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All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

THERE is probably no other body of delegates who attack all sorts of questions with such absolute fearlessness as the Trades and Labour Congresses. That recently held in this city was no exception to the rule. Such questions as those of protection and free-trade, the suffrage for women, independence, Annexation, etc., were discussed with the utmost freedom and vigour. They were discussed, too, with an intelligence and ability which are very suggestive in regard to both the educational influence of such organizations and their future history as a force in politics. Though many of their proposals seem now to be very advanced, there can be little doubt that it is only a question of time when some of them will be embodied in the legislation of democratic countries. Manhood suffrage in municipal affairs may be mentioned by way of illustration. It is possible, too, that there may be more in the land-tax reform, which is favoured by many of the trades and labour representatives, than most persons are yet ready to admit. The decided stand taken by many of the delegates in favour of free-trade was a surprise. In remitting this question and others, such as Independence, Imperial Federation, Annexation, etc., to the local unions for debate and decision, the Congress has supplied material for discussions which are likely to keep these bodies very wide awake for many days to come.

THE September number of the *Review of Reviews* has an abstract of the report just made by the labour commission which was appointed by the Government of New South Wales after the great strike of 1890. This commission, consisting of eight employers of labour and eight trades-unionists, has, wonderful to tell, presented an absolutely unanimous report in favour of a scheme of compulsory settlement. They recommend the establishment of a State court whose duty it shall be to thoroughly enquire into the merits of the particular struggle and render a verdict. The aid of the court is to be invoked whenever either of the two parties demands it. The Commissioners do not anticipate any special difficulty in regard to the question usually brought forward as the crucial objection to compulsory arbitration, viz., how can the decision of the arbitrators be enforced. They hold that the teaching of

experience shows that, when a disinterested tribunal has given its verdict, the decision will usually be accepted by both parties. If either hesitates, public opinion immediately ranges itself against that party and soon compels it to yield. As the State owns the railways in Australia, the question with regard to railway strikes there is comparatively easy of settlement. In regard to private corporations, the commission proposes that if the corporation refuses to accept the award, it shall forfeit its charter; if the workmen refuse, they shall forfeit their right to their places and must give way to others. These are some of the main outlines of the scheme. It will be observed that it cuts the knot of the verbal objection to compulsory arbitration in the way suggested in these columns, i. e., by simply calling the board a court and constituting it accordingly. It is probable that the very existence of a court with such powers would prevent two-thirds of the strikes which now occur. At any rate, the day must be near when the prolonged and vexatious strike with which we are all unhappily familiar shall be a thing of the past. The public will have asserted its right to a decisive voice in the matter.

THAT "the beginning is half of the whole" is a proverb as old as Hesiod. So the diligent student used to be reminded in a way he was not likely to forget, in the days when the Second Book of the *Aeneid* and the "Life" of Lucian were the perennial tests for admission to the classical course in the Provincial University. This saying of the ancient sage may be applied with special appropriateness to the beginning of representative government which was made in Ontario by Governor Simcoe, one hundred years ago. For that reason, as well as for the sake of the rich historical associations, it may be hoped that Dr. Scadding's suggestion of a monument to the memory of Upper Canada's first Governor and the convener of its first Legislative Assembly, may be carried out. We can think of no more fitting historical memorial. We are not sure to whom we are indebted for the first suggestion of the Centennial celebration which was held with considerable enthusiasm and success in Queen's Park, on Saturday last, but the suggestion was a good one. Looked back upon from the standpoint of our present attainments in self-government, and in the light of our present ideas in regard to Executive responsibility, the modicum of home-rule brought to our great grandfathers by Governor Simcoe may seem to have been a rather parsimonious gift. But it was the fruitful germ from which our present system has been developed, by what has been on the whole a healthful period of struggle and growth. And, as Mr. Gibson—whose speech, barring the inevitable party laudation, which, even though meant to be humorous, was rather out of taste as adapted to provoke retort, was interesting and instructive, as were the others delivered on the occasion—reminded us, it was, too, a great improvement on the system of mixed civil and military absolutism which had preceded it. The teachers of Ontario public schools have been requested by the Minister of Education to celebrate the fourth centennial of the discovery of America by special exercises of a historical kind, on the coming twelfth of October. This suggestion, too, is a good one. If well carried out it will do more to implant clear and lasting conceptions of one of the greatest events in all history in the minds of the children, than could be done in many weeks of ordinary text-book study. Would it not have been equally interesting and profitable to have had an afternoon set apart for the celebration of the event which was commemorated by the orators on Saturday? Perhaps it is not yet too late. As a means of cultivating intelligent patriotism, such a celebration, accompanied with appropriate explanations and historical incidents, would be worth more than weeks of unintelligent flag-worship.

IN commenting last week on the speech of the Minister of Finance at Petrolia, we said: "It is extremely satisfactory to learn that the debt has not increased during the last three years." We had intended to dwell further upon this statement, as being one of the most encouraging character with respect to the wisdom with which our finances are just now being managed, but want

of space prevented. Mr. Foster's statement, as given by the *Empire*, was as follows: "The debt of the country in 1889 in round numbers was \$237,000,000; in 1890 it was \$237,000,000; in 1891 it was \$237,000,000; in 1892 it was \$236,000,000." Opposition journals have since quoted figures from official documents published by authority of the Government, in which the present debt is given as several millions more than the amount thus publicly announced by Mr. Foster. This is a serious criticism, and the Finance Minister will surely feel it his duty to publish an early explanation. Experience has taught us to expect a good deal of special pleading even from Ministers of the Crown, as well as from other party orators, in their efforts at times to make the worst appear the better reason, but the country expects and has a right to expect that when a responsible Minister commits himself to a public statement in regard to a question of fact connected with his own department, it may be safely relied on as strictly accurate. They do not expect—they ought not to be able to suppose it possible—that in such a statement there can be any statistical ambiguities or manipulations, but the utmost frankness and candour. In the absence of Mr. Foster's explanation it would be unjust to believe him guilty of a deliberate attempt to deceive his audience and the public, but an explanation is, we repeat, due to himself, to the journals which have published his statement in good faith, and to the people of Canada.

THE pamphlet recently published by Mr. Robert L. Lawder on the subject of commerce between the United States and Canada, and his article on the same subject in the last number of this journal, in reply to that of Mr. Wiman in the *Contemporary Review*, are thoughtful and able contributions to the discussion of a question which is of great and perpetual interest to the people of both countries, and especially to those of Canada. Whether Mr. Lawder has established the propositions he set out to prove, or justified the conclusions which he seeks to deduce from those propositions, is a question upon which there is perhaps room for difference of opinion. We have some hesitation in stating frankly in what respects Mr. Lawder's arguments appear to us unsatisfactory, lest we should seem to make ourselves obnoxious to the charge of want of patriotism which he brings against the *Globe* and *Mail* and other newspapers, in furnishing ammunition to the enemy. And yet Mr. Lawder would prefer no doubt to have his papers frankly discussed, else he would not have given them to the public. Unlike him, we do not believe that our American neighbours are so wanting in either information or penetration upon the subject as to be in any special danger of being misled by the utterances, however partisan or pessimistic, of any Canadian journal. Mr. Lawder's main proposition we take to be this: that even under present and recent conditions, and *a fortiori* under what he would deem a fair reciprocal trade arrangement, the trade of Canada is worth more to the United States than that of the United States to Canada. His proof of this is that during the two years 1889-90 and 1890-91, Canada's excess of purchases from the United States over her sales to the United States amounted to over \$40,000,000, and that during the last ten years this excess of purchases has amounted to fully \$125,000,000. Mr. Lawder's method of collating his statistics seems to be fair, though no doubt his figures would be challenged by American authorities. They may be accepted for our present purpose. It will be observed that his whole argument rests upon the "balance of trade" theory, in other words upon the common assumption that it is more profitable to an individual or a nation to sell in the dearest than to buy in the cheapest market, whereas, so far as we are able to see, a dollar saved in buying is just as good as a dollar gained in selling. However, as this is the kind of argument always used by our neighbours when they are denouncing reciprocity in natural products as a "jug-handled" arrangement, Mr. Lawder has undoubtedly a right to turn it against them.

MR. LAWDER'S pamphlet is addressed to the President of the Board of Trade of Oswego, and it can hardly fail to have weight with him and with any other commercial authority in the United States who is open to convic-