

The removal for ever of the danger of Newfoundland falling into the hands of the United States, would be a distinct advantage to Canada.

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For some time past the employees at the Dominion Iron and Steel Works, Sydney, have been giving trouble by resenting the action of the management to establish such a rate of wages as would enable work to be continued and developed into a prosperous condition. Matters came to a crisis this week, when the management decided to let a force of 1,800 men go out rather than submit to their demands. This action of the men is much to be deplored. They refused to submit the dispute to arbitration, which was offered, and in abandoning work, have shown anything but a disposition to co-operate with the management in developing this important industry which means so much to the industrial resources of Canada.

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It is very discouraging to capitalists who have sunk many millions of their money in the buildings and plant of an extensive manufactory, to find that their efforts to provide a new field for workers, and to create wider openings for industrial talent, meet with such scant appreciation from the classes who will so materially benefit by a new enterprize. In laying the foundations of and building up a great industry, like the Dominion Iron and Steel Works, all engaged in the enterprize should look to the future, and, if needful, be prepared to make some temporary sacrifice in order to ensure permanent success. We hope this dispute will be quickly adjusted, as the interests of the men in the long run cannot be served by their abstention from work, and if they hamper the productive and profit earning capacity of the works, they must suffer as well as those whose capital has provided so much work and enabled such an enormous expenditure to be made in wages.

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Mr. Zeno. M. Host, State Insurance Commissioner, Wisconsin, U.S., has entered a libel suit against the "Milwaukee Sentinel" newspaper company for \$50,000 damages. The paper in question charged Mr. Host with having obtained moneys by duress from the Prudential Insurance Company, and that he was guilty of fraudulent, corrupt, and unlawful acts in his office as Commissioner of Insurance, in relation to the examination of and granting a license to the Prudential Insurance Company; that he had illegally extorted \$21,000 from that company for political campaign purposes in order to pave the way for his appointment to a second term as Insurance Commissioner of Wisconsin. The defendant newspaper is also charged with publishing another malicious and defamatory libel against Mr. Host, in regard to fees paid him by the Prudential Company, which transactions were stated to be "more infamous

and more criminal than highway robbery."

It is highly deplorable that the affairs of a State Insurance Department should have been dragged into the arena of politics just when there is a violent contest in preparation. The malicious violence of the language used against Mr. Host suggests rather his innocence than that he has done what he is charged with. The trouble arises out of the Commissioner ordering an investigation into the affairs of the Prudential Life Insurance Company and its relations with the Fidelity Trust Company, with which it was alleged the Prudential was being attempted to be merged.

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This design, it appears, was frustrated by the Courts of New Jersey, and the conditions and movements of the Prudential and its relations with the Fidelity Trust were such as, in Mr. Host's judgment, to render it his duty to investigate the affairs of that company, as its solvency, to a large extent, depended upon the sound condition of the Fidelity Trust, not less than \$6,419,043 of the Prudential's funds being in the hands of that trust company. In response to an enquiry as to the affairs of the Fidelity Trust, the information asked for was refused. The Commissioner thereupon commenced an examination of the Prudential and postponed the issuing of a new license until he had satisfactory proof that its solvency was not endangered by connection with the trust company.

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Amid a storm of charges and denials and outburst of political passion, it is difficult to get at the merits of this quarrel. We may, however, congratulate ourselves in Canada that the Insurance Department and its superintendent and officials are entirely outside the political sphere, so that they may, as they do, carry on their highly valuable work and fulfil their most responsible duties wholly unmoved by such extraneous and such mischievous influences as arise in the sphere of party politics.

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The Union Bank of Canada is erecting an office building in Winnipeg, eleven storeys in height. A Winnipegger writes that the men engaged in this building could hardly be matched anywhere for variety of classes, nationalities and occupations. Immigrants go to the Northwest to settle as farmers, but some, including professional men, are unable, or unwilling to get out of Winnipeg, and so bid good-bye to city life; hence they drop down low in the social scale.

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The Hon. Mr. Prefontaine, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, recently delivered an address in this city, in which he reported that extensive improve-