



VOL. II.
Home Journal Publishing Co.
GLOBE BUILDING, TORONTO.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1897.

No. 9.
YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.00.
SINGLE COPIES, TEN CENTS.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE leading national topic of the month has been that of closer Imperial connection; prominence having been given to it by the continuous discussion of the Fast Atlantic Steamship project, the Tariff Commission, and the addresses made by prominent men, both at the United Empire League luncheon in London and the National Club banquet in Toronto. A few years ago when the Imperial Federation League was established in the United Kingdom and colonies, the organization was laughed at, its purpose pronounced chimerical, its members faddists and sentimentalists, by the democratic element among us.

To-day the views it embodied are discussed, not only as practical but as a near and magnificent possibility. It matters little under what especial name the work is carried on; United Empire Trade League, Colonial Chambers of Commerce, National Clubs,—these embody each in their constitution the great principle of Imperial Unity—the finest national conception of the century, and second only to that larger one of international arbitration. The Imperial Federation League may have been a body of flag-flying visionists, but its vision has broadened Imperial politics into a splendid probability;—and statesmen are made of just such dreamers.

THE Czar is showing himself to be a monarch of character—and one capable of independent action. It is stated that every day he receives reports directly from the foreign and other departments, and dictates the replies thereto without consulting anyone, except subordinate officials to whom he listens, but whose opinions he does not ask.

The fact that his executive officers are aghast at this innovation, proves that a duly enlightened absolute monarch is not supposed to rule his monarchy absolutely, but relatively, and with due regard to the opinions and habits of the said high officials. The Sultan only is exempt from this, or any other supposition. There appears to be little doubt however, that since the Czar's visit to Balmoral, diplomatic movement concerning Turkey has been under way; and that in near action we shall again see the result of the direct personal influence of our grand old Queen; who, while regarding the restraints of diplomatic observance, yet throughout her long reign has ever brought that influence to bear at all critical moments in the history of the nations.

THAT Mr. Bayard's letter of regret to the American Society explaining his absence from their Thanksgiving dinner in London, has been the cause of considerable comment in court circles is not a matter of wonder. He wrote:

It is a great disappointment to me that this royal summons to Windsor should deprive me of the pleasure I had so confidently anticipated of meeting our fellow countrymen of the American Society in London at their annual Thanksgiving dinner. The disappointment is unavoidable, and I must bow to the inexorable laws of etiquette in this line, which are paramount in such matters.

The American ambassador's popularity and

well-known courtesy in London social and diplomatic circles prevents invidious inferences being drawn, but the apology is at least not happily expressed, and may be classed among those innumerable Things Better Left Unsaid.

THE case of the Beattie Bros., is a prompt refutation of the favorite assertion of the anti-British connectionist in Canada: that Great Britain has no regard for her colonial subjects.

On or about November twenty-fifth a telegram came to the Premier of British Columbia from a merchant in Vancouver, that his brothers-in-law, the Messrs. Beattie, residents of that province, but at present sojourning in Havana, Cuba, had been arrested by the Spanish, and sentenced to death for being in some way connected with the rebellion, and asking that the Government should take immediate action.

Premier Turner immediately telegraphed to the Consular Agent-General in London and Lieut-Governor Dewdney cabled to the Secretary of State asking each to look into the case. Immediate replies were received from both these gentlemen, and indeed *within eighteen hours* after the despatches were sent, a cable message was received by Premier Turner stating that the desired steps had been taken, and the Foreign Office would insure the safety of Messrs. Beattie, as well as all other British residents in Cuba. The latest report states that Lord Salisbury's strong representations to the Spanish Government upon the subject, has caused their release. The truth is that Great Britain takes quicker action where the interests or safety of her colonial subjects are involved than concerning those resident in the United Kingdom.

THE circulation and profits of that great daily, the *London Times* has always been kept a secret. But through a recent law suit instituted by a man who bought one share in the *Times*, some knowledge of its profit was disclosed. The man's share was described as 1-14th of 2-3d's of 1-9th of 2-16ths of the *Times*, which figures out as 1-1512th of the property. This share, it was affirmed, yielded nearly £24 in 1892, but in 1894 only £17 18s. 11d. A little multiplication shows that the profits of the *Times* was about \$180,000 in 1892, and \$130,000 in 1894.

Now that the struggle in Cuba is attracting the attention of the Western world, it is of interest to know something of the condition and capabilities of the island. Cuba is about six times the length of our own Prince Edward Island, and more than twice its width. It has 2,000 miles of sea coast, and many fine harbors. The population numbers a trifle over one and a half million, of whom one million are whites. At present but a small part of the island is under cultivation, since for years the Spaniards have treated Cuba as England treated Newfoundland in the 18th century, systematically discouraging permanent residence. An instance of such preventative measures now in force is, that no foreigners shall live in Cuba more than three months without declaring themselves Roman Catholics.

INFORMATION received in a private letter from a missionary in China who recently passed through Tion Sing, and made a call on Li Hung Chang, states that the venerable Viceroys was found in his house, in a contented condition of native dirt, with nine bath tubs, which he brought from England hanging upon the walls of the room in which he sat, in lieu of pictures. He points them out as souvenirs of his travel, and mementoes of one of the odd customs of heathendom.

ONE of the most important women movements of 1896, was the convention of Jewish women, held in New York during November. This council is the only one of its kind; and the convention was the first that has been held. The council originated, as did many other good movements, in the Congress of Religions at Chicago, where a lady, who is now president of the council, spoke in favor of a larger activity among Jewish women in religious affairs, as the surest method of combating the scepticism that is making havoc among the Jews of the western world. The Council is religious and philanthropic in its purpose, and the convention discussions were chiefly concerning the best methods of reviving in the Jewish women of this continent the old enthusiasm and pride in religion and race. The convention lasted a full week, and was ably conducted from an executive standpoint, while its debates were of an unusually high order. That a people so conservative in its restrictions upon womanhood should endorse and support, such a movement is markedly significant of the trend of the age.

THE deposed Queen of Hawaii has appeared unexpectedly and apparently uninvited in the United States, and rumor is busy regarding her object, whether it is to appeal to the President for assistance in regaining her crown, or whether the wily Hawaiian Government has bribed her portly Queenship to support annexation. The ways of barbaric royalty are peculiar, and it is quite likely that ex-Queen Lil's only object is to please herself, and have an ex-royal good time. For why should she not be feted and flattered in Washington and London as well as the Shah, Li Hung Chang, and other Most Excellent Blacknesses? She would probably be able to conduct herself more like "common white trash" than do the male fraternity; and think of the flatteries that diplomatic courtiers would be under orders to pour into her lovely little ears. But if the ex-Queen has any deeper purpose, she is quite clever enough to keep it to herself.

A RECENT Michigan paper tells of some newly established planing mills in that State which are entirely "manned" by women; and now women are going into mining. A Woman's Mining Company has been incorporated at Spokane with capital of two million. The directors are women; and offices will be opened in all the large centres. The company's official broker is a woman, but a male expert has been sent to Rossland to report, before the company purchase properties. There is no reason why women should not enter the field as mining promoters and investors. Many of them are now physical science graduates and have sufficient technical knowledge for practical understanding of this line of enterprise. And