

THANKSGIVING.

According to the old, we might safely say, the good old custom instituted, if we mistake not, by the Puritans of New England and adopted in all parts of North America, Canada to-morrow from ocean to ocean will give thanks as a nation for the bounteous harvests which have "whitened her plains," bended her orchard boughs and burdened her fishing fleets to the gunwale's edge. It is well that Canada and her great neighbor at the south of the international boundary line should thus remember to pay homage to Providence once a year. Gratitude is a very admirable trait either in the individual or in the nation; and the person or the nation forgetting those obligations may in the long run be greatly the loser. That genial folk, the New England Puritans, had many characteristics which do not seem lovely in the light of nineteenth century ideas; they put themselves somewhat damagingly on record when they formulated, passed and executed the Connecticut Blue Laws. They were most decidedly more in favor of the "sword of the Lord and of Gideon" than of the olive branch of holy peace and brotherly love; "smiting hip and thigh" was more in their line than "turning unto their enemy the other cheek." Nevertheless on Thanksgiving Day along the "wild New England shore" that sort of thing was dropped and Hew-then-in-pieces Agag, Praise-the-Lord Mather and Melchisedek Barabones gathered round the festive board whereon the roasted wild turkey sent up appetizing reek to the rafters and the home-made applejack fished and elated every hungry Roundhead, and "twas merry in the hall" with sackbut and psalter. No doubt Victorians will spend the day in a manner befitting the occasion.

BRITAIN'S INDUSTRIAL DECLINE.

In the London Daily Mail, the Harmsworth's enterprising halfpenny morning paper, there is appearing a series of articles entitled "Marching Backwards." These articles deal in a masterly way with the question which has attracted so much attention lately—Britain's industrial retrogression, more especially as compared with the wonderful growth of the trade of her strongest competitors, the United States, France and Germany. The writer takes a very pessimistic view of the British commercial outlook and demonstrates by citation of the most recent facts and copious quotations of statistics that an alarming condition of affairs has been reached and now confronts the British people. The exports of the United Kingdom have decreased to the extent of £9,000,000 from 1880 to 1895; while the exports of the three nations mentioned have increased to the amount of £21,000,000. The writer thinks that Britain has lost the business instinct she once had and that she lacks genuine patriotism. He mentions in support of the latter contention that British ship owners will carry foreign goods at much lower rates than they will grant to British goods. This may seem incredible, but it is a positive fact.

Yet we think the writer has strangely missed an important point in looking for the cause of these disquieting changes which are coming over the British commercial world, and seem to menace Britain's position as the leader of the world's industry and trade. We might ask if the reason lies not with the British people themselves rather than in the increasing activity of other nations? We might ask very fittingly at this time—what about those fearful blighting strikes and lock-outs that from time to time devastate industrial Britain and drive away customers to her pupils—the United States, Germany and France? Can a country prosper when these periodical internecine broils shake her to the centre and paralyze her energies? Then, what about the growing discontent of an educated and enlightened laboring class who see as their unenlightened forefathers had no chance to see, the grinding monopolies which swarm in Britain; the gross and unfair class privileges the widest distinctions between man and man, the crushing of the poor by the rich; the selfishness and callousness of the rich; the wretchedness and helplessness of the poor? What about the people coming to view in all its hideous actuality that monstrous piece of tyranny, the mining royalties, to take only one from a hundred examples of hateful class legislation which place wrongful burdens upon the people? What about a lazy aristocrat who shows all "the proud man's contumely" towards the poor and the workers, and who never did a stroke of honest work in his life, wringing from the people such a tax as the mining royalties—so much per ton on all coal and iron raised from his so-called estates, the annual amount representing a princely fortune? This is one of the most iniquitous pieces of class legislation the British people suffer under, and one they have sought for years to have abolished.

And have the recent tremendous expenditures upon the navy and the army, the notorious waste, and extravagance that go on at many of the government arsenals, dockyards and other establishments, and which have been proved to exist beyond question of doubt, all of which have helped to swell the already heavy taxation,—have

these not contributed their quota to the prevailing and rising discontent? Certainly the government in power at Westminster have not justified the high promises they made before election. In all these things we plainly see the working of the leaven of universal education; the British people are seeing things with different eyes now, and they are demanding to know why certain things we have hinted at should be because their forefathers blindly gave away things and rights they had no right to give away. They want to know why Great Britain should be ruled by the spirits of dead and gone generations when all things point to the crying necessity for a more modern government. It is useless to point to Britain as a happy nation enjoying all the blessings that flow from limited monarchy and level the finger of scorn at the United States and at France, whichapologists contend are not so best. What answer can they make to the articles now appearing in the London Daily Mail? And what have they to say about the enormous unrest that is so plain to all who critically examine the condition of the British people to-day? Britain carries in her own vitals the cause of it all, and if she does not adopt drastic remedies promptly she may see her magnificent trade and commerce passing into the hands of nations who learned their trade from her.

YALE-CARIBBOO.

The Kootenay Mail advocates the division of the enormous electoral district of Yale-Caribboo into two districts, with a representative in the commons for each. Mr. Hoston's district is 540 miles from east to west and 600 from south to north, and contains about 325,000 square miles. Area, interests and future possibilities make it the greatest electoral district in Canada. By virtue of population, also, it is even now, we think, entitled to an additional representative, and so rapid is the growth of Kootenay, Yale and Caribboo that the district will very probably be in a position, when the next census is taken, to demand three representatives. But even though the population should not now fully warrant a division of the district, its industries are so varied, and their development of such vital importance to the whole country that additional representation could be justified on that ground alone. We are heartily in sympathy with the views of the Mail, and have no doubt that the Dominion government will recognize the justice of the claim at the earliest possible moment.

DAINGEROUS LENIENCY.

Six months' imprisonment for attempting to murder a man by shooting at him four or five times at almost arm's length seems to us not only absurdly inadequate, but a most dangerous exercise of judicial leniency. All Victorians have followed with interest the evidence given in this most unhappy case, where details of domestic infelicity were suggested, if not proved, and where also there was evidence of the most cool premeditation on the part of Cummings to take the life of the man whom he believed to be the wrecker of his hearth. We need not cite from the records to prove that the murderous attack was not the wild, passionate, spontaneous frenzy of a man upon whom the terrible light of the situation bursts with stunning and blighting force, and who, under the powerful impulses of grief, rage and the desire for vengeance snatches the first weapon ready to his hand wherewith to avenge his wrongs. We all know that Cummings deliberately laid his plans and took all his measures to ensure the slaughter of his enemy. We know that he bought a revolver and cartridges and invited Bailey to lunch with him, and that Cummings regarded the young man who sat opposite him at table as doomed. We know that when the moment came for Cummings to carry his dreadful plan into execution he did not hesitate; only the faultiness of his aim saved Bailey's life. The first shot was fired at murderous range; had the pistol not missed fire Bailey would have been killed on the spot. As it was one of the balls grazed his leg as he fled for life, pursued by his would-be murderer. And all this is punished with six months' imprisonment! What can be the meaning of the wave of leniency that has passed over the judicial bench lately? A lawyer kicked

himself to death in a British Columbia mining town, and the savage brute who did it escapes with a \$100 fine; Williams, an unfortunate wretch suffering from the atavism of vicious ancestry, was sent to jail for four years when his case was clearly hopeless and required life treatment. But the Cummings case is more serious than any; we fear the sentence will be construed by the disorderly and the reckless as meaning that revolver shooting is not so serious an offence as it used to be here. If this winter should be marked by more of those lamentable fatalities which are the result of carrying concealed weapons and of a misapprehension of the gravity of attempting the life of fellow-beings, we shall vividly remember the sentence in the Cummings case. Had the prisoner committed the act in the heat of passion we should not have expected a heavy sentence; but when it was proved to be a premeditated crime we hold that a sentence of much greater severity should have been imposed.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

From the quarterly report issued by the Department of Trade and Commerce of Canada for the quarter ending September 30th, 1897, we gather that there has been a marked improvement in nearly all branches, and that the trade of Canada is expanding. Exports during the nine months from January 1st to Sept. 30th have increased, while imports of the same period show either a slight decrease or are stationary, except, of course, in the case of products of foreign countries which Canada must import. The inference is that under the new order of things Canadian manufactures and trade in all its branches are thriving and seeking outlets for surplus; an impetus has been given to export trade and Canada is introducing her goods into markets that were out of her reach under the old regime. On the

trade of Canada with the United States; during the period from January to August 31st Canada imported from the United States goods to the value of \$45,530,782; and exported to the States goods valued at \$27,701,836. The aggregate exports and imports of Canada for the financial year beginning July 1st, up to September 30th, are given as, imports, \$30,618,128; exports, \$47,554,759. From the foregoing figures it will be observed that there have been increases in 1897 amounting to millions of dollars as compared with 1896 on four of Canada's principal products; viz., live cattle, dressed, cheese, fish, and wood hewn and wood dressed.

The report states that Japan has imported from Canada during 1897—butter, \$3301; cheese, \$555; flour, \$3,808; whisky, \$165; wood, \$14,324—\$22,153 worth of imports as compared with \$707,906 worth of exports to Canada, including rice, etc., etc. The report says the coal (for Japan) comes from Great Britain, as does the manufactured cotton; the beans, peas, and pulse from Corea and China, the sugar from Hongkong and the salted fish from Russia in Asia. "Canada ought to be able to furnish the greater part of the sole leather, (total import for Japan, \$288,292, of which the United States contributes \$222,030); flour (Japan's total import, \$497,100; of which the United States furnishes \$400,101—compared Sept. 30th, 1897, Canada \$3,808); butter, (total import \$45,628; United States supplying \$19,033; Canada \$3,301); cheese, tobacco, manufactured articles, wine and wood." Japan's total import of wood was \$134,767; the United States contributed of that \$74,278 and Canada only \$14,324. These figures ought to make our business men look most carefully into the matter of trade with Japan. Our commissioner, who passed through to Ottawa the other day only emphasized what we have all along been confident of, that in

it prudent to premise our comments on that article this because the Colonist begins its article more Socratic and ends it up more Hibernic—not an unusual thing for the Colonist to do, to be sure; but we thought the subject was one upon which the Colonist would enter seriously seeing that coal is the basis of its existence at the present time. The Colonist asks four questions which are again subdivided into minor questions, and no doubt it believes they are all powers. They are exactly the questions we expected the Colonist to ask, therefore we are in the painful position of not being able to thank our contemporary for any original information on the matter. "If not, why not?" is a refrain worthy of a talking jockey, but somewhat beneath the dignity of a great organ of ministerial and monopolistic opinion. The Colonist's little queries will be answered seriatim when the time comes; the Colonist meanwhile may revel in the delights of anticipation, which are said to exceed by far the pleasures of realization. We fear this will be the case in regard to the Colonist's questions.

English baronets have a grievance, plain folks will learn with surprise. Those gentry have formed a species of trades unions to protect their precious "rights." They complain that the abominable practice of giving precedence to the children of peers after the younger children of barons and ahead of baronets is growing unbearable. They complain that persons having no rights are assuming the title baronet; no one having power to challenge their claim. They protest against the children of peers being called hon. during the "legal" life of peers, as this gives them precedence baronets are entitled to. What mooning balderdash all this for grown men to fret what brains the Almighty has been pleased to put inside their silly heads. Honorable, indeed; and precedence! There's not an honest, hony-handed son of toll in Britain who is not quite as honorable, or who has not earned precedence of most of the baronets in the three kingdoms. The baronets should get out and work, and their "grievances" would disappear.

Unrequited love has caused a young Montreal swain to seek the sweet penitence of forgetfulness everlasting by looking down a rifle barrel while the bullet was coming out. The unreasonableness of men lovers is inexplicable. Because a haughty miss disdainfully gives the ardent cavalier his congee in fashion so chilling that hope freezes up beyond thawing, is that to say that he must "shuffle off this mortal coil" by means unlawful? Are there not as good as she and better "in the wide, wide world"? In good sooth, we rather like the spirit of that dour old Dunbar Gray, "wha cam' to woo," the "skeigh" and "sonsie" but decidedly flighty Meg—"She may gang to France for me; ha! ha! ha! the woin' o' it!"

Our attention having been drawn by Rear Admiral Palliser in an item that appeared in our issue of the 19th inst., in which a grave charge was alleged to have been made by a bluejacket of H. M. S. Imperieuse against another, "we have made inquiries to be made, and have ascertained that the statements published were made by a man from one of the Empresses and not by a bluejacket from the Imperieuse. Our reporter's error—a most regrettable one—was in using the name of the Imperieuse instead of the Empress, to which the man who complained to the police belonged. Under these circumstances an apology is due and is hereby tendered to the Royal Navy for the unfortunate error referred to. The statements, in so far as the Imperieuse of

Trading On An Office.

It is to be presumed that Mr. Turner, the British Columbian Premier, would not have lent his name to a mining operation without good knowledge that he was justified in doing so. It is clear that his action savors of the indiscreet in certain financial quarters in London, and this is to be regretted, because nothing could be more disastrous to Canadian interests, if anything like suspicion should be excited there. The Dominion's reputation is, at present, very high in Britain, and we would seem to be able to obtain all the money asked for. Our good credit must not be shaken. Some very remarkable schemes have been floated in London of late, in which the Klondike has been made an attraction, and though Sir Louis Davis raised a warning voice when he was in London, there will, doubtless, be yet more and more heard of it. It is regrettable that a leading London paper should refer to this Turner company in terms of suspicion. It says "When Premiers turn promoters, we appear to be in full view of turning the universe into a limited liability company," and adds that the only assets of the Dawson City Trading Corporation seems to be Mr. Turner's name, and that the prospectus is "spectacular." The company only needs \$800,000. Such a sum, would not only ruin hundreds of people, but the transaction would have a very fatal moral effect. We repeat that it is to be hoped, for the credit of the good name of Canada, that the high commissioner will keep his eye on all schemes floated in London, and affecting the Dominion.—Ottawa Free Press.

other hand the rejuvenation of Canadian industries has tended to slacken the volume of imports of the kind which this country can produce itself, but to increase those imports such as tea, coffee, silk and the like which she must necessarily import. With the United States, and with Great Britain there has been, notwithstanding the severe tariff of the former, a decided increase, and it is very interesting to note the beginnings of Canada's trade with Japan, a trade which we feel confident is bound to expand to most important dimensions, and will lead in the near future to most profitable relationships between the two young and energetic nations.

The value of the principal dutiable imports during the quarter ended Sept. 30th, 1897, amounted to \$32,900,474; and the duty collected upon those imports in that period amounted to \$5,127,700.66. The corresponding amounts for the same period in the previous year were: Imports, \$32,084,242; duties, \$5,210,787.73. Thus it will be seen that a greater amount of duty was collected on a smaller valuation in 1896 than in 1897. The figures from Vancouver, B.C., are not included in those given here. The increase on the gross imports, however, tells the tale of progress—about \$306,221 over the corresponding quarter in 1896. In the values of free imports an increase almost identical with the dutiable took place. The principal exports to Great Britain from Canada in the nine months ended Sept. 30th, 1897, were as follows: Live cattle, \$7,164,871; against \$5,718,848 for the corresponding period in 1896; wheat, \$4,543,082, against \$3,751,202 in 1896; cheese, \$10,404,854, against \$7,190,028 in 1896; this breaks all records for Canadian provision exports, and proves how highly priced abroad is Canada's peasantry. Fish, \$3,588,058, against \$3,206,910 in 1896; wood and timber hewn, \$3,201,157, against \$2,976,590 in 1896; sawn, split, planed or dressed, \$17,361,429, against \$12,439,044 in 1896. These figures need little comment; they speak for themselves. Now let us turn

AS OTHERS SEE MR. TURNER.

The Toronto Mail-Empire, the leading Conservative paper of the Dominion, says: "English journals are criticizing severely the appearance of the names of British Columbia ministers on the directories of mining companies. This is a case where even the appearance of evil should be avoided. When a man has the power to direct legislation, or knows beforehand the nature of executive action, he has an unfair advantage over every business competitor. What guarantee is there that he will not profit unfairly by his advantage? There is always the material for scandal, and the government of a country must be kept above scandal. Some United States senators speculate in stocks while they are passing tariff bills and grow wealthy, and men like Croker and Platt use their power over governing bodies to fill their own coffers. If we tolerate ministers as mining directors how long before we tolerate gambling senators and bosses?"

The London Daily Chronicle talks as follows about our premier: "The sooner the prime minister of British Columbia retires from politics and devotes himself entirely to finance the better it will be for the colony and the companies in which he is interested. We think the chief capital of this last concern (The Dawson City (Klondike) and Dominion Trading Corporation, Ltd.) is \$400,000, including 6,000 objectionable shares of £2 each, is absurdly large. We strongly advise investors and speculators to leave this company alone." Nothing more severe than the above has ever appeared in a British Columbia journal, which have condemned with extraordinary unanimity "wild-catting" propensities of Mr. Turner.

We presume, perhaps rashly, that the Colonist is serious in its article this morning on the coal-tax clause in the Liberal Association platform. We deem

any of its men are concerned, are, of course, unreservedly withdrawn. Patent of remainder has been granted Lord Burton, the big beer man, who is worth \$20,000,000. This means that his daughter Nellie, who married Mr. Baillie, of Dochford, Invernesshire, will become, on her father's death, Baroness Burton, and that Mr. Baillie's little son will be Lord Burton, while Baillie pere remains plain B. all his days. Baillie file will take precedence of his pa in everything, even in society, but the old man will be allowed to foot the bills as of yore, and to do as chipping block when Lord Burton's temper is not good.

The Duke of Beaufort, one of the wealthiest of the aristocracy of England, has just transferred his estate to his son to avoid the succession tax. No wonder the English people betray impatience at the estate of 65 things, and his wader "the Duke of Beaufort" spreads space among the teeming population of the United Kingdom. A few more of such impudent pieces of legalized roguery and the matter may be brought to a head.

CABINET MINISTERS AS COMPANY PROMOTERS.

We regret to find, by the perusal of the newspapers which have come to hand by the last English mail, that the criticisms on the actions of some members of the provincial government, by allowing themselves to accept positions on the boards of directors of companies, promoted to doct mining schemes in Canada, still continue. The injury which the incidents which called forth these criticisms, will do to British Columbia is incalculable. The one or two provincial newspapers—for we are glad to observe that even some of those which support the government have the discretion not to attempt to excuse, much less to defend, these things—have tried to make light of the subject, only show their complete ignorance of the real situation, and of the manner in which the British public regard such matters. In Victoria or Vancouver, the fact that a provincial premier or a president of the executive council, had become the promoter of a speculative enterprise, would neither be regarded as something very serious in itself, nor as likely to have any important effects. Men who take a proper view of the position which a minister of the crown should occupy in regard to such matters would condemn the imprudence of members of the government who placed themselves in such a dangerous position. But locally, it is not likely that a single share in a company would be taken by any of the cabinet had their names attached to the company's prospectus. Indeed, we are inclined to think that it would deter those who otherwise might have been subscribers.

But when the names of members of the provincial cabinet are found on the prospectus of a company, the capital of which is offered for subscription in London, the case is entirely different. The public there associates the title of a "premier," or a "president of the council" with the idea which it has of the high offices, and with the class of men who fill them in the Imperial government. He mentally—even if unconsciously—measures Mr. Turner as the twin of a member of Salisbury, and sizes up Mr. Pooley as the familiar of the Duke of Devonshire. It may seem so grotesque to us as to be almost incredible. But anyone who knows the aversion to high offices in regard to a scheme which is coupled with the romance now associated with the word "Klondike" will recognize the accuracy of our view. No one appreciates the facts more than the wild company promoter, and Mr. Rainbow, what an appropriate name for one who throws such a brilliant hue as this gentleman has done over his schemes, doubtless feels that he has cleared his money by his success.

Some of the statements in the prospectus are so extraordinary that it must either be drawn up by some one entirely ignorant of the circumstances, or who wilfully intended to deceive those who might read it. For instance, while it dwells almost entirely on the Klondike gold fields, and professes to be secured, either by mining or trading in them, or on the routes to them, it refers to schemes for "the colonization of extensive tracts of land in their vicinity." Possibly the cultivation of moss and the raising of reindeer was in the mind of the writer. Then it refers to the offer of "valuable mineral properties of several hundred acres, part of which is eminently suited for a townsite in British Columbia." There is a delightful vagueness about this, evidently intended to prevent any hypothetical person from being so stupid as to question the possibility of acquiring townsites under color of mineral claims. Two questions which will suggest themselves to everyone here are: Did the prospectus in which they figure so conspicuously, before it was published? Or have they authorized certain promoters in London, to use their names and official designations in connection with the floating of any scheme in which their appearing as directors may be useful? An affirmative answer to one or other of these questions will be a notable point as the position will be in which it leaves two prominent members of the provincial government.—News-Advertiser.

Not one in twenty are free from ailment caused by some little infection of the liver. One Carter's Liver Pills cured the result will be a pleasant surprise. They give positive relief.

WEYLER'S WELL

The Returned Soldier Proclaims himself the Friend of National Production.

He Declares Autonomy Would Be Unfortunate to Industry.

Madrid, Nov. 23.—The office of the landing of General Weyler, Barcelona differs from the reports. The former says the landed without the demonstration, however assuming the proportionated and that as he travels the public appeared. Continuing, the official version, fair adds that six gala carriage for the general, but the crowd small and no enthusiasm was ed; that there were no delegates or politicians, and that down were decorated.

An independent report of the says: A number of bands took part in the welcome General Weyler, and the Mons met by many boats decorated flags. When the general landed, General Maura, in the carriage of Deputy Salades on the way to the latter's house Weyler cried: "Long live national production." The general also cheered for Spain and Spanish, and met with enthusiastic response the populace. The general will remain in for two days, and on leaving go to Palma, island of Majorca, where the inhabitants were preparing to give him a welcome. He will arrive in Madrid the middle of December.

It is understood in Barcelona General Weyler will hold aloof from Carlists and Republicans, but to pose a champion of the "national production" act, as reorganizing servative party, and in order his protectionist idea he will oppose the granting of tariff to Cuba. General Weyler, add number of his friends shortly arrival here, expressed great his recall from Cuba, and added he was particularly annoyed at the of certain newspapers which that he favored the insurgent, the general remarked: soldiers, however, have the attempt for these papers as they filibusters. Referring to the concentration Cuban peasants near the town island, General Weyler explained he deemed such a step necessary, they were "spies and the most friends of the enemy." In regard to autonomy, General said: "Autonomy in Cuba is most unfortunate national policy. The richest of Cuba, and the autonomy means the disloyalty of Spanish workmen and the of the island, and complete misery to the island. There is as much as Catalonia, and the other provinces to ask for a Cuba." After the crowd about Deputy's house had cheered General, he appeared on the balcony former commander of the Spanish in Cuba cried: "Long live the Spanish Cuba and National live dressing an industrial deputate waited upon by the general, who said he had always been in favor and was resolved to defend the national production. Continually remarked: "I have never politician, but I am simply a soldier. During my stay in Cuba, my utmost to improve the lot of soldier, and now I shall devote to improving the lot of the people. The friends of General Weyler people demonstrated they do not arrive here until to-morrow, who intended to make a demonstration honor.

GUIDES FOR THE BR...

Port Townsend, Nov. 23.—R. choff and Abraham Brown arrived on the Walla Walla Saturday evening. Both are guides, and in the capacity of guides. Both of years of experience in Alaska, and are especially qualified for the task before them. Mr. Kolbe recommended by Rev. Sheldon, who is a sufficient guarantee of ability for this duty. He is well piloted the Lord Lonsdale party north.

Major J. W. Jacobs, chief quarter-master of the Columbia, on cover, was here Saturday in his capacity, and inspected the high buildings and property at Port Townsend. It is said, of the pany of the fort in the near future an artillery station will be the force of the fortifications will be tered.

STEAMER TELEGRAPH S...

Cincinnati, Nov. 23.—At 6: evening the steamer Telegraph, the largest and best boats plying Ohio river, sank at Fern Grove, distance from Louisville. The passengers had a narrow escape drowning and a number of sea escapes occurred. The Telegraph on her way from Louisville to with a small passenger list and cargo of freight. The Telegraph badly wrecked that it will be loss.

GERMANS AT KALO SHA...

London, Nov. 23.—According to lat dispatch from Berlin, the government considers that the land occupied forces of Germany, at Kalo Shabu, Thine peninsula, China, is insufficient a naval station and proposes to its holdings there "diplomatically, sible."

MR. AND MRS. GLADSTONE

London, Nov. 23.—Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone arrived in London to-day on way to Cannes.