

In every great enterprise projected American capital is solicited, and investors are readily obtained. The American Consul, in this city, considers that the rapid development of Canada is largely due to enormous investments of American capital, and to the energy of Americans.

The Right Spirit for Canadians.

Atlantic seaport, the "Telegraph," St. John, N. B., says:—

"The committee which meets Sir Thomas Shaughnessy should at once resent the idea that St. John is being favoured. Its members should disavow the conception that the C. P. R., in any arrangement, is building up this port as a philanthropic enterprise. The corporation has no such intentions, and the committee should discard at the outset all proposals which cannot be weighed in the scale of business.

"The 'Boston Transcript' heads its article, with the statement that 'St. John Fears Boston.' That is not true. St. John does not fear Boston. St. John knows itself for the natural port of outlet for Canadian freight in winter, and it asks simply that the requirements of geography and patriotism be met.

"Any committee which waits upon Sir Thomas Shaughnessy should go not as suppliants, but as business men, demanding the completion of a business agreement. The natural winter port of Canada is St. John, and there is no disposition here to be bluffed out of our rights."

Business, geography, patriotism, make a splendid foundation; a plea based on them cannot be answered, and is not likely to be ignored.

A Rap at the Bird of Freedom.

Our esteemed London contemporary has a poor opinion of the United States, as regards its liberty. "In America, it affirms, if the editor of a paper writes something that somebody else does not like, he is arrested straight away. This under the Stars and Stripes, under the wings of that great American bird, about which we hear so much. Now, it is Mr. Allison, editor of the 'Louisville Herald,' who has been charged with publishing matter reflecting on the integrity of Mr. McClesney, a candidate for the office of Secretary of State. Quite a number of editors of insurance papers go to gaol in the States, where everybody is free and equal. In the meantime, under this effete despotism, there must be more than a simple statement before any citizen of the British Empire can be locked up."

Editors of insurance papers going to gaol in the States, is not so common as is imagined; nor is an editor "arrested straight away, if he writes something that somebody else does not like." Now and again an editor in one of the Southern States gets shot by some person he has attacked; but, bad as matters are in America, in regard to law and order, our neighbours are not so contemptuous of fair play and civil rights as is represented. It is not just to

point to the evil prevalent in some section of a country as a national characteristic. We Britishers in Canada, are continually annoyed by persons who are densely ignorant of the old land, judging us by some narrow local feature that is more or less discreditable and quite obscure.

A Landlord and Tenant Case.

A case was recently decided by the Supreme Court of Illinois, the judgment in which has considerable interest to companies and property-owners in this city. The report of the "Weekly Underwriter," reads: "That a landlord is liable for the acts of a tenant in violating the conditions of the former's insurance policy, although the landlord himself is ignorant of the breach, and that the landlord's policy is voided thereby, is the gist of a decision given last week in the Supreme Court of Illinois. A Polish landlord in Chicago had a careless tenant, who kept gasoline on the premises in violation of the prohibition and warranty in the policy. The gasoline exploded and destroyed the building. The landlord disclaimed responsibility. The Appellate Court decided against him, and following that the Chicago Real Estate Board tried to have exemption clauses inserted in the policy. The Chicago Underwriters' Association at its last meeting issued a mandatory rule against all such clauses. In the light of the latest decision, it is up to the landlord to know whether his tenants are living up to his warranty or not."

Taxing Insurance Companies' Deposits.

The suit brought by the Western Assurance Company against the State Treasurer of Ohio, to secure exemption from the tax sought to be levied on their bonds deposited with the State authorities, to secure local policyholders, resulted in a verdict adverse to the foreign companies interested. For a State to compel insurance companies, who do business therein, to deposit securities with the authorities, in order to protect policyholders, and then tax such securities, is most arbitrary, unjust and oppressive. The lower classes, the illiterate, are, to some extent, excusable, because of their ignorance for entertaining feelings of hostility to all corporations that evidence financial strength, as do most of the foreign fire insurance companies operating in the United States. It is, however, a scandal to the Republic, for men in high official station to entertain such discreditable prejudices as inspire the taxation of foreign insurance companies' deposits. The insurance companies pay the ordinary local taxes which are imposed upon their neighbours, and it is nothing short of confiscation to slice away an annual percentage from the securities they are compelled to deposit with the State Treasurer.

THE WINNIPEG CLEARING HOUSE returns for week ending November 5, 1903, are: Clearings, \$7,192,438 for same week, 1902; clearings, \$5,388,602, and for same period 1901, clearings, \$4,658,006. Toronto, last week, \$15,202,910 against \$14,454,392 in 1902.