

This practically leaves the question as it was before. But if no positive chance, under this head, has been made, arbitration may insensibly have received a degree of moral support, which it did not have before. But even this is not certain.

An overflow of hilarity at a Rossland banquet, is coincident with, if it did not cause, a schism in the British Columbia Government, in which Mr. Martin figures as Jonah. But he objects to the part assigned, and it is said intends to try conclusions with the Premier. In such a contest, the man who has the first place has the advantage; whether it will prove more than temporary, may depend upon the electorate.

The announcement that the Pope has appointed a resident apostolic delegate, for Ottawa, reminds us that the colony of a nation which has no such relations with Rome may form an exception to the national rule. Monsignor Diomede Falconi is a Franciscan, is 60 years of age, and has spent several years in the United States. Special apostolic delegates have been previously sent to this British colony; a resident delegate is something new.

We find, upon reperusal of the report of the debate in the House of Commons on the 27th ult., to which we referred in last issue, that no charge was made that the Minister of Interior was involved in secret contracts about mining leases. What Sir Hibbert Tupper said was that a letter had been written by one Philp, to the effect that Mr. Sifton and Major Walsh were so interested. Sir Hibbert did not venture to say that Mr. Philp's alleged statement was correct. If he had, probably Mr. Sifton would have been anxious for a committee of enquiry. Nor was there any reference to an amount of money stated as to be paid him. This was a matter in which we were in error. We regret that a reflection should have been made upon Mr. Sifton in this connection, which was not justified even by the somewhat lurid tenor of Sir Hibbert Tupper's remarks.

THE RAGE FOR CHEAPNESS.

Much has been spoken and written within recent years of the fact that Great Britain is losing her position in the hardware trade in the colonial and foreign markets. Several explanations have been given of this, and among other reasons advanced it has been said that the American and German manufacturers have been quicker in taking advantage of the demand for something cheap. Their best energies have been turned in this direction, and success has followed their efforts. So far as the Canadian market is concerned, this certainly has been the trend of events.

Under the caption of "The Rage for Cheapness," the British Hardware Trade Journal says: "Many people at home thought the rage for cheapness would prove to be evanescent; that, after a spell of cheap goods, they would come back to the demand for the admittedly better but assuredly dear goods. But the rage for cheapness has become the settled demand. The lower-grade goods continue to be bought, and happily some of our Midland manufacturers are now making for it, and have laid down the special plant which should have been at work for many years past. In numerous

classes of tools, cutlery, and hardware, plated goods, forks, spoons, etc., the demand for cheap goods is to a large extent being supplied from home. We desire to see this supply extended. It is a step in the right direction. We believe the result will be a large addition to business. It is meeting foreign competition with the foreigners' own weapons, and the British makers who undertake this policy will, we are convinced, find the results altogether satisfactory. It is no use sending to markets abroad excellent articles that cost twice what the buyers are prepared to pay. The ordinary law of supply and demand has to be reckoned with and catered for. Now that the lead has been given, we hope it will be followed to a great extent."

It certainly appears unfortunate that there is no other conclusion than the above to be drawn from the course of trade the past few years. The manufacturer must meet the buyer. We are, however, strong in the opinion that the latter is getting his eyes open, and that experience will soon have taught that the cheapest article is usually the least economical in consumption.

CANADIAN IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES.

Considerable interest has been aroused in the United States by the publication of a comparative statement of trade statistics, which cover the ten-months' period of the last three fiscal years ending with April. The principal items in the comparison are the following:

	1897.	1898.	1899.
Agricultural implements.....	\$291,107	\$542,364	\$1,008,076
Books, maps, etc.....	517,078	596,629	711,198
Corn	2,156,189	4,808,661	5,281,528
Wheat	2,640,131	4,312,797	4,975,760
Wheat flour.....	2,433,333	1,898,805	3,118,969
Cars	100,668	142,523	420,587
Bicycles	528,515	418,025	427,432
Clocks and watches.....	307,900	266,649	351,074
Coal	7,433,275	7,746,990	8,174,453
Copper ingots and bars.....	32,500	100,618	128,594
Cotton cloths	1,647,062	593,718	739,982
Scientific instruments	235,793	256,935	341,859
Typewriters	142,591	198,993	294,579
Sewing machines	76,392	117,695	124,845
Hams	190,596	309,031	483,503
Lard	201,689	181,739	369,802
Seeds.....	624,669	467,595	1,359,992
Tobacco	1,421,177	611,674	923,865
Lumber.....	588,922	819,326	1,062,424
Refined mineral oils.....	635,194	663,249	681,228

The American newspapers make much of the fact that in spite of the preferential tariff, which Canada has given Great Britain, the exports of the United States to Canada have steadily increased. While there is something in this contention, a glance at the commodities in the above list will convince one that the increase in exports has taken place almost entirely in commodities which Canadians do not buy in England. As an illustration, Canada does not import agricultural implements, corn, wheat, flour, cars, bicycles, coal, typewriters, sewing machines, hams, lard, seeds, tobacco and lumber from Great Britain. In copper ingots and bars, scientific instruments, books, and maps, the United States has recently made advances in production which fully account for the increased exportation to us. In cotton cloths, where the preferential duty might be expected to exercise weight, trade, which in the ten months of 1897 amounted to \$1,647,062, had