

We understand that it is the intention of those controlling the street railway of the city to introduce electricity as a motive power, and thus effect a considerable saving in the cost of operating the road as well as enabling the company to extend its lines to other parts of the city. The change is one that will meet with very general public approval, but it is assuredly time that such a remunerative enterprise as this railway should be in the hands of our citizens, and not have its head office in New York.

The truest commercial union exists between the Maritime Provinces, as can be seen by any one who has visited various sections of them. In Annapolis, Digby, Weymouth, Yarmouth and other western Nova Scotia towns, a lively trade is carried on with St. John, while the towns on the northern section of the I. C. Railway do a brisk business with Halifax. In the same way Charlottetown and Summerside carry on trade with their sister towns of the main-land. Commercial union being a fixed fact political union should soon follow, and with it would come that increased prestige in Dominion affairs which naturally results from a combination of our power. Sectional differences may defer but they cannot prevent ultimate union.

The English-speaking world is largely indebted to the obtrusiveness of American ingenuity and meddlesomeness for the numberless projects of interference by statute with personal liberty of action. The latest development of this craze is a suit by a Connecticut housekeeper against a neighbor for placing fly screens against his windows, thereby causing a greater number of flies to invade his house. The plaintiff's claim would seem to be that every family is bound to provide for its quota of flies, and that any one protecting himself from the nuisance raises the *pro rata* of the community, and especially that of his next door neighbors. It is perhaps worth while to draw attention to this detestably officious tendency to interference with individual liberties, though we have full confidence that the stability, right judgment and sound common sense of the Canadian mind will preserve our countrymen from giving way to similar mischievous and childish eccentricities.

There is no doubt that much trepidation and anxiety are inflicted on ignorant and superstitious persons by almost equally ignorant and much more presumptuous tyros in theology who seek notoriety—some of them perhaps believing the crude nonsense they ventilate—in wild prophecies of calamity and the final collapse of the world. If certain books were really veiled revelations of the purposes of God, they are so vague that it is folly to endeavor to unravel them. But the science of modern biblical criticism shows them in a different aspect. Millenarians go chiefly on the books of Daniel and Revelations, and their true character is now made abundantly evident. It would be well for many persons who are capable of forming something like a rational opinion to read Canon Farrar's "Early Days of Christianity," and some of the many enlightened expositions of the book of Daniel. This advice would not, it is true, at first affect the class of mind most easily influenced by the mischievous ignoramus, but knowledge must ever percolate from the more instructed downwards, and in time great masses whose minds are now liable to disturbance would become fortified by transmitted intelligence.

In reference to the operation of the law relative to sawdust it has been observed that the enactment is no new law. This remark is, however, scarcely correct, as the act originally applied to other kinds of mill rubbish, and the word "sawdust" was only inserted last year. The law as it now stands, however, has been variously enforced in other localities besides the LaHave River. We are not called upon to believe that the act is carried into effect against the Messrs. Davisons because they are Liberals, but rather, it may be reasonably supposed, on account of the large quantity of the vexed material turned into the river by that extensive firm; while it is stated that, in one case, tardiness in carrying out the orders of a fishery officer led to the prosecution of an influential Government supporter. It is further remarked that "the law is on the Statute Book, and it is the duty of the Government to enforce it." This is of course true, but the allowance of exemptions from its action cannot but induce ill-feeling and suspicion as to motives, and we fancy it could do no harm to accord the LaHave River a *modus vivendi* until a Parliamentary Committee, or a Royal Commission, shall have had the opportunity of receiving full evidence, and pronouncing something like an authoritative opinion.

THE CRITIC has repeatedly pointed out the fact that our trade with the South American States is capable of indefinite expansion, and that large profits may be expected to result therefrom. An opportunity has just arisen which we think should be seized upon and improved. A deputation from the Brazilian Government has arrived in Washington to confer with the United States Government with a view to forming closer trade relations between the two countries. It is not to be doubted that the nature of the arrangements about to be effected will in all probability be, if not directly detrimental, at least inimical to Canadian trade. It seems proper, therefore, that the business men of Canada should take some step, by appointing a delegation or otherwise as may be deemed best to wait upon or communicate with this Brazilian deputation, with a view to secure to Canada equal trading rights to those that may be conceded to the United States. If the deputation can be induced to visit Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, and other cities in Canada and become acquainted with our resources and facilities for carrying on trade with them a favorable impression we are sure may be made, and that is the best half of the battle. We import direct from Brazil annually sugar to the value of \$2,500,000, which has to be paid for in hard cash as we have no return trade, although we could export lumber, dried fish, flour, cotton goods, and produce, if the proper means were employed for establishing such an important trade connection.

The people of Switzerland, although displaying strong mechanical ability, have made few inventions of importance. This is no doubt due to their unsatisfactory patent laws, which offer but small reward to the inventor. In Canada our patent laws are far from satisfactory, but in the United States the patentee has the fullest protection, and as a consequence, the American patent office is one of the busiest of the department at Washington. It is but fair that the brains of the patentee should be paid for in addition to the profit of the manufacturer, and the sooner we recognize this in Canada the more prospect there is for our people to utilize their inventive faculties.

There is an apparent jealousy existing between some of the steamship lines plying between Nova Scotia ports and Boston. This feeling, it seems to us, is as unprovoked as it is foolish. We believe in the maxim of "Live and let live," and as there is room enough for the companies now doing business to make money and build up trade, the sooner a more friendly spirit is exhibited the better for all concerned. Halifax should be pleased to note the growth of Yarmouth enterprises, and Yarmouth should not wish to monopolize all the plums in the Provincial cake. Let the hatchets be buried, and let us work for the general advancement of our Province.

More than one death has been made public, arising from the wilful neglect of the fanatics who afford too full a credence to the efficiency of the so-called "Faith-cure" to resort to reasonable mundane methods of dealing with disease. No doubt faith does a great deal to fulfil its own vaticinations, but it is too often the negation of reason. It is satisfactory to note in this connection the publicly expressed sentiments and decision of Mr. Ferdinand Levy, a leading coroner of New York, which we unhesitatingly endorse. He writes to a local journal that "whenever death results from treatment by a Faith curist, prompt prosecution for manslaughter, if not wilful murder, should follow. I will promptly take up the first case in this county that is reported to the coroner's office, and will not only prosecute the Faith curist as principal, but will include, as accessories, those who called in the Faith curist or were instrumental in placing the murdered patient in his hands."

The gigantic bridge spanning the Firth of Forth is now almost completed. Its dimensions are enormous. Regarding its claim to be the Eighth Wonder of the World, it will be said that the Eiffel tower is a considerable rival. Comparisons, however, cripple the wonder of the Paris Exhibition. If one of the cantilevers of the bridge were set up on end it would nearly equal the Eiffel Tower in height, besides containing twice the amount of metal. The Forth Bridge will contain 50,000 tons of the finest steel: the Eiffel tower contains only 7,500 tons of iron. The bridge has been seven years in constructing; it is over a mile in length, and although not so long as the Tay Bridge, which slightly exceeds two miles, dwarfs the latter as regards height and general dimensions. The Forth Bridge has been made sufficiently high to allow the free passage of the largest vessels, and the supports are as high as St. Paul's. One who has seen the structure says the ironclad *Devastation*, which was passing under the bridge at the time, looked a perfect midget in comparison.

Great praise is due to Col. Blair for the admirable tone and matter of his speech on the opening of the recent Cumberland Exhibition at Amherst. Col. Blair is superintendent of the model farm, and is evidently the right man in the right place. After dwelling strongly on the evidences of increased and increasing prosperity ever, where observable, Col. Blair performs a plain duty in reminding our farmers that something yet remains for them to do, which he does in the following eloquent language:—"Now, if it is a fact that our trade and commerce have been increased, I ask have our farming interests kept pace with them. I am unable to say how it is in this county; but if we have fallen behind in the march of progress, it is entirely the fault of the farmers themselves. In talking with some of our farmers as to their modes of cultivation and the small area they cultivate in comparison with some other counties, I have met with the statement that to do so would find us without a market for the produce, and I consider it easier and better to raise and sell hay. I would like to distribute these persons of their error. I can go into shops in Amherst to-day and find on their shelves articles which our farmers might profitably raise, but which dealers have to obtain outside the county or perhaps the province to supply their customers. Instead of being troubled to find a market, the difficulty is to get the produce. Some of the articles referred to are raised elsewhere on land worth, a few years ago, but four or five dollars an acre. Yet some of our people who are so troubled about a market would feel insulted if I did not say that they have some of the best land in the world! Nowhere can be found 30,000 acres of such productive land as your great body of marsh, which for 150 years has given an undiminished yield. In no place are there greater natural advantages for farming. Would it not, then, be to our credit and to our advantage to farm better, and in this respect keep pace with other countries? I have touched upon these matters in the hope that they will cause reflection and an earnest consideration of the interests involved. I ask you to take advantage of the great resources placed within your reach upon the shores of this bay. Young men! don't be afraid to soil your boots and your clothes. Agriculture is an honorable occupation, and all honor be to him who aids in lifting it up to the level of other professions. When we think of being on the great highways of commerce across this continent with its bands of steel; when we find lines of steamers bringing the products of China and Japan directly to our country, so that they pass our very doors, shall we not be true to this Miss Canada? We have lived long enough in the old way. Then be true to yourselves and your interests; be true to your forefathers, through whose toil you have so goodly a heritage, and you will leave a name of which you need not be ashamed, and an inheritance for which your posterity will hold you in grateful remembrance."