

fuse his signature to the proclamation. Naturally, this outside advice thus obtruded was disregarded. Charges of corruption, in connection with the arrangement, have been hurled at Premier Greenway; the *Free Press* having published letters conveying the accusation of his having accepted a bribe of \$12,000. The letters purport to be signed by Mr. Greenway, and their genuineness will have to be decided. Meanwhile judgment ought, in fairness to the accused, to be suspended.

Premier Mercier, of Quebec, has taken the proper course in issuing the proclamation giving effect to the veto of the Magistrates' District Court Act. A refusal to do so would have been a revolutionary proceeding. He has also issued another proclamation constituting the new Magistrates' Court under the law of 1869. This court will have jurisdiction up to \$50. The law of 1869 was not vetoed, and the time has long since passed when it could be. The salaries of the new magistrates under the Act are only \$1,200 each a year, but it is hinted that a measure will be passed next session to increase them. Up to the limit of its powers, the new Magistrates' Court will have concurrent jurisdiction with the Circuit Court; but it is thought that the option of resort to it will not be extensively used.

CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.

On Monday last, the *Toronto World* published a telegram from New York, signed by Mr. Erastus Wiman, foreshadowing the coming report of Senator Sherman's committee on the relations of Great Britain and Canada to the United States. The telegram, which was published in spite of being countermanded, conveyed the startling information that the committee is preparing to submit proposals for the absorption of Canada into the Republic; the negotiations to be made with Great Britain and the Dominion; the price to be offered the payment of the Canadian debt, assumed at \$300,000,000.

A statement of this kind takes one's breath away. Mr. Wiman himself, in an interview with the *New York Sun* reporter, admits that the proposition, if made, would be rejected by nine-tenths of the people of Canada; and when he countermanded his despatch, he may have learned that the committee had seen the futility of the course on which it was about to enter. But the fact that such a proposal was under consideration by the committee shows that there is in the Senate and among the people of the United States a desire to secure the annexation of Canada. This desire has before been manifested, at different times, though for the most part it has lain dormant, and only been called into activity by some exciting cause, such as the wars of independence and of 1812, and the issue of the annexation manifesto of Montreal, in 1849.

We do not agree with those who jump at the conclusion that the commercial union movement, to which we have been unable to give our assent, is identical with annexation, or was intended to lead to it. Men

who act together to attain a political object are generally moved more or less by different motives; and among commercial unionists, there are men who are in favor of and others who are opposed to annexation. Mr. Wiman has been liberally denounced as a traitor, upon grounds on which you would not execute a cat. Mr. Goldwin Smith has no fear of annexation, but he is the last man in the world to seek to attain an object by indirect methods. It cannot be denied that the worst thing that could happen to Canada would be to be dragged into the American Union, against her will, at the close of a war; and there are people who believe that annexation, sooner or later, is sure to come. Others, who watch the growth of the national sentiment, are at least equally convinced that Canada has before her a future of her own.

The position of Canada, on the continent, exposes her central government to numerous trials; trials which are but a repetition of what occurred, under different circumstances, in the United States, in the early days of the Republic. The fashion is, or was, to cultivate an exaggerated local patriotism, and in every emergency to threaten a disruption of the union, by the secession of this or that province. Through this experience, in all its forms up to civil war, the United States passed. The old American confederation hung loosely together; the federal constitution which followed drew the bonds closer. Nullification of federal laws obnoxious to local sentiment was tried by South Carolina, and for secession the whole armed South made a desperate stand. But on every occasion the central force, though inadequately organized, triumphed. The task of the Federal Government was made much easier by the absence of any contiguous power to which the malcontents could have hoped to appeal for aid. In the case of Canada, the conditions are entirely reversed. When any province makes up its mind to show its teeth, it throws out the hint that secession can be made possible to it by an appeal for aid to the United States, which presumably it would embrace the opportunity to join. These truculent threats constitute the vilest and the most aggravating mode of political warfare, of which honest annexationists are ashamed. The good faith of such tactics may well be doubted; but no adequate punishment can be inflicted on the creatures who indulge in them. There are no persons whom annexation would so effectually curb as these; once they were put in the strait jacket of the Federal Government of the United States, they would be harmless enough. Threats of secession would no longer serve as a resource for malignity, and they would effectually be put on their good behaviour.

Perhaps the time has passed when these tactics could be resorted to with any hope of effect. At present, they would certainly be unavailing, thanks to the good effect produced among our people by President Cleveland's retaliation policy. Local faction is hushed in the presence of a growing national sentiment. But it may break loose again.

Canada is in no mood to accept an invitation to annex herself to the United States.

And even if the public sentiment ran the other way, if the majority of the people favored union with the Republic, the difficulty of its accomplishment would be almost insuperable. A change of a nation's allegiance is a matter of such gravity as to make its calm discussion next to impossible. There is, in regard to annexation, a conspicuous absence of good faith; a large number of people cannot be got to express their real sentiments about it in public. But that a large majority of Canadians are opposed to annexation does not admit of doubt. At present it looks as if annexation, if it ever come, would come as the result of war; and this is the worst form in which it could come. The means taken to bring it about would be the direst calamity that could happen to Canada.

MINERAL STATISTICS.

We have received the complete report on the Mining and Mineral Statistics of Canada for the year 1887, being part "S" of the Annual Report of the Geological Survey. It is compiled by Eugene Coste, Mining Engineer to the Survey. In our issue of 4th May last we gave, from advance sheets, the value of mineral products raised in Canada that year, as far as ascertained by the Survey, and compared the return with that of 1886. The total value is placed at \$15,000,000. The figures have been revised, however, and alterations made sufficiently considerable to justify our printing the amended list.

SUMMARY OF THE MINERAL PRODUCTION OF CANADA IN 1887.

Name of Product.	Quantity.	Value.
Antimony ore.....tons	584	10,860
Arsenic....." "	30	1,200
Asbestos....." "	4,619	226,976
Baryta....." "	400	2,400
*Bricks.....thousands	181,581	996,689
*Building stone.....cub. yds.	262,593	562,267
Cement.....bbls.	69,843	81,909
Charcoal.....bush.	1,610,900	88,823
Chromic iron ore.....tons	38	870
Coal....." "	2,368,891	4,758,590
Coke....." "	40,428	135,951
Copper.....lbs.	3,260,424	342,345
*Fertilizer.....tons	198	25,943
*Flintstone.....sq. ft.	116,000	11,600
Gold.....ozs.	66,270	1,178,637
Granite.....tons	21,217	142,506
Graphite....." "	300	2,400
Grindstone....." "	5,292	64,008
Gypsum....." "	154,008	157,277
*Iron....." "	31,627	1,087,738
Iron ore....." "	76,330	146,197
Lead (fine, contained in ore).....lbs.	304,800	9,216
*Lime.....bush.	2,269,087	394,859
Limestone for iron flux.....tons	17,171	17,500
Manganese ore....." "	1,845	43,658
*Marble and serpentine....." "	242	6,224
Mica.....lbs.	22,083	29,816
*Mineral paint.....tons	100	1,500
*Miscellaneous clay products....." "		182,150
*Moulding sand.....tons	160	800
Ochre....." "	385	2,233
Petroleum (a) (bbls. of 35 imp. gals.)	763,933	595,868
Phosphate.....tons	23,690	319,815
Pig iron....." "	24,827	366,192
Platinum.....ozs.	1,400	5,600
Pyrites.....tons	38,143	171,194
Salt....." "	60,173	166,394
Silver.....tons	7,357	349,330
Slate.....tons	100	80,000
Soapstone....." "	7,393	381,199
Sulphuric acid.....lbs.	5,476,950	70,609
*Tiles.....thousands	14,658	230,068
Whiting.....tons	75	800
Estimated value of mineral products not returned.....	abt.	1,610,499
Total.....	abt.	\$15,000,000

*Incomplete.

(a) The total given by the direct returns from the refineries was finally adopted as the most correct.

Our exports of these products during the year are estimated at \$4,300,000 in value, and of these \$3,858,000 worth, or 78 per cent., has gone to the United States. The proportion