

ANNEXATION IMPOSSIBLE.

Under the title of "Impossibility of Canadian Annexation," the great and only Erastus Wiman has issued a pamphlet in which he says he is opposed to the annexation of the Dominion to the United States. He ought to have known long ago, after his repeated and almost humiliating experiences, that Canada wants neither him nor his sovereign balm for all the ills which he assumes that our people are laboring under. He appears in his pamphlet to assume that the United States—and thus some of its people most emphatically deny—is exceedingly anxious to enlarge its possessions to the northward, and that nothing would be more gratifying to the American than to take the Canadian brother in his arms. According to Mr. Blaine—if he is sincere in his announcement annexation would not open a market for another barrel of pork nor another bushel of wheat. Then why does not Mr. Wiman shut up and let the two countries decide their affairs without his interference? He is a national hermaphrodite, and ought to know that there are but few people who take any stock in lucubration having such an origin.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

RECENTLY, Collector of Customs Milne has paid back to several vessel owners a considerable amount of drawback in duties on imported material used in the construction of vessels built at this port.

LUMBERING on the Cowichan river and lake is expected soon to commence to "boom," the proprietor of the Cowichan saw mills having awarded the contract for getting out 15,000,000 feet of timber to A.C. Fraser.

INQUIRIES reach us as to what is being done as to the proposed new hotel, a project which was supposed to have been taken up by the Board of Trade. Has it been considered to be best to let a sleeping dog lie?

THE C. P. N. Co. are said to contemplate the purchase of a handsome new steamer, for which purpose Captain Irving will shortly proceed to Great Britain. The new steamer is to go on the Alaskan service, which it is contemplated to cultivate and make most efficient.

AFFAIRS between Chill and the United States have, of late, assumed a threatening appearance, but there is every likelihood that there will be more smoke than fire. The Chillians are known to be full of pluck and, on what they regard a question of honor, would almost sooner fight than eat.

A WRITER in the *Contemporary Review* demonstrates, to his own satisfaction at least, by statistics carefully gathered in Australia, that men will accomplish more in the long run if confined to eight hours labor per day than when working longer hours. He claims that experience shows eight hours to be the most satisfactory working day, both to the employer and the employed.

DR. NORVIN GREENE, of the Western Union Telegraph Company, in a statement published in 1885, said that the income of Great Britain from her foreign investments was fully \$800,000,000 a year. The profits on commercial operations, or the earnings of her merchant marine, were not included in this. Late returns of the income tax show a steady appreciation in incomes, so the above figures must have been considerably augmented since 1885.

THE Lobster Fishery of Westmoreland, N. B., appears to have improved of recent years, doubtless due to the close season and other protective measures inaugurated by the Dominion Government, who, if they have not paid that attention to the Pacific Coast fisheries which they ought to have done, have given some consideration to those of the Atlantic. It would appear that in Westmoreland county there has been a gradual increase in the product. The number of factories has been augmented by 23, and the increase over the output of 1880 is 11,500 cases.

THE New York *Tribune*, to a certain extent an official paper, tells the American public that "the President acted wisely in postponing the Canadian reciprocity conference," because, it believes, "Canadian sentiment is undergoing rapid changes, and our policy is plainly to watch and to wait." But the writer forgets that unlimited reciprocity is not gaining ground in Canada, and if the Opposition came into office to-morrow, it would not be in its power to enforce the acceptance of unlimited reciprocity upon this country. Canada can afford to and will wait. She has no intention of accepting unlimited reciprocity; no party could carry such a measure, the electorate being decidedly hostile.

FROM a statistical review of the coast fisheries of the United States just issued by the fish commissioner, it appears that Washington has advanced from the fourteenth place in 1880 to the tenth in 1890. There has been a decided increase since the last census year in the fishery interests of Washington, notably in the oyster fishery, the yield of which has advanced from 15,000 to 60,903 bushels; in the salmon fishery, in which the catch in 1890 was reported to be 350,000 pounds and in 1888 was 16,319,736 pounds; in the vessel fishery for food species (including halibut and salt salmon), which has been established in recent years, and the product of which in 1888 amounted to 688,000 pounds. The fur seal fishery has declined considerably in value though to a less extent in the number of skins.

A BLUE book recently issued by the Government of Newfoundland shows a steady decline in the value of imports during the past few years, the total during 1890 being \$6,308,655, \$238,210 less than 1889 and \$1,051,545 below 1888. The increase of population is about 22 per cent. each decade. Newfoundlanders are buying more goods from Canada and less from the United States. Canada is also a better customer of Newfoundland than formerly. During 1890, the Dominion purchased \$631,104 worth of goods in Newfoundland, compared with \$480,637 in 1889 and \$482,497 in 1888. To the United States Newfoundland sent

over \$33,000 less than the previous year. The value of exports, last year, was \$6,000,086, compared with \$6,122,085 in 1889 and \$6,582,013 in 1888. Newfoundland's staple products consist chiefly of fish and oils.

AGAIN there have been rumors in San Francisco and elsewhere that the Wellington (Dunsmuir) mines have been sold. The parties principally concerned affect to know nothing of any arrangements having been perfected, and they are more concerned than anyone else. The rumors on this subject have been variously discussed. That there have been negotiations in progress looking to a transference of the property, few affect to doubt, while others say that a sale would bring to an end the labor difficulty which broke out about a year and a-half ago, and which occasionally, in one form or another, persists in coming to the surface. Some people say that a change of ownership would result in a greater competition between the rival coal companies, induce a larger output, and have the effect of lowering present prices to consumers.

THE Chicago *Grocer*, which, by the way, is one of the most reliable of our trade exchanges, says: "Buyers of Pacific coast products will probably be favored by lower rates, before many days. At a meeting of the Transcontinental Association in New York the other day, it was proposed to reduce the rate on dried fruits from \$1.50 to \$1.40, and, on canned goods, from \$1.10 to \$1.00 per hundred. Only two lines are said to oppose the reduction and these are supposed to be western roads. Their identity is kept a secret for obvious reasons. The influence of the leading merchants and shippers on the Pacific coast is being brought to bear on the roads. At a meeting in San Francisco last week, all the principal cities in the state were well represented, and they evidently mean business. It is designed to give substantial encouragement to new and competing lines."

THE Kootenay people are loudly demanding that the Nelson and Fort Shepard Railway shall be commenced at once, it being the only road that will give them connection during the winter. The latest news from the Ainsworth camp is of the most encouraging character, and large quantities of the best machinery are being brought in. It is said that nothing equal to the Kaslo-Slocan mines has been discovered since the finding of the Comstock ledge in Nevada, and the Carbonate ores of Leadville, Col. An extent of country probably fifteen miles in length and eight or ten miles in width, is known to be full of large and rich veins of galena and copper ores, carrying heavy percentages of silver. About fifty mines have been located, all assaying as well as the first one. Hundreds of tons of float ore are to be found on all of these claims, from masses as large as a man can lift down to fine, disintegrated pieces.

John Mahrer, the Nanaimo brewer, has completed the three-story brick addition to his brewery, 75 x 40 and 60 x 36, and expects to be ready for business in about three weeks.