

Speak softly, carry a club and you will travel far in a day. But dyspepsia and amiability are incompatible. Carlyle would not have preached so stern a gospel of rugged toil had he not been tormented by the demon of indigestion. Gentle speech is not the outcome of small worries. Neither has the club been found altogether satisfactory in standing off creditors and taxes, and so we find ourselves no farther on than we were at the beginning.

Here is an opportunity for the government to lead the world in one of the greatest reforms ever undertaken, and to earn thereby the thanks of humanity. Will they prove equal to the task?

AUGUST is Canada's month of sports. There is no other month in the year which can compare with it in variety and multiplicity of contests. Yachting, rowing, canoeing, cricket, golf, tennis, lacrosse, baseball and even football come to the front with whoop and yell and cheer. Even that lady-like game, bowling on the green is at its height. Perhaps the greatest yachting contest of the year will be that which occurs to-day on the United States side of Lake Ontario; a contest between a Canadian challenger and a Yankee defender for the international trophy known as the "Canada Cup." The Canadian Henley regatta on the same lake took place last week and brought out the fact that the spacious Ontario harbour which bred Hanlan and Durnan is still producing oarsmen quite able to hold in check the stalwarts from Winnipeg, Fort William, Montreal, Ottawa, Buffalo or New York. Craig of Detroit won the intermediate singles, but this was almost the only honours for the strong-armed men from Uncle Sam's athletic associations. A further comparison will be possible when the Canadian oarsmen visit the regatta shortly to be held in the United States. The professional lacrosse season has resolved itself into a struggle between the Shamrocks of Montreal and the Tecumsehs of Toronto. The international cricket matches are not of supreme importance but the victories of the United States team at Ottawa and Toronto show that Canada is not making much progress in this particular sport. The Dominion Trap Shooting Association is holding its annual tournament this week.

A survey of all the competitions indicates that the love of out-door athleticism is still strong with us as a people. Nor does it indicate that we are devoting too much attention to the development of brawn and muscle and athletic skill. These qualities are still important elements in the life of nations.

IT is not known how many thousand tons of Andrew Carnegie's first-quality armour plate went to furnish the money for the Temple of Peace which the Iron-master has built at The Hague. The figures would be interesting. The temple has been paid for and will stand for centuries as a monument to the optimism of Andrew. If anybody shall be in danger of remaining in ignorance of the temple's history, there, right before his eyes, carven deep on the lintel, is a Latin inscription to let him know that Andrew Carnegie was the doer of this good deed. Having performed this meritorious work, why does not Mr. Carnegie turn his attention to the promotion of all that may make for local as well as universal peace? He has here in North America the opportunity standing ready to his hand. The enthusiastic amateur sea-dogs of the Detroit Naval Militia have become tired of doing all their navigating on dry land—albeit the schooner is not unknown in the City of the Straits. They have demanded of Washington a warship—a warship with its teeth drawn, it must be acknowledged. Washington has kindly donated the rather antique Spanish third-class cruiser, Don Juan de

Austria. Don, Etc., was captured at the glorious breakfast party of Manila Bay, when Nelson was for all time shoved back into second place amongst the world's great sea-captains. The captured Spanish cruiser is in excellent condition; she has a respectable belt of armour; her gun emplacements are there, ready for use. The Canadian Government has given permission for her to come through our canals, and within a fortnight she will be in the Detroit River. There will be no guns on her, of course, but there are plenty of guns in the United States arsenals, and plenty of cranes in Detroit ready to swing them aboard.

On both sides of the line, men write and talk about the 3,000 mile boundary with never a fort. Why, then, a floating fortress? Even if it is intended only for training purposes, against whom would the teachings of the naval officers assigned to the cruiser be exercised if trouble came? A courteous neighbour does not build spite fences. Nor does he buy a savage bulldog and train him because the man next door—who has always been a peaceable citizen—has an uncle three thousand miles away who owns a very superior kennel of these useful animals.

APLENTIFUL crop of rumours usually precedes some real events in the political world; that is, if one may be allowed to dignify the moves on the political chessboard as "events." No doubt, a change from one cabinet minister to another is as important a change as when an old manager of a railway or large industrial concern is replaced by a new. Yet the newspaper writer usually places more stress on the political event than the non-political, probably because the politician likes to take himself seriously. He poses as a patriot and occasionally he is. He would like to be known as a popular hero, and in extreme instances he is. He desires to give the public the impression that he is a great administrator, and Canada has certainly had some able departmental heads. Nevertheless, the cabinet minister is too often a paltry politician elevated to a high and noble office by the peculiar exigencies of the party system of government.

The story that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has decided upon his new cabinet and has asked Lord Grey for a dissolution is highly improbable. It is certainly time that the present vacancies were filled. The country has been for many months without a minister of public works, at a time when most important undertakings are under way. For a considerable length of time, there has been no minister of railways and canals. If these offices are to be left vacant for long periods, and the work of administration is nevertheless successfully carried on, does it not indicate that political heads of departments are not really important if the deputy and his assistants are able men? Is not that a reasonable conclusion?

Sir Wilfrid will soon make his announcements no doubt. The work of preparing for a session which will be most important from a party point of view is pressing. A complete cabinet, a united cabinet, a strong cabinet is required if the attacks of the Opposition are to be handled with ease and brilliancy. Therefore the news may come soon. That it will be startling is hardly likely. There are three or four men in the cabinet who might reasonably be asked to retire and make way for younger men. Some of them have been there longer than their ambitious juniors desired, but old men hate to acknowledge that their day is over.

All good citizens, of one party or another, are hoping that Sir Wilfrid will select young, able and aggressive men, in whom Canada may have confidence. On the showing made by these new men, will turn to a considerable extent the fate of the Laurier administration at the next general election. The battle is yet neither won nor lost.