

Kingdom and in the various colonies and dependencies the granting of preferential treatment in their respective markets on a reciprocal basis, each to the other, believing that thereby the bonds of union will be strengthened and the British Empire largely freed from dependence on foreign countries for food and other supplies."

A slight verbal change was made in the resolution having reference to Newfoundland, the word "desirable" being substituted for "essential," making the whole read: "That to complete Canadian confederation and to strengthen Imperial unity, it is, in the opinion of this congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, essential that Newfoundland should be included as a constituent part of the Dominion of Canada."

ELECTION AMENITIES.—The British electorate have been proving their fitness for the franchise by hooting down the Rt. Hon. Mr. Chamberlain at Derby, and the Rt. Hon. Campbell-Bannerman Premier, at Shrewsbury. At Derby the working classes are chiefly employees of the Grand Trunk Railway, at Shrewsbury they are more of an agricultural variety, but in both places the school master seems to be very much abroad. Fancy the destinies of a nation being controlled or influenced by men who howl down those with whose opinions they differ!

RUSSIA STILL SEETHING WITH REBELLION.—One peculiar feature in the insurrectionary movements in Russia is the absence of any leader, or any central committee directing the rebellion. In the French revolutions of 1789, 1830, 1848, and those in Austria and Italy in the last century, there were master minds directing the movement from a central point. Not a sign has appeared in Russia of any such leaders as Danton, Robespierre, Tinvillie, or many others who figured in different and inconsistent roles in the 1789 movement in France.

In Russia the outbreaks have been most erratic or, as doctors say, "sporadic," or scattered. There seems, however, now to be greater concentration shown as the insurrection is largely confined to the Baltic provinces where the insurgents are reported to be almost in control.

The strengthening of the troops in attendance upon the Emperor is not a hopeful sign.

In the Caucasus the rebels are said to have mastered the troops, and the railway from Manchuria through Siberia is blocked by insurgents. The Caucasus for over a century has been a hotbed of socialism. These are ominous signs for they indicate disaffection and the spirit of revolt in the army. Truly Russia is in a miserable plight. By what measures the people can be pacified and law and order re-established in all parts of this huge, unwieldy Empire, an Empire where there is the utmost culture and

refinement alongside the coarsest degradation, is a problem which no one who has arisen is capable of solving.

JANUARY FIRES.—The first month of the year has a bad record for fires, owing to the careless stoking of furnaces in warehouse cellars and dwellings. Last year, 1905, the record stood as follows:

January.....	61	July.....	34
February.....	53	August.....	39
March.....	38	September.....	48
April.....	44	October.....	52
May.....	54	November.....	56
June.....	49	December.....	70

Monday is the worst day of the week for fires and the worst hour in the 24 is 10 p.m., just we suspect when furnaces are being raked out and fixed up for the night.

RAILWAY BUSINESS IN 1905 in Canada was unprecedentedly prosperous.

"The year was the most successful we have ever had" was recently stated by Mr. W. E. Davis, passenger traffic manager of the Grand Trunk. "It was a year of general prosperity and when the country at large is prospering, railroads naturally are benefited. General travel was heavy over all our lines, but travel into regions of resort and sport was the heaviest the company has known. Eight or nine years ago, 80 or 90 per cent. of the number of those going into districts north of Toronto, were from cities up in Ontario, and the number who went in was comparatively small. During the past year this percentage has been reversed in favour of the number of United States pleasure seekers and sportsmen. These people bring considerable money into the country and with the Canadian travel, make traffic very heavy. Then the Temiskaming district has yielded a bigger revenue than was ever before obtained, and the outlook for the coming season may reasonably be taken to indicate even greater success for railroads than 1905 brought them."

Speaking of passenger business, Mr. Robt. Kerr, passenger traffic manager of the C.P.R., stated that 1905 would show up as a banner year in the company's history.

"The general passenger business has been heavy and the tourist travel last season was by far the best the company has ever had. The fact that our double daily trans-continental service was continued to the end of the year is one of the best evidences of what 1905 brought us. The company's fleets on the Atlantic and Pacific oceans did well also, so that in no department of the C.P.R. where passenger traffic has been concerned can we say the year was anything but prosperous."

BRITISH PARLIAMENT DISSOLVED.—King Edward has issued a proclamation dissolving Parliament and calling a new one, the elections for which will commence to-morrow, and continue for about 10 days to a fortnight. Never before were there so