

and her obligation to protect the Indians is a burthen, for which there ceases to be any adequate compensation.

A proposal of the city of Paris to tax all new books put on sale, after January 1, 1902, five cents per copy, has excited a lively opposition. Paris is a heavily taxed city; some years ago the municipal taxes ran up as high as \$100 per head of the population. The trouble with a municipality is that it is constantly called upon to engage in new expenditures, and if revenue is to keep pace with expenditure, it is obliged to find new sources of taxation to meet the new forms of expenditure. The proposed victims always show a disposition to resist, as well as they know how, and when they are successful the municipal treasury is liable to become empty, when demands are made upon it. Is there any remedy for this state of things?

Belgian officers and traders engaged in collecting India rubber in the Congo Free State, are charged with torturing and murdering the natives without scruple or compunction. According to Reuter's news agent these cormorants obtain the rubber for a penny a pound, paying for it in merchandise valued at 100 per cent. above the invoice price, and are able to sell the rubber at 75 cents a pound in Antwerp. The natives will not accept the inadequate remuneration offered except under compulsion; hence the resort to outrage to compel them. That is a sort of trade which any government having control would not only be justified in placing under strict regulation, to ensure justice to the natives, but it is bound by every moral consideration to do so.

MR. CLOUSTON ON CANADA'S PROGRESS.

In his address before the associated bankers of Canada, the general manager of the Bank of Montreal makes a very favorable summing up of business conditions, as now existing in Canada, and pays a high compliment to the excellence of the banking system. All the outward signs of active and profitable business have increased during the twelvemonth, and the prosperity which began in 1897 "remains undiminished." He does not predict, in so many words, a continuance of this remarkable activity, but contents himself with expressing the hope that our prosperity may continue for some time to come. We need not cite his figures, as to expanded bank circulation, the growth of deposits and the increase of business loans, seeing that these have been noticed quite recently in our Financial Review.

It is gratifying to remark the relatively greater increase of our exports than of our imports during recent years. And when examining the Trade Returns for different periods of five years each, he finds that where, in the years 1886 to 1891, our domestic exports were less than the imports by \$127,000,000, in the years 1896 to 1901, the domestic exports were only \$6,000,000 less than the imports. Thus there is a betterment in the balance of trade equal to \$120,000,000. However such a state of affairs may be interpreted by economic theorists, we are content to agree with Mr. Clouston that it cannot be otherwise than favorable to Canada. The speaker is in a position to know much of the status of our manufacturers; and when he assures us, what no observer will gainsay, that they continue busy, while railway traffics have been the greatest in the history of the country, and when we further know

that wages continue high and mercantile failures few, the statement of business conditions is such as indicates a thriving country.

An excellent paragraph is that which deals with the census returns. True, as these disappointing figures show, our growth in population has been slow, but we have to congratulate ourselves on the character of that population, its intelligence, resolution, and thrift, on our advancement in other than mere material respects. If our growth is slow, it is firm and sure, and our resources are coming into view, nay, coming into the market of late in a striking and inspiring way.

As to our means of transportation, and our efforts to cheapen the cost of carriage to our own people, as well as to the residents of North-West States of the Union, "accomplishment is as yet far short of expectation." There are signs, however, in the construction of new railways and the building of larger steamships, that the means of transportation will be added to and the price of carriage reduced. Mr. Clouston contrasts Canada's achievements in railway projection and assistance to railways with her relative lack of enterprise in ocean commerce. And he scores a point when he instances the old province of Canada, before Confederation, giving \$400,000 a year, in 1860, in aid of a weekly transatlantic service, a sum, he says, "immeasurably greater in proportion than would be to-day the sum necessary to secure to us [five and a half millions in the new Dominion], as speedy a service as anywhere exists." What Lord Strathcona thinks of the need for a fast Canadian Atlantic line, we know; Mr. Clouston is also a strong believer in its advantages, and if the Canadian Pacific authorities can be persuaded to undertake the enterprise, they are the likeliest people for the purpose.

RECIPROCITY WITH THE STATES.

Senator Gallinger of New Hampshire is one of those Americans who do not believe that there will be, or that there ought to be, any reciprocity of commerce between Canada and the United States. His reason is very simple: "We sell" he observes, "three times as much to Canada as the Dominion sells to us; why should we make concessions?" Why indeed! What assurance has the Senator that this comfortable state of things is going to last for ever? There is no freehold in this glaring inequality. There are other people in the Republic, quite as prescient as the Senator, who have a clear conviction that this state of things is not likely to continue, and they are doing their best to set their house in order by advocating reciprocity. They are strongly backed and can make a vigorous fight. Whether they will succeed perhaps depends more upon Canada herself than Senator Gallinger suspects.

Through the Washington Reciprocity Convention there ran a more liberal tone than has previously been present at similar gatherings. There are still to be found old-fashioned protectionists, but they were outnumbered among the speakers of the Convention, who felt that the United States are in somewhat the same position as a man who sits on the edge of a volcano, which may at any moment belch forth a destructive fire; that if Europe should follow the example of Russia, which she is provoked to do, a serious devastation would be the result; that security consists in a give-and-take policy, on which the foreign trade would cease to be in the dangerous posi-