

Fifteen years ago the Government of Prince Edward Island, seeing that a profitable business in the rearing and selling of horses could be carried on by the Island farmers, decided to import some thoroughbred stock, and the result is that to-day a splendid business is being done. The Government of New Brunswick have now taken steps to have the breed of New Brunswick horses improved, but in Nova Scotia we are behind our sister provinces in this respect, and were it not for private enterprise our horses would be of a very inferior type.

There seems to be a growing desire in New England for freer reciprocal trade relations with Canada; and it would appear from the following quotation from the *Springfield Republican*, a journal highly influential with its party, that the Republicans are veering in this direction:—"Reciprocity by separate treaty is the common sense way to admit raw material into this country from Canada in exchange for our manufactured goods. We can do it without binding our hands as to the rest of America. The reciprocity of 1854 benefitted both Canada and the United States. Why should we abandon old and tried methods for a kind of internal revenue and high protection trust with Canada?" Any approach to a more friendly feeling on the part of the United States is no doubt gratifying, but we do not quite appreciate the manner in which the *Republican* puts it. To admit Canadian "raw material in exchange for American manufactured goods" would be simply to lay Canadian manufactures open to slaughter by those of the United States as of old. But we do not see so much objection to reciprocity in some natural products if the States desire it.

While we learn from several sources that a number of Dakota settlers are removing their household gods to Manitoba, in some disgust with the drawbacks on the other side of the line, which so inexplicably seems to mark a distinction in climatic conditions, it is still more interesting to learn from the *Chicago Canadian American* that there is a movement of a very decided character from that region, of Canadians who are leaving the United States and returning to the land of their birth. The *Canadian American* being, as it says of itself, "behind the scenes, speaks by the book, and the movement is growing." The *Canadian American*, whether it speaks of itself or not, is unimpeachable authority, and nothing can be more entirely satisfactory to Canadian patriotism than its statement that "at least one thousand former subscribers (to it) are now in business in Canada; there is scarcely a town across the line, from Halifax to British Columbia that we cannot point to as the residence of one or more ex-Canadian-Americans." It is not to be expected that all our young men can be kept at home, but it is evident that large numbers of Canadians who have gone to the States have come to regard their own country from a different and an eminently encouraging point of view.

The great demonstration of the power of the workingmen's combination afforded by the late London strike has promptly borne fruit in a similar demonstration at Rotterdam. It will probably extend to other countries, should occasion arise. One of the leaders of the London strike has committed what we cannot but consider not only a grave error, but an entirely unjustifiable action, in sending pickets of the unions to Harwich to stop what the unionists are pleased to call "blacklegs," on their way to take the place of strikers at Rotterdam. This sort of intimidation prejudices the methods of the unionists in all thinking minds, and the sooner they abandon all forcible measures the sooner will their cause approve itself in general estimation. As regards the broad principles involved we think the results of the strike will be beneficial, as the tremendous power inherent in a combination of all branches of labor displayed in the late movement will effectually open the eyes of companies and other employers to the danger, as well as the injustice, of turning a deaf ear to the reasonable demands of the workingman, and lead to the better appreciation on the part of those whose supposed necessities are in reality luxuries, of the hard fact that when the workingman combines it is the stern necessities of life which actuate him.

As time goes on the public both in Canada and Great Britain learn more of the availability for successful settlement of districts of our great North-West, of which a very few years ago they were entirely ignorant. One of the most promising is Edmonton in Alberta, 200 miles north of Calgary. A correspondent of *Public Opinion* thus describes it:—"Edmonton itself contains a population of 600, not in any way engaged in farming. There are successful merchants, skilled mechanics in all trades, bankers, parsons, doctors, lawyers, all of whom depend not so much upon the town as upon the farmers surrounding it. The country is magnificent in its fertility; it is well wooded and watered, of park-like appearance, and the prairies of Manitoba and the southern part of the territories are no more to be compared with it than is the landscape of Holland to that of the South of England. Although the land which was open for free grant homesteading within, say, a radius of seven miles of Edmonton has been taken up, occupied, and cultivated, beyond that radius there are unlimited quantities of land still open equally well adapted for agriculture. And Edmonton is not the only considerable settlement. All kinds of grain are successfully raised here. There never has been a failure in the oat crop; but this season, owing to unusual drought, it is not heavy. Wheat and barley are good crops, and all kinds of vegetables grow in profusion. I have known of fields yielding 100 bushels of oats to the acre, and others 80 bushels of wheat. This, I confess, is above the average; but I can confidently say that the average is at least double that quoted by your correspondent 'C. A. H.' for the Brandon district. The average of potatoes is 300 bushels per acre." The mineral wealth is unknown, but there are at present about 50 men washing gold on the river, and a railway is in course of construction.

It is very satisfactory to be assured of the persistency of the Grand Trunk Railway in pushing on new lines to the sea. Despite some high-handed proceedings on the part of the Canadian Pacific we are not disposed to belittle what they have done for Canada, but no corporate body can be trusted to withstand the temptations of an unrivalled monopoly. On this account we welcome all the competition the Grand Trunk can bring to bear. The line now particularly spoken of is another short line between Halifax and Montreal via Edmundstone and Temiscouata. The more lines the better.

It is satisfactory to learn that the French elections have resulted in a practical victory for the Republic, and to see, as a city contemporary puts it, how wonderfully "for nearly twenty years the French people have steadily adhered to the Republican form of Government in spite of demagogues and all other allurements." A few years more and many of the restless spirits of the monarchy and the empire will have passed away, a new generation reared under the republic will wield power, and in the steady lapse of time the old ideas will fall out and die a natural death. The Chamber of Deputies consists of 584 members, six of whom are for Algeria. 170 elections remained undecided. Of those which were decided the Republicans secured 219, against 156 seats gained by Bonapartists, Orleanists, Boulangists, and other Revisionists, and it is thought the Republicans will probably succeed in 120 out of the 170 contests that have to be renewed. Should this prove to be the case the Ministerialists will be supported, when all the returns are in, by fully three-fifths of the chamber.

We are not exactly posted on the progress made by the greater military powers in the attainment of a powder both smokeless and noiseless. It is easy to predict that the science of chemistry once directed to an object to which the slightest clue is given, will eventually compass the requisite conditions. We do not hear much of the French powder lately, and we do not know precisely how far Great Britain and Germany have advanced in their investigations and experiments. We have, however, some recent indications of what Austria has accomplished. Recent trials at Bruck have disclosed a serious defect in the Austrian compound. Immediately upon the discharge of the shot, there is such an intolerable smell produced by the combustion that several of the officers and men at the firing-point have fainted. The powder creates hardly any perceptible smoke, and imparts to the shot a higher velocity than any former compound. The statement that it is also noiseless is, however, erroneous. On the contrary, the discharges are louder than hitherto with the old black powder. The new smokeless explosive has not yet been made applicable to artillery.

The *Toronto Empire* disapproves of the recent expression of opinion of Chief Justices Ritchie and Armour on the subject of Divorce. The former considers that there ought to be a Divorce Court for Canada, and the latter thinks that divorces ought to be granted for cruelty and drunkenness. We cannot consider the *Empire's* objections valid, but think the utterances of the two Chief Justices were in accordance with common sense and humanity. The existing divorce functions of the Senate are cumbrous and incongruous, and in the interests of unity and consistency of procedure alone the establishing of a Dominion Court would tend to remove us from all danger of the loose and vicious systems fostered by the heterogeneous State laws of the neighboring republic, while we should conceive that but little objection would be made to merging the existing provincial divorce courts in a general tribunal. It is now universally admitted that divorces under certain circumstances are proper, and if so what objection can lie against the establishment of a competent jurisdiction? With regard to the opinion of Chief Justice Armour most persons will consider that persistence, drunkenness and brutality constitute a reasonable cause of separation.

Certain American journals—most conspicuously the *New York Sun*, which is always well to the fore where bounce is thought to be desirable—are off their heads in glorification of the new United States cruiser *Baltimore*. No doubt the *Baltimore* is an efficient ship, but she is built from the designs of Mr. W. H. White, now chief constructor to the British Admiralty, and she is, comparatively, unarmored. She has developed a high rate of speed and her armament is powerful. It is more than doubtful, however, that whatever she may carry in the way of guns, she can carry such a cargo of bombast as the *Sun* desires to freight her with. Here is a specimen:—"Under the blazing light of her record, the fogs of the Behring Sea and the three mile limit along shore disappear as beneath an irresistible meteorological area of high pressure." Again:—"It is not at all too much to say that the *Baltimore* could boldly run into the mouth of the Mersey, shell Liverpool, and then dodge the whole Channel fleet, as it tried to close in on and capture her. It is by no means unlikely that she could lay a score of British seacoast towns to ashes in a month and then escape unharmed. There are ironclad ships aplenty in the British navy, and guns of enormous range, but for one of those big ships to try to capture the *Baltimore* would be like a man with a ten-pound target rifle trying to shoot a blue-winged teal flying down the wind. He might hit the bird, but a sporting man would wager a thousand to one that he couldn't do it." No doubt the British Navy will be paralyzed in the presence of this incomparable craft, yet it strikes us that, being of British design, British ship yards might not find it impossible, or even very difficult, to turn out a dozen such vessels for every one built in America. There is a great deal more about her supposed power of thrashing the *Benbow* or any other big British ironclad, but we have not space to gratify our readers with it—and perhaps it is of very little consequence.