

THE SESSIONAL INDEMNITY QUESTION.—There are indications that the extravagant increase in the sessional indemnity of members of Parliament is likely to be resented by the constituencies. Member after member is offering explanations of and apologies for his share in the transaction. To pay \$50 per week all the year round to an ordinary member for attending a part of the time during a few months, at Ottawa, is realized as indefensible. To have added to the country's expenditure a sum equal to the annual interest on about \$12,000,000 is regarded as extravagance.

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THE VISIT OF THE FRENCH WAR FLEET TO ENGLAND.—English papers and cable news describe the reception given to the officers and seamen of the French fleet at Portsmouth and London as having been unprecedented in magnificence, and in cordiality. The Lord Mayor of London, gave a luncheon to the French naval officers of inferior rank, and the officers of both the English and French fleets to the number of 500 were entertained at the House of Commons. At Portsmouth the French vessels were allowed to enter the harbour, a mark of honour and of confidence which has only one precedent. King Edward has been the hero of the celebration. He personally directed the ceremonials, he reviewed the French fleet, received the French Admirals and chief officers as his personal guests, and won all hearts by his affability. In France the King of England is one of the most popular men of the day as in the United Kingdom he is the most beloved King ever on the throne of Britain.

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WHAT CAUSES THE TROUBLE IN RUSSIA.—The "London Times" departing from a rule it has observed over a century, has published *in extenso*, a translation of a treatise by Count Tolstoi on the secret of Russian discontent. It is a brilliant production. The Count declares that it is not political liberty, in the sense of that phrase in England, which is wanted by Russians, but the break up of the land laws which keep the vast mass of the people in a state of practical slavery, in the deepest, bitterest poverty and in a condition of hopelessness. He declares that hunger is the normal state of the vast mass of the people, and what food they obtain is a degradation to human beings. It is lack of food which has made the peasants so supine, so crushed in spirit, so incapable of resisting the cruel oppression of the land owners. The overwhelming mass of Russians Count Tolstoi declares are too humbled by want and too ignorant to care in the least degree for the suffrage privilege, in fact only the educated know what is meant by "popular representation," and they constitute only a small proportion of the Russian people, the vast mass of whom 78.80 per cent, 99,070,436 out of a total population of 125,680,682, are utterly illiterate.

HOW IS THE CURE TO BE APPLIED.—Count Tolstoi's contention in regard to the cure for Russia's discontent may be accepted as correct, at the same time the vital question is left "By whom and by what means is the proposed cure to be applied?" The hope of the country is in the small minority, consisting of the professional classes, the merchants, manufacturers, and educated artisans. They are moving to secure some form of popular government by which education will be diffused, the tyranny of the land owners checked, and measures adopted to mitigate the oppression and degradation of the peasants. Count Tolstoi's brilliant description of the conditions of the Russian people will arouse a strong feeling throughout the civilized world, but what can outside nations do? The case is closely akin to that of Cuba when the United States interfered in the cause of humanity. No power, however, will make war against Russia on this ground. Of Russia's trouble it must be said in the words of Macbeth's physician:

"Therein the patient must minister to himself."

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THE STEEL BOUNTY CHANGES.—The bounty given by the Dominion Government upon rails made in Canadian mills has been withdrawn. The News summarizes the situation as it existed prior to the bounty being cancelled and what it will be under the new arrangement.

During the period when the steel rails were allowed the third bounty the total protective advantage enjoyed by a Canadian maker who used foreign ore would be:

	Per ton.
Pig iron bounty.. . . .	\$ 1.50
Steel ingot bounty.. . . .	2.25
Steel rail bounty.. . . .	2.25
Duty.. . . .	7.00
	<hr/> \$13.00

Or, if the ore was Canadian; \$13.77 a ton.

During the current year the Canadian rail-maker, using foreign ore, will be in the following position:

	Per ton.
Pig iron bounty.. . . .	\$ 1.10
Steel ingot bounty.. . . .	1.65
Duty.. . . .	7.00
	<hr/> \$9.75

Or \$10.30 per ton if he uses Canadian ore.

The position of the maker of structural steel this year will be:

	Per ton.
Pig iron bounty.. . . .	\$1.10
Steel ingot bounty.. . . .	1.65
Steel article bounty.. . . .	1.65
Duty.. . . .	3.00
	<hr/> \$7.40

Or \$7.95 per ton if he uses Canadian ore.