

reviewed in *The Week*. Edmund Collins, now one of the editors of the New York *Epoch*, writes hopefully in the *Critic* of "Canadian Verse," and George Stewart, jun., of the Quebec *Chronicle*, reviews the course of French-Canadian authorship during the past fifty years. Principal Grant, the Hon. J. W. Longley, and Lieut. Colonel Wainwright contribute vigorous articles of a patriotic and national character. Besides these there are several interesting stories and articles from less known writers. Poems are contributed by Bliss, Carman, Elizabeth Gostwycke Roberts, F. Blake Crofton, and Archbishop O'Brien. The Jubilee number of the *Critic* is certainly a success, and the management are to be complimented on their enterprise in bringing it out.—*Toronto Week*.

MUSICAL ECHOES.

There are no less than four American artistes singing in London this season, with marked success. Madame Novada, Mesdemoiselle Marie Engle, and Gutri Lillian Modica, who has taken the principle part in Sir Arthur Sullivan's "Golden Legend."

When is Canada coming to the front? Albany has already shown what she can do; but are there not other fair songstresses to follow her brilliant example.

In England, just now, parties are divided upon the question of Union and Home Rule for Ireland. A composition scholar in the Royal College of Music, London, has been inspired by the prevailing English sentiment to write a part song for three voices entitled, "In Favor of Union," in which he has cleverly united three different airs of Scotland, Ireland and England, into one harmony."

A christian clergyman once went to an orthodox synagogue with a Jewish friend. He listened to a congregation chanting "Mismar L'David" with the usual congregational discord, and was told by his Jewish friend that it was sung to the same tune in the days of David. "Ah!" said the clergyman, with a sigh of relief, "that accounts for it. I have often wondered why Saul threw his javelin at David."

A recent transcription is entitled "I Love Thee so." This work shows that the composer not only loved her so, but *moreover*.

NATURAL GAS AS A DESTROYER OF INSECTS.—The following statement we take from the *American Manufacturer*:—"Natural gas is death to nearly all kinds of insects, bugs, etc., which make war on our trees and plants. We had an escape pipe burning near some peach trees which has been troubled with curculio. Either the gas was too strong for the little pests or they were attracted to the flame and got burned. The trees were soon completely ridden of the insects, and are looking much healthier ever since. This same fact has been commented on in many places where there are gas wells. One of the Philadelphia Company's wells is located in a large orchard near Murrsville, which has been completely ridden of insects of all kinds. The unwary destroyers flew to the gas flame in millions, and their carcasses covered the ground for several rods around the well. At Economy, where a hundred or more stand pipes for natural gas have been erected to illuminate the streets, the bugs and fruit tree vermin were slaughtered wholesale. In the mornings after the gas was lighted first there would be a fine carpet of bugs around every gas post. The chickens and turkeys would have a feast every morning, and a foot race from the roosts to see which would get to the already-cooked breakfast first. The trees in this fertile locality came out in bloom much healthier this spring than formerly, partly on account of the vermin being destroyed and partly from the fact that the frosts were kept from settling by the gas lights, which burn constantly. It was noticeable, too, that trees nearest the lights blossomed several days sooner than those some distance away."

PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW.

Mr. Platt, Liberal member for Prince Edward county, gave notice of the following resolution on the commercial union question:

"That the admission of all products and manufactures of the Dominion of Canada into the markets of the United States free of import duty, and like concession by the Dominion of Canada to the products and manufactures of the United States, would afford an amicable settlement of the present controversies and existing commercial difficulties, benefit the most important industries of Canada, and promote harmony and cement the friendly relations existing between the governments and people of the two countries. That it is the duty of the government of Canada to anticipate the result of the agitation now going on in both countries by preparing, by the appointment of a commission or otherwise, for the negotiation of a treaty of unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, based upon a broad and comprehensive principle and without prejudice to the political relationship existing between Canada and the British empire."

Sir Charles Tupper laid before the House of Commons an order-in-council fixing the remuneration of the revising barristers. Each revising barrister is to receive a salary of \$300, and furthermore an allowance of five cents per name for each name on his list up to ten thousand or over. The salary of \$300 is not to be repeated when a revising barrister has to revise the list of more than one constituency.

Sir Charles Tupper also submitted a statement showing that the earnings of the Intercolonial railway during the ten months ending 1st May last, were \$2,136,432, and the working expenses \$2,471,418, leaving a deficit of \$337,986;

On Thursday, the 23rd ultimo, the house met at 10.30 o'clock and took up the railway subsidy resolutions. The resolutions passed after some debate, in the course of which Mr. Jones complained that no provision was made for the Musquodoboit railway or the Sackville branch. He enquired whether it was true that the Short Line railway was being diverted from its proper route. Sir Chas. Tupper said the contractors were now engaged in building a connection with the Maine Central, but he believed the original contract would be ultimately carried out.

A bill, founded on the resolutions, was thereupon passed.

Concurrence in the supply resolutions was then proceeded with. Sir Chas. Tupper announced that the resolution to increase the salary of the clerk of the crown-in-chancery would be dropped. Concurrence was finished about half-past four.

At 8 o'clock of that evening the Governor-General went down to the Senate chamber, and prorogued Parliament with the usual speech.

COMMERCIAL.

This is in most lines of trade the quiet season of the year, but a fair volume of business has nevertheless been transacted, though in no branch has much activity been displayed. Farmers have their time fully occupied in attending to their growing crops, which continue to promise exceedingly well. Country orders have been chiefly of a sorting-up character. In some quarters complaints are made that remittances are not as prompt as might be desirable, but, on the whole, they appear to be fairly well made.

Building operations are being pushed with energy in every part of this peninsula, and workmen have full and paying employment. In fact, a tradesman in any line is now quite independent, and too often shows this by a manifest disposition to magnify his grievances, which are often purely imaginary, and to take advantage of his employer's assumed inability to replace him if he takes a fancy to "make a holiday" or to strike.

An erroneous report of the death of Jay Gould in New York last week, caused a tremendous decline in the values of stocks, and a corresponding advance in the price of money. The report was soon contradicted, but the markets have not yet recovered their normal tone, and prices on exchange continue greatly unsettled.

In reference to the scheme of the German Syndicate, represented by Herr Kamper, to which editorial allusion was made in our last issue, a telegram from Ottawa states that formal propositions have been presented to the government, and that the cabinet has promised to give them serious consideration. The outline of the scheme as given in the telegram, is that the syndicate take over the Intercolonial railway with all its existing branches, assuming all the responsibilities that the Dominion is under respecting it, that they give ample security for operating it under tariff rates to be fixed with the consent of the government, and that they build in addition the Cape Breton extension, the road from Oxford to New Glasgow, the Paspébiac branch, a number of promised short lines in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and connect, by means of a bridge across the St. Lawrence at or near Quebec, the whole railway system of the Maritime Provinces with those of Canada proper. The scheme is a large one, and one that promises to very materially aid in developing the eastern portion of the Dominion, and at the same time to relieve the government and the taxpayers of a very heavy load that they are now carrying, thus freeing a considerable portion of income to be applied to other useful purposes. Of course no one pretends or thinks that these Germans purpose doing this as a mere "labor of love." They are shrewd and thrifty, and evidently believe that they will "find their money" in the enterprise, by developing the possibilities, especially in minerals, that are acknowledged to exist in these Lower Provinces.

The following are the assignments and business changes in this province during the past two weeks:—A. A. Hill & Son, general store, Great Village, admitted Gordon Hill to partnership as Hill & Co.; R. & T. Young, general store, Roger's Hill, both partners continue individually; Lachlan McDougall, general store, Whycocomagh, sold out; W. J. St. Clair & Co., general store, Bridgetown, offer 50 cts. to the \$; Jos. R. Lyons, hotel, Kentville, sold out to Danl. McLeod; John H. Barnstead, leather, assigned in trust; W. G. Sims, trader, Yarmouth, assigned in trust; J. D. Payson & Son, general store and fishing, Westport, assigned in trust; Edmund C. Spencer, lumber, Parrsboro, assigned to N. H. Upham.

DRY GOODS.—There is little or no change to note in the general condition of the dry goods markets. The city retail shops are very busy. Cottons are steady and the mills are doing a fair business. The wool market is steady under a good enquiry for manufactured products. The only danger to be noted in this horizon is that of overstocking, to which we have several times alluded in recent issues. Drummers are busily engaged in making up their samples of fall goods, and some houses have already sent their salesmen out on the road.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—There has been a fair amount of activity in the general trade. In fact, in the main, a good business has been transacted in most descriptions, although very little has been done in the way of fresh orders to import under the new tariff, which went fully into operation to-day. Pig iron rules quiet in our markets. No new orders to import have been placed so far as is known, as the present demand is supplied from old stock at prices which, though below quotations for new importations, still yield a handsome profit to sellers. A steady distribution of finished iron has been made, while tin plates and Canada plates have experienced no change. Glasgow cables report warrants there to have advanced 5d.—to 42s. 5d. Ingot tin, copper, and lead, have remained steady and unchanged in English markets. In the United States the iron market is reported to be unsettled. Consumption requirements will, when they present them-