

of earning their bread. For these and many other reasons we hope yet to see the competitive system established in Canada, and we trust that next session the member for London may again be heard from, and this time with sufficient support from his fellow members to make his influence more widely felt.

A case of interest alike to newspaper publishers and subscribers has recently come before the courts in Missouri, the question at issue being the extent to which a publisher is liable to his subscribers for a non-fulfilment of contract caused by the suspension or irregular issue of a newspaper which by agreement, expressed or implied, was to be furnished regularly for a specified length of time. The case in point was raised as follows: The publishers of a Houston paper having been compelled, owing to a non-receipt of paper, to omit several of its regular issues, have been sued by a subscriber, who alleges in his complaint, first, an agreement on the part of the defendants to print and furnish him a copy of their newspaper on Wednesday of each week for one year, for which he paid them in advance a certain sum of money; and, second, that they had on several occasions neglected to issue the said paper at all, so that "plaintiff was deprived of all benefits and advantages which he might and would have derived from the printing, publishing, and mailing of said newspaper," whereupon he claims damages to the amount of fifty-five dollars, and prays for judgment for that amount and costs. The case is a nice one, and one which may possibly give rise to much discussion respecting the liability of carrying companies. The verdict, it is hardly necessary to say, is looked forward to with much interest, as it will greatly affect the future relations between publisher and subscriber.

When the enquiry into the Mercantile Agency system was going on at Ottawa, loud complaints were made in certain quarters against the attempts made to bring the business into disrepute. It was especially objected that the charge of levying black-mail and making false representations in reference to the standing of individuals had never been proven. Within the last few days it has been conclusively shown that the existence of establishments where such practices are in use is something more than a mere chimera. The collapse of the Retail Traders' Protective Association, and the subsequent revelations as to the manner in which business was transacted at that institution, have demonstrated the necessity of the most stringent legislation in reference to these agencies. We are far from regarding mercantile agencies, when properly conducted, as useless and unnecessary. There can be no doubt that they have been of much service in protecting business men from reckless and dishonest customers. But on the other hand, the powers possessed by the proprietors of such agencies are so great, and so easily abused, that they should only be allowed to be exercised under constant supervision and under a heavy guarantee that they will not be turned to improper purposes. The public will have reason to be grateful to those who exposed the nefarious practices of Messrs. Bell & Co. for showing the extent to which the agency business may be abused by unprincipled men.

"*Nec semper tendit arcum Apollo.*" is an apophthegm that is all very well in its way when properly applied. But when Apollo unbends his bow to indulge in low buffoonery and horseplay, he is apt to lose much of the dignity which should surround him. An incident which occurred a few nights ago has certainly served to show that even members of "the assembled wisdom of the country" cannot unbend from their labours without descending to unworthy and undignified relaxation in the way of practical jokes. As Mr. Tupper was leaving the House he was struck on the back of the head by a blue-book hurled by some unknown joker, who doubtless was immensely satisfied with the keenness of his wit. Other and less gifted individuals will probably fail to see the appropriateness of the pleasantry, unless, perhaps, the blue book is to be taken as typical of the heavy and dull character of the contents of the joker's cranium. This, however, would open a world of surmise as to the contents of the blue-book. Was it the Trade and Navigation Returns, or the Report of the Postmaster-General?

Anything that concerns the welfare of Newfoundland is matter of interest to Canadian readers, inasmuch as every thing points to an early absorption of the island in the Dominion. It is with great pleasure, therefore, that we learn that there seems to be a prospect of a speedy settlement of the West Coast Fishery difficulty, which has so long retarded the progress of that portion of the island. It appears that the French Government has expressed its willingness to come to a final arrangement, and the Colonial Secretary has accordingly notified the Newfoundland Government, with the view of eliciting its views on

the subject. It is a matter of great congratulation that a difficulty which at one time threatened serious complications should thus happily come to an amicable solution.

After much delay and a manifest hesitation to interfere in matters of purely State interest, the Federal Government at Washington have decided to recognize the claims of Brooks to the Governorship of Arkansas. There appears to be no doubt that the Attorney-General followed his lights in inducing the President to take this step, but in view of the basis of popular suffrage and Democratic institutions, there remains this very significant fact, recognized by the press generally, that Brooks was regularly elected by a majority of the votes of the people.

The fall of the De Broglie administration is so far significant that it will probably entail the dissolution of the National Assembly. There appears no manner of doubt, judging from the elections which have taken place during the past year, that the Assembly does not represent the vote of the French people. This being the fact, that body has no right to assume or exercise constituent powers. New general elections are therefore necessary, and, if they take place, it is to be hoped they will result in securing a stable government for France.

At the late annual meeting of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, considerable feeling was manifested at the last letters written by Dr. Livingstone, in which he spoke rather disparagingly of the practical good effected by the Society, as compared with Roman Catholic Missionary work. Some of the speakers excused Livingstone on the score of feeble mindedness, while others went the length of hinting at something which sounded very much like apostasy.

The premature closing of navigation last autumn produced much distress among the inhabitants of the Gaspé coast, and this misery has just been considerably aggravated by the recent destruction of a schooner laden with provisions destined for that coast. The Quebec Government is about to send grain to be distributed among the poor settlers of that region.

It would certainly be the crowning of the American centennial if the United States could annex the Dominion of Canada by the 4th of July, 1876. A Washington magazine writer throws out the brilliant suggestion, and our people are considerably given two full years to digest the idea and get used to it.

The French Canadians of this Province are making preparations to organize a monster celebration of their national festival, on the 24th June next. A large number of their compatriots in the United States are expected to join them.

FROM THE CAPITAL.

OTTAWA, May 21, 1874.

THE MANUFACTURING COMMITTEE—MILITARY COLLEGE.

The Manufacturing Committee has submitted its report to the House. It was recommended that such steps should be taken by the Legislature as should prevent in future the Americans making a slaughter market of this country for their manufactured goods. They were the more in favour of protection, as they considered it conclusively established by the evidence before them that the price of goods would not be raised thereby. The Committee also recommended a drawback on all material used in the manufacture of imported goods, and a further adjustment of the tariff to meet such industries as are only protected by a duty on the material used. In conclusion, they suggested that steps should be taken to further develop the iron mines.

The proposed Military College provoked an interesting discussion. Mr. KIRKPATRICK suggested a competitive examination for admission.

Hon. Dr. TUPPER supported this proposition. Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said all the qualification that was necessary for a candidate was a knowledge of the three R's, and to admit all who would then be eligible was impossible. From his experience of the United States, he thought there would be no great pressure of candidates, owing to the rigor of the discipline.

Mr. PLUMB said that in the United States there was a standard of qualification for cadets, to prepare for which candidates had to study pretty hard.

Mr. WALKER said, no doubt there were numbers of candidates who would be equal in merit; and while the selection lay with the Governor in Council in this case, it could not but be that politics would influence the selections. He would suggest that cadets should be selected by ballot, all other things being equal. He approved of the bill in the highest degree, as in it lay the whole nucleus of our future militia force.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL opposed the proposition, the system

appearing to him to have for its sole object the training of our young men in habits of idleness. He objected to our playing at soldiers in this way, as, judging from appearances, we were going to have a Reciprocity Treaty which would place us at peace with those with whom only was there the remotest chance of having hostilities. The expenditure for this school would be only so much money thrown away.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON said were he sitting on the other side, he should have urged the Government to indicate the site where this school should be placed. Parliament ought to be informed of this, and he trusted that the matter of selection would be brought before the House. There was only one rule on such a point, and that was to insist upon the carrying out of the cardinal points of Parliamentary rule.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE admitted the validity of the objection of the member for Chateaugay, regretting that Government could not be more definite. Until the different towns which had been garrisoned had been examined it was impossible to say which was the most eligible. He was quite prepared, however, to put in a rider to the bill, making the selection of a place subject to the approval of Parliament. As to the remarks of the member for South Leeds, he would also make an amendment to his bill, making the choice subject to the selection of the Governor in Council, having reference to their order of merits and examinations.

Mr. BROUSE not only approved of the bill, but he would go farther—he thought they should see if some military training could not be given at the public schools, and this matter, he was of opinion, was worthy of the attention of the Minister of War. He did not believe the country would regret the outlay that would be occasioned by the passage of the bill, as the training that would be given to the young men would be of the greatest service to them and the country.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said, in answer to Mr. Flesher, that they might give to all the cadets of this school employment, and it would be in the interest of the Government to so employ the cadets as to have them in the country when required for actual service. They could not give any security that the cadets would be in the country when required. It was quite impossible to lay down a rule to keep graduates of such a college in the country. They would not supplant the existing officers by students at this school; they could not do it if they desired. He pointed out that it would be four years before any of the graduates would be able to take commissions in the militia. There were already many efficient men in the force and many inefficient men, and it would be most desirable that their positions should be taken by properly trained men.

Some discussion took place as to the ages at which students should be admitted to the school, and ultimately Hon. Mr. Mackenzie consented to change the age from 15 to 20 years. The remaining clauses of the bill were passed.

CHAUDIER.

NEW BOOKS AND NEW EDITIONS.

Under the title of "The Office and Duty of a Christian Pastor," the Rev. Dr. Tyng, the well-known rector of St. George's Church, New York, has published a small volume containing a series of lectures delivered by him in October last before the students of the School of Theology at Boston University. Few men are more competent than the Doctor to offer good advice to young men about to enter the work of the ministry. His fifty years of unwearying labour as pastor and preacher in two of the largest cities of the United States have admirably fitted him to act as a Mentor to candidates for the high office he has filled with unusual success and with the deepest satisfaction to those who have had the privilege of being under his charge. It is pleasant, therefore, to be able to record that Mr. Tyng's lectures have met with the highest approbation from the Faculty of the University, while by the admission of the students they have contributed much to the strengthening and edification of those they were originally intended to benefit. It is, we may add, at the joint request of Faculty and students that the present volume has been issued. The lectures are five in number, and treat severally of the Objects, Qualifications, Instruments, Opportunities, and Attainments of the Christian pastor. They are delivered in simple, but dignified language, and bear the impress of intense earnestness united to a rare humility. Of the advice given by the lecturer we can say no more than that were it more generally acted upon we should hear more of successful ministries and less of the gradually growing distaste for the services of the clergy—a distaste which, fortunately for this country and our people, has not hitherto committed the ravages it has in Europe and in the United States. As a handbook for the guidance of theological students and of the younger members of the clergy Dr. Tyng's book is invaluable. The total absence of anything savouring of dogmatism, polemical discussion or intolerance is one of the most pleasing of its many admirable features; and its value is immensely enhanced, as has already been pointed out, by the author's wide experience, his earnestness, his true spirit of Christian charity, and the large measure of success which has everywhere demonstrated the force and the truth of his teaching.

Messrs. Harper & Brothers have added to their library of select novels "Colonel Dacre," by the author of "Caste"—a book remarkable chiefly for its ingrained dullness and the unchanging prosiness of the conversation the writer permits his, fortunately unlikable, characters to indulge in without interruption from the rise to the fall of the curtain. As a mild and harmless soporific we can conscientiously recommend its exhibition.

* The Office and Duty of a Christian Pastor. By Stephen H. Tyng. D.D. Cloth, 12mo. pp. 176. New York: Harper & Bros. Montreal: Dawson Bros.

† Colonel Dacre. A Novel. By the author of Caste. Paper, small 8vo. pp. 134. Fifty cents. New York: Harper & Bros. Montreal: Dawson Bros.