

If the Emperor of Russia was determined to compel his subjects to live like civilized people and to obey such laws as are common to civilized nations, he was fully justified. The Doukhobors will have to keep the law or go where they can live as savages.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's speech was a remarkable one on the motion of Mr. Bourassa, which was, practically, an endorsement of the policy and actions of the Boer conspiracy to drive the British out of South Africa. The Premier defended England by a masterly array of facts, proving that, the Boers were the aggressors, that they have been long preparing for an effort to seize British possessions in South Africa. Sir Wilfrid said: "The Boers appealed to the god of battles and his decision was for British supremacy." Alluding to Mr. Bourassa's giving advice to the British Government as to the management of the Empire, while, at the same time, he was objecting to giving and help in maintaining its integrity, Sir Wilfrid made the happy remark, that, Mr. Bourassa wished to sit at the Council Board of the Empire and give advice, but declined to accept any responsibility, which was too inconsistent to be reasonable. His emphatic declaration that the Boers would advance in freedom and prosperity under British rule was on as high a plane of eloquence as the best efforts of famous British orators. Mr. Bourassa's anti-British resolution was voted down in the House of Commons by 141 against 3.

The city of Halifax is proposing to grant a subsidy in aid of a ship-building enterprise to be established at that port. The location is a promising one, and we should be glad to see the old industry of Nova Scotia revived in modern form. Montreal, also, seems to us well placed for such an enterprise as ship-building.

The Imperial Government has declined to become a party to the Nicaraguan Canal Treaty as amended by the American Senate. The message of declination is said to be most courteous, but decided. No surprise can be felt at this action. The Senate took the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty and so altered it as to make Great Britain abandon rights guaranteed her by solemn treaty with the United States, without any cause or any equivalent. The American Senators seem to be unaware that an international treaty is a joint agreement of two powers, and not the submission of a weak or pusillanimous power to a strong and aggressive one. England could not have agreed to the amended treaty and retained the respect of other nations. Had she signed it, the act would have been justly construed as a sign that Great Britain recognizes the United States as the superior power, as a power whose authority to set aside treaties to which it was a party, is recognized by the British

Government. England has not yet learnt the crawling or crouching act.

Count Adalbert von Sternberg, a distinguished German officer, who was with the Boer forces during the war, has just published a book giving his experiences. He praises the endurance of the Boers, their splendid eyesight, their good marksmanship, their wonderful mobility and the peculiar adaptability of their style of warfare to the country, but, as they were mounted whilst the English were on foot, comparisons between them are apt to be misleading. He writes: "Given the same, or, even slightly superior forces, no continental army would have played its part better than the English, and, I doubt whether, in regard to practical equipment and technical smartness and efficiency, any continental troops would have done as well as the British." This is a complete answer to the street critics, who have belittled the British troops in the war just ending.

The death of Mr. Harrison, ex-President of the United States, removes one, who, in that elevated position, won little distinction beyond what the office confers. He owed much to the respect paid his grandfather, with whose superior capacities his son's moderate abilities were incessantly compared to his disadvantage. It is a peculiarity of the American system that, its chief rulers, after many years training and experience in public life, after showing qualities or performing some popular act, which creates sufficient popular sentiment and approval to win a Presidential election, after serving as President for the allotted term, are relegated to private life where their abilities, their training, their experience, their more mature capacities for statesmanlike service to their country are practically ignored, as an ex-President is, by both political parties, looked upon with jealousy, as one who has had his "show," who is indeed "a back number." The English system is wiser, for, as its statesmen grow in years, in wisdom and knowledge, the more are their services in demand, and the higher do they rise in public confidence and the esteem of their political associates of both parties.

The promoters of the amalgamation of the Manufacturers Life Insurance Company and the Temperance & General Life Assurance Company have jointly applied to Parliament for a Bill to sanction the amalgamation of these two companies. Although much may be said in favour of the scheme, yet the whole question involves very serious considerations. It is not desirable that a few stockholders, holding, perhaps, three or four hundred thousand dollars worth of stock, should be enabled to alter the entire policy of a life assurance company in which policyholders may be interested to the extent of many