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The relief to all journals of non-partizan type afforded by the ending of the long and eventful session of parliament just over, is great. It has been painful work to publish the rottenness of many Government departments, but it had to be done, and the only consolation is the hope that the exposure will work for good in the end. The death of Sir John Macdonald is one of the notable events of the session, and the various exposures of corruption in high places filled with a stormy interest the continuation of the session after the Government had been re-formed. Very little attention was therefore given to the more ordinary business of passing bills, and the chief idea the public of Canada, the United States and of Britain have of the session is that it was one long exposure of corruption. In England the press has been unsparing in its denunciation of our system of politics, and the London Times in one instance lays bare the root of the trouble. "The most alarming feature in all these stories of corruption is the close alliance between fraud and party organization." The events of the past session ought to frighten politicians into being honest for a little while at least.

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The editor of THE CRITIC is responsible for the views expressed in Editorial Notes and Articles, and for such only; but the editor is not to be understood as endorsing the sentiments expressed in the articles contributed to this journal. Our readers are capable of approving or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper; and after exercising due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Why no precautions were taken to prevent the rise of dust at the exhibition is a mystery. The air was perfectly thick with it, and after the first day all the articles shown were much damaged, in appearance at least, by the thick dust on them. The floors were not kept dampened as they should have been, nor was there anything like adequate ventilation when the building was crowded. With all the care that could be taken, a good deal of dust would be inevitable in such a throng of people, but it was perfectly choking with nothing done to stop it. The destruction of many exhibits from this cause will make the owners regret having sent them, and we advise exhibitors with destructible articles to show never again to exhibit them unless under glass. The injunction "please do not handle" is not observed by sight-seers, and that, together with the all pervading dust, is fatal.

The big fire last Thursday night gave Halifaxians a scare that ought to have the effect of causing some reforms to be immediately begun. The oil storage matter is one of the things obstructing itself on the attention of our business men, and calls for a speedy settlement; another is the need of more strict building regulations, so that the whole city may not be endangered by the clustering together of many inflammable wooden buildings. Lastly, we think some law should be made to enforce tidyness and cleanliness in planing and other mills where wood is worked. A floor littered over with shavings is a first-rate place to start a fire, and the bad habit many of our workmen have of smoking while at work, not only is out of place but is extremely dangerous to the community. We do not pretend to say last week's fire was caused by a smoker, but what we wish to impress is that if workmen would limit their indulgence in the weed to hours of recreation, and strictly abstain during work, they would be more valued members of society. We cannot feel too thankful that the fire ended where it did, for at one time it looked as if the disaster would be wide-spread. The various fire departments of the city and Dartmouth worked heroically, and deserve the gratitude of all citizens for their successful efforts to overcome the devouring element before it got beyond all control. The military and naval forces that were ordered out also deserve thanks for their assistance. It might have been so that with all the strength that could be mustered the fire would have prevailed. We are thankful to say no lives were lost, and so far as we can learn no worse casualties occurred than the falling into the harbor of one man and a dip into a tar barrel by another.

At various times we have suffered inconvenience from the loss through the post-office of valued exchanges, and we have come to the conclusion that it is time for it to stop. The Herald has noticed the same thing, and thinks there is something wrong with the newspaper department of the post office. Our copy of St. Nicholas for September never arrived, and on writing to the publishers to ascertain the cause, they replied that the magazine had been mailed at the regular time, and if it had not reached us the fault must be at this end. In this case the publishers kindly sent another copy, as they also did a few months ago when the same thing first occurred, but very often if a paper does not reach us we have to "suffer and be still." We think the fault is carelessness in sorting the mail. Papers are put in a box where they do not belong, and the people who get them are too busy or too careless to send them back. We know that this occurs, because frequently exchanges for other city papers are found in our box. We, however, make a point of returning them and carrying out the golden rule. If the Postmaster would see that the exchanges are more carefully attended to he will deserve our thanks.

There is nothing like having something big to stand on, as the Liberals of England, assembled at the great national Liberal Federation Congress, at Newcastle, evidently think. Among their planks we find Home Rule for Ireland, the amending or ending of the House of Lords, disestablishment of the Church of England in Wales, and the Church of Scotland, establishment of parish and county councils, local option as to the liquor traffic, reform in the liquor laws, reform of the franchise, so as to embody the one man one vote principle, reform of the land laws, repeal of primogeniture and entail, reform of the labor laws, and a settlement of the eight hour question, provision for the payment of members of parliament, so that labor could be actually represented, and a new foreign policy that includes the evacuation of Egypt. The Grand Old Man was eloquent at the meetings, and was received with the greatest enthusiasm. Feats were entertained that Mr. Gladstone's health was not able for the strain of speechifying, but he has come through the ordeal unhurt apparently. He appears to have a lively conviction that the present government will not remain long in power, and expressed a fear that it would, if it continued its present foreign policy, hand over to the incoming Liberal administration many engagements of an embarrassing nature.

One of the last acts of parliament was the adoption of the address to the Queen on the favored nation clause in the British treaties with Belgium and the German Zollverein that debars Canada from making preferential trade arrangements on her own account. We have come to a time in our history when a change of this sort appears necessary to our welfare. Mr. Laurier, in agreeing with the address, blamed the Government for introducing it at such a late date, in which we agree with him, for the matter is one of importance. The English press has taken alarm at this address, and sees in it an attempt to push on Mr. Howard Vincent's scheme for an Imperial customs union, based on protection, a basis to which it would be difficult to reconcile the free trading Britisher; or else it is thought Mr. Abbott wants the favored nation clauses repealed in order to enable his Government to make a large proposal of reciprocity to the Government of the United States when the conference takes place. It is feared in England that the repealing of these clauses would seriously effect the weight of British power in making treaties, and while acknowledging the benefit to Canada in being allowed a full degree of self-government in this respect, the boon would be grudged because of the inconvenience resulting to the Mother Country. While it is problematical whether we get what we ask for or not, it is almost certain that no such thing as Imperial Protectionism will be granted, and it is by no means certain that it is wanted as yet.