

Authority has been granted by the Minister of Railways to the C. P. R. to expropriate more land, on the Toronto Esplanade, than is permitted by their charter. Opposition was put in by the Fuller estate, whose land is to be taken. There is a rumor, which we hope may prove unfounded, that the representatives of this estate intend to ask the courts to set aside the agreement between the Grand Trunk and the C. P. R. in connection with the Esplanade; delay would be caused by such action, whatever the result might be. A new union station will be built by additions to the one in existence on land obtained on the south.

The New York Times is quite right in assuming that Canada will not block up one end of the St. Clair Flats, though that end should be in Canada. We admit, too, its contention that the Treaty of Washington assumes the canal to be under American jurisdiction, but we must demur when it adds that this jurisdiction is "irrespective of the boundaries." A discovered error as to the boundaries would alter the case, and present a ground for readjustment in accordance with the fact. A mistaken assumption could not survive the discovery of the fact. The evidence submitted as to the location of the canal by one of the disputants, in case of a formal dispute, would not, as the Times assumes, be necessarily conclusive in this case more than any other, and therefore it is not unreasonable that the Canadian Government should have taken measures to ascertain the fact by an examination of the ground.

#### CANADA AND HER NEIGHBOR.

Rumor throws out mysterious hints that President Cleveland is preparing some proclamation which is intended "to fire the Irish heart." What it is the busy Dame evidently does not know; and this is not a bad reason for not telling. But, calling conjecture to her aid, she surmises that Canada will not be an uninteresting listener when the mysterious instrument is read. All this is delightfully indefinite, but is no doubt intended to point to a retaliation proclamation. Meanwhile Canadians will possess their souls in patience.

To fill up the interval of suspense, Senator Blair has laid before the United States Senate some information which professes to show the state of public sentiment in Canada on the question of political and commercial connection with the Republic. This information has been collected by a New York Tribune correspondent, and it is not likely to be of a kind much to enlighten the august body to whose notice it has been brought. But it served as a peg on which to hang a short discussion upon the fortunes of Canada and the United States. Mr. Blair let it be known that, though willing the two countries should be united, he was entirely opposed to retaliation or the use of "unnecessary force." He so far repudiated Commercial Union as to say that nothing but political union would be satisfactory to him. "Undoubtedly," he said, "a majority of the people of Canada

is in favor of union, and I believe that the inclination is most seriously and harmoniously reciprocated by the 65,000,000 who make up the American nation." Of the disposition of the 65,000,000 we must allow Senator Blair to be a good judge; but his statement about Canada shows that the sources of his information are not reliable, and leads us to doubt whether Congress will be at all enlightened by the written information which he laid before the Senate. Senator Hoar grew facetious, and said that if Canada objected to being annexed to the United States, the Republic would not object to be annexed to Canada: which, being an observation *pour rire*, may be allowed to pass.

Senator Sherman objects to Commercial Union with Canada, because in his opinion it would not advance political union, which, like Senator Blair, he favors. Of the attitude of Senator Sherman there is little to complain, and his outspoken candor deserves some recognition. He is in favor of the union of the two countries, but would not resort to force to bring it about; he desires union, but only with the free consent of Canada. If the question is to be discussed at all, and it is impossible to prevent its discussion, General Sherman's mode of treatment is free from insult and objection. If ever Canada be annexed without war, it will be in the way pointed out by this Senator.

Secretary Fairchild in discussing the question of war between Great Britain and the United States scarcely seems to realize his responsibility as a public officer. The discussion was speculative and provoked by an interviewer. Mr. Fairchild does not believe in war; but in our opinion he would have shown better taste if he had declined to be questioned on the subject. No European statesman would consent to give his opinion as to what would happen in the event of a war between his country and some other power, and this reticence might be copied with advantage by Americans who occupy high positions of trust.

On this side, too, discussion on the relations of the two countries continues to go on. Sir Richard Cartwright still adheres to unrestricted reciprocity. That some closer commercial connection would benefit both countries everybody admits; but disagreement begins when an attempt is made to describe what it should be. Senator Sherman, in effect, takes the ground that all considerations must give way to the securing of perpetual peace between the two countries; that no commercial connection or union would afford security against possible war, which is liable to come out of unforeseen incidents. Nobody claims that closer commercial connection would be an absolute security against war; but it is claimed that its tendency would be in that direction.

There is no doubt that to draw closer the bonds of commercial connection between the two countries would be an advantage to both; though if some of the plans proposed were adopted injury to some interests would result.

If President Cleveland desired to draw Canada nearer to the Republic, he took the wrong way of doing it when he sent

his Retaliatory Message to Congress. The effect, as he ought to have known it would be, was repellant. Canadians may not agree with General Sherman, but they feel no resentment at what he says, since he proposes to do nothing without their free consent.

When some ancient American general, with a pronounced Hibernian name, proposes to take a contract to conquer Canada in a week, it is best to regard the modest proposal in the light of a set-off to some rash saying uttered on this side, and receive it in silence. But above all things the abuse of Americans, or Canadians residing in the United States, who show by their action that they wish well to Canada, should be avoided by Canadians. Things are said in the United States about Canada which would not be said in one European country of another; they are sometimes trying to the temper of Canadians, but they must be borne with. They may even be made useful in the difficult art of self-discipline; and the best use we can make of them is to turn them to account in this way. The future of Canada, whatever it may be, had best be contemplated with the calmness of true courage.

#### FIRE PREVENTIVE APPLIANCES.

We are glad to find that several Canadian firms and villages are taking steps to improve their appliances for preventing and extinguishing fires. This appears to be particularly the case in Ontario. Merritton has just completed an excellent system of water-works on the gravitation principle. Water is brought direct from Lake Erie in a pipe line nearly five miles long. The filtering basin is located near Lock 25 on the Welland Canal, at an elevation of 330 feet above the level of Lake Ontario. There is a uniform pressure of 75 lbs. to the square inch at the town hall, Merritton, and at Phelps & Turner's mill the pressure is over 100 lbs. All the appliances are described as first-class except the method of giving the fire alarm, which is dependent on the mills or factories blowing a steam whistle. This is generally the weak point of fire warning in small places, where there are not policemen or watchmen whose duty it is to give the fire alarm. Aurora and Milton have recently completed their water-works systems. The former of these places has been put in class C. by the Underwriters, and the latter in class D. Milton is a grade lower than Aurora, because the fire alarm system is not so effective as that of Aurora. We are told that Merritton has not yet been graded nor Alexandria, but that they will be soon.

Mr. B. ROSAMOND, the large woollen manufacturer at Almonte, while in Calgary was interviewed in reference to the chance of shipping wool direct from Calgary to the mills at Almonte. He pronounced the wool of that district better adapted for such fine goods as his mill made than the average wool of Ontario, and if properly cared for, kept clean and properly pressed in bales, could be shipped to Almonte with advantage to both the producer and the manufacturer.