightning. A number of washouts occurred along the railways and loss of life is reported from the county of Huron.