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All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any other person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

OVER one hundred MSS. have been received by THE WEEK for its Short Story Prize Competition. These are now in the hands of the judges; but some time must necessarily elapse before their labours can be completed. The awards will be announced in these columns at the earliest possible moment.

THE bulletin bearing date November 22, issued by Mr. A. Blue, Secretary of the Ontario Bureau of Industries, is valuable as containing a reliable estimate of last season's crops. The amount of labour and care expended in the preparation of these bulletins may be inferred from the fact that the revised estimates given in this are computed from returns made by 1,015 correspondents. It deals with the yield of grain and roots, the new crop of fall wheat, condition of pastures, live stock and supplies, threshing, marketing and other matters. First in order, after the weather statistics furnished by the Meteorological office, and probably first in importance come the records of the grain crops. These are unfortunately somewhat disappointing. The yield of fall wheat is considerably less than was anticipated, though the quality of some of the samples is excellent. Owing to the rust caused by the wet weather of June and July, and in some sections to the ravages of the midge and jointworm, the spring wheat is a comparative failure, the majority of the correspondents reporting a light return, much below the standard weight. The total acreage in wheat was 1,321,854, and the yield 21,951,288 bushels. This yield is greater than last year's by over 3,000,000 bushels, but, owing chiefly to diminished acreage, is more than four and a quarter million less than the average of the past nine years. The potato crop appears for the most part to have turned out rather light in yield and often small in sample. The damage to the seed was general from early rains, and the drouth of summer caused the tubers to mature before a large size had been attained. Of fruits the indispensable apple was, as every house-wife knows to her cost, very light. In scarcely any section of the Province was there an abundant crop. The trees blossomed with great promise in the spring, but a blight, attributed to the prevalence of cold, wet weather, sadly disappointed the hope. The past season was a favourable one for the dairying industry, with plenty of grass and water, and during the fall pastures had been in unusually fine condition all over the Province. The new crop of fall wheat promised well at date of returns. It was indeed in almost too fine a con-

dition, correspondents fearing that the growth was rather too rank. There is a considerable increase in the acreage, owing probably to the serious failure in the spring variety the past season. Tables of statistics of crops, live stock, farm property and wages, etc., make up the rest of this bulletin, which is indeed a fine sample of *multum in parvo*.

THE allusions, for they are scarcely more, in the Message to the progress of negotiations in the Behring Sea matter, are not so encouraging as lovers of international good-will and neighbourly fair play could have wished. The hope that "before the opening of another sealing season some arrangement may be effected which will assure to the United States a property right derived from Russia, which was not disregarded by any nation for more than 80 years preceding the outbreak of the existing trouble," is not conciliatory in its reiteration of a statement, which while used as an argument is without logical force as such. The fact, if such it be, that Russian and even for a time American supremacy was unchallenged throughout a certain ocean area, simply because no one was interested in challenging it, can have no effect in abrogating a great principle of international law. The President's bumptious way of stating the case is not reassuring, and suggests the fear that the crushing rebuke the dominant party has received in the matter of the tariff may tend to strengthen the predisposition to maintain a jingoistic attitude in regard to the Behring Sea affair, lest the leaders should come before the nation doubly discredited during the next Presidential campaign.

WE are glad to see that, in view of letters from subscribers in Canada and the paragraph in THE WEEK, the *Christian Union* admits that its "estimate of the movement in Canada towards annexation, based on an editorial in the *Quebec Telegraph*, was a decided overestimate." Quoting our observation that "if there is a phenomenal movement, or any movement not of the feeblest kind, in Canada, in the direction indicated, we have not before heard of it, and have good reason to believe that the great majority of the people of Canada have not heard of it," the *Christian Union* says: "THE WEEK is unquestionably a better representative and reporter of Canadian sentiment than the *Telegraph*, and we must accept its report on this subject, reinforced as it is by private letters, as conclusive." Our New York contemporary is wrong, we think, in seeking to modify this admission by saying that "it would be a mistake to suppose that because there is no movement toward annexation, there is no sentiment tending in that direction. We have been favoured with a copy of a letter addressed to its editors by J. Herbert Mason, Esq., President of the "Canada Permanent Loan and Savings Company," who is well known to our readers as one of our most prominent citizens, and one whose business relations over a great part of the Dominion eminently qualify him to express an opinion upon the subject. In this letter Mr. Mason not only fully endorses the statements of THE WEEK, but says, referring to the *Christian Union's* statement and the remark it ascribes to a "Boston Clergyman," to the effect that the Canadians are loyalists in public and annexationists in private:—

I have good reason for knowing that the statement is unfounded, as also is, I believe, the extraordinary statement of the "Boston Clergyman," which would make out us Canadians to be a nation of hypocrites. It seems incredible to me that such misconceptions can be entertained by intelligent people so near our border, who could so easily ascertain the true facts of the case. If there were any considerable number of people among us in favour of annexation, their sentiments would find public expression. In no country is greater freedom of speech practised on all subjects, and if annexation or any other constitutional change were desired, we know well that there is no power on earth which would interfere to prevent it.

Mr. Mason further says: "I claim to be well informed as to the sentiments of the Press and have travelled in, and have a large personal acquaintance throughout Ontario, Manitoba and the North-West Territories, and can safely say that not one Canadian in twenty, or even in fifty, has any desire for or belief in the ultimate absorption of this country into the American Union. The question is far

outside the sphere of practical politics and is scarcely ever referred to." We are pleased to note that the *Christian Union*, which unquestionably represents the sentiments of a very large and influential class of the best citizens of the Republic agrees with THE WEEK, and believes that in so doing it reflects the opinion of the citizens of the United States who have any opinions upon the subject, "that friendly relations and reciprocity in trade are all that is, at least for the present, desirable between these two countries." "We each," it well says, "have political problems in hand quite sufficient for our energies, and can solve them better separate than as a united people." The modifying clause, "at least for the present," is, of course, the *Christian Union's*, not THE WEEK's.

REFERRING to the fact that the New Brunswick Government is sending an agent to England to promote the immigration of farmers to that Province, and to the further fact that the Dominion Government proposes to use the money voted by Parliament last session for immigration purposes, or a part of it, in the payment of bonuses to agricultural immigrants from the Mother Country settling in the North-West and British Columbia, a Maritime Conservative paper enquires why the older provinces should be excluded from the benefits of this appropriation. The *Montreal Herald* emphasizes the question as pertinent and practical. "The older Provinces," it says, "have contributed freely and ungrudgingly in men and money for the benefit of the North-West. In some sections their agricultural population has been seriously thinned out by the removal of people to settle in our western country. Of the special grant for immigration purposes the greater proportion will be supplied by the older Provinces, and yet they are to be debarred from the benefits of that expenditure. If it be a wise and justifiable policy to pay bonuses to induce farmers from the United Kingdom to settle in the North-West and British Columbia, why should it not be considered a just as well as justifiable policy to bonus such immigrants to settle on the many vacant farms to be found in Quebec, Ontario, and the Maritime Provinces, vacant because their occupants have gone to the North-West?" The point is, it seems to us, well taken. We are not, we confess, convinced that the bonus-ing policy, or indeed the assisted-immigration policy in any shape, is a wise one, especially as it is impossible to take any satisfactory guarantee that the immigrants so assisted, or their children, will not sooner or later go, as so many have formerly done, to swell the population of the United States. But, apart from that consideration, it may be seriously questioned whether the very fact of proffering aid to emigration to a given country, or of promising a bonus to actual settlers in it, does not tend to create a suspicion in regard to that country, which goes far to counteract the effect of the special inducement offered. If the country really has all the advantages ascribed to it, the prospective emigrant might very naturally reason, it should not be necessary in these days of great movements of European populations to pay people for sharing those advantages. Certainly the most desirable classes of immigrants are those who either have means of their own sufficient to make the trifling assistance offered of no importance, or those whose self-reliant energy and pluck will not permit them to lay themselves under obligations of the kind indicated. All Canadians believe that all that is needed in order that Canada should become the favourite land for European immigrants is that its resources should become known. Would not, then, whatever sum can be spared for immigration purposes be more profitably devoted to spreading the facts concerning its climate and resources, and bringing such facts properly authenticated to the notice of possible emigrants of the classes we need? But if the policy of bonus-giving is to be adopted, it is hard to see any sufficient reason for applying it exclusively to the North-West and British Columbia. It can hardly be questioned that the Dominion, as a whole, derives as much gain from the presence of a good immigrant settler in New Brunswick, or Ontario, as in the North-West. The greater difficulty and expense in reaching the latter should, perhaps, be taken into the account, but this would at most justify only a grading of the bonus, not absolute discrimination against the older Provinces.