

in Columbia, and who charges that a principal reason why American manufacturers have failed to secure the trade of the Columbians is that they have not taken the trouble to adapt their wares to the peculiar preferences of their customers. On the other hand, the British manufacturers, with the wisdom of the children of this world, have studied the wishes of the people, and have governed themselves accordingly. They make their goods of such form and patterns as they know the people prefer. Moreover, this same writer asserts that the business with the interior of South America involves giving long credits which the British manufacturer is enabled to grant through the favors which the natural banks confer. In this particular the American manufacturer can hardly hope to compete with his British rival, seeing that the banking institutions of America, being established on a different basis, would hardly deal as liberally as the British institutions. But whether or not this difficulty could be overcome is a question which time must be allowed to settle. Meanwhile it is interesting to witness the agitation at present going on.

Advices from the antipodes state that the New Zealand House of Representatives has rejected by a majority of twelve votes the Government's proposal to nominate delegates to the convention to be held to consider the question of the federation of the Australian Colonies. Why the scheme is not approved does not appear. Probably the reason alleged by the Governor of the island, when the matter was under discussion last winter, has had considerable influence in causing the adverse vote. "There are twelve hundred reasons," said the Governor, "why New Zealand should not enter the Confederation," meaning the 1200 miles by which the island is separated from Australia.

In addressing the Miller's Convention held in this city last week, Secretary Prewer presented a comparative statement of the wheat yields of the Dominion for 1889 and 1890 respectively. According to his figures the yield for 1890 is nearly thirteen million bushels greater than that of 1889, and that while it was found necessary to import 1,525,000 bushels of wheat last year there will probably be a surplus for export this year of over ten million bushels. Of this increase, Ontario is put down as furnishing 5,700,000 bushels, and Manitoba 7,000,000 bushels.

The report of Superintendent Hamilton re the water supply of the city shows that during the last two or three weeks the quality of this indispensable article has greatly improved. Between August 23 and September 5 the amount of organic impurity as per analytical tests declined from .56 to .15, which is somewhat surprising and will be accounted for by the fact that the water is now being drawn from the lower part of the lake.

Financial aid for the city of Toronto is being sought by the city council. The city council has decided to ask the provincial government for a loan of \$100,000 to be used for the purpose of improving the water supply. The city council has also decided to ask the provincial government for a loan of \$50,000 to be used for the purpose of improving the sewerage system. The city council has also decided to ask the provincial government for a loan of \$25,000 to be used for the purpose of improving the public works. The city council has also decided to ask the provincial government for a loan of \$12,500 to be used for the purpose of improving the public works.

The expenditure on capital account during the year was \$5,737,357. The net debt on August 31, 1890, was \$230,559,030, a decrease of debt in the twelve months of \$1,488,707. Considering the enormous size of the debt, a reduction of a million and a half does not appreciably lessen the burden which at that rate will still be pressing in some measure the shoulders of our descendants of the seventh or eighth generation. However, it is a movement in the right direction, and though small is preferable to having the balance on the other side of the ledger.

Apocryphal of the revenue it is interesting to note that the receipts from the operations of the post-office show decline during the year. This is what was predicted when Mr. Haggart proposed to increase the charges upon registered letters and double the rate upon drop letters. It was argued in the House by the opponents of the measure that the increase would have the effect of lessening the business, and that the English experience is that low rates favor the revenue, because they increase the business. The decline since 1888 is \$394,000 the post-office revenue that year being \$2,751,000 while last year it was only \$2,357,000.

That the old barriers which separated the different sections of evangelical Christianity are giving way and a spirit of brotherliness taking the place of that bitter hostility, which was once so common, are facts in which Christians everywhere must rejoice. The spirit of union is abroad and prompting to words and deeds which would at one time have been regarded little less than treasonable. Even that section of the Protestant Church which all along has manifested the least disposition to fraternize with others is yielding to the influence of the hour. Its highest dignitary has declared that there is a real yearning for unity, and that men's hearts are moved more than heretofore toward Christian fellowship. Only a few months ago two prominent Episcopalian clergymen were present at the installation of Dr. Lyman Abbott, who during the Lenten season gave a Lenten address at St. George's Church, New York. Certainly these are new things under the sun. It would be a mistake, however, to suppose that these are typical cases of a liberality which is universally felt, or that the difficulties are all removed. Even those churches that have come most nearly together in the exercise of the fraternal spirit, e.g., the Presbyterians and Methodists, are still separated by differences, doctrinal or other, which many believe will long remain to keep the bodies organically distinct, though they may, and probably will, ere long practically unite their forces against the common enemy. Then, as to the union of the Church of England with the churches which contend for the single order in the Ministry, the Episcopate threatens to wreck any scheme that may be proposed. On this question President McCosh, of Princeton College, says: "There will be a general aversion to the Historic Episcopate, as it is understood by the Churches. Churches not Episcopal interpret it to mean that their ministers must be reordained before they can be admitted into the united Church. From a large acquaintance with the Churches of America, I know, as a matter of fact, that the body of the non-Episcopal churches are prepared to submit to what it is utterly necessary for them to do so." The Episcopate, on the other hand, is already becoming more and more determined to maintain its position. The result is that the union of the Churches is still a distant prospect.

At the Trades Union Congress recently held in Liverpool, a resolution, directing the Parliamentary committee of the Congress to take measures to introduce a bill in Parliament to enforce an eight-hour day in all trades, was passed by a slight majority. On the face of it this would seem to indicate a rapidly growing sentiment in favor of an eight-hour day, inasmuch as at their Congress a year ago the idea found comparatively little favor, being overborne by the opinion that the hours of labor should be regulated in each trade by mutual agreement on the part of employers and the employed. But a look under the surface reveals the fact that the resolution does not express the preponderating sentiment of the workmen throughout the Kingdom. On the one hand the champions of an eight-hour day took pains to secure the fullest possible representation at the Congress, while those opposed to the curtailment of working hour, in all trades appear to have rested on their signal victory of a year ago. That the workmen are not prepared for so sweeping a measure is evident from the report presented at last congress, by which it was shown that out of 1200 unions invited by circular to say whether they desired an eight-hour day, only thirty-seven made any returns at all; and that in the thirty-seven responding societies, which had an aggregate membership of 178,000 the number of members voting for eight hours was 39,000, while the number against the proposal was 67,000. These facts are known to Parliament, which is not likely to grant the prayer of the resolution until steps have been taken to secure a more exhaustive and trustworthy poll of all the workmen in every trade. Nor is it likely that even then a law universally binding will be passed; if it shall be found that the members of any particular trade are very generally opposed to such a law. In such cases justice demands that legislation on the subject would exempt the objectors from the operation of the law, otherwise, it may be expected that with workmen and employers opposed to the law, an evasion of the statute would inevitably follow.

Rev. Dr. Blaikie, writing to the *Presbyterian Review* of his recent visit to Canada, says that he has been trying to correct the misapprehension of his countrymen respecting our glorious country, the extent of whose territory they had never rightly conceived until told that the Maritime Provinces were larger than the United Kingdom, that Quebec was equal to Spain, Ontario to France, Manitoba to Holland, and British Columbia to Austria, and that if the North-West Territories were not quite equal to Russia they were capable of maintaining as large a population. This is no new story, though it must be confessed it is somewhat annoying to find these people, whom we regard as being so greatly interested in us, entertaining such erroneous views concerning us and our country. And the worst of it is that even the educated are not clear in the matter—the persons of whom Dr. Blaikie speaks being the members of the Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland. Passing on, Dr. Blaikie says "one other piece of information made a conspicuous impression—that in Ontario all public-houses and liquor shops are closed from seven o'clock on Saturday night to six o'clock on Monday morning." Then to illustrate the advantage of such closing, he cites the testimony of a Toronto labor employer "that before the early shutting he used to have many calls and complaints from the wives of his workmen that their husbands were wasting their earnings in the public-house on Saturday nights: since the early closing he had not had one." Others besides Dr. Blaikie have been impressed with the superiority of our License Law which is generally conceded to be equal to if not superior to any measure of the kind in the world.

Sarnia is at length an accomplished fact. Considering the peculiar difficulties that had to be overcome, difficulties that would have utterly discouraged ordinary men, and the fact that subaqueous tunnelling has not been particularly successful in the past, this latest achievement must be reckoned among the greatest triumphs of modern engineering science. A detailed account of all that has happened since the work was first begun, of the experiments that have been tried and the difficulties that have been encountered, while interesting as a romance would be sufficient to fill a volume. The following facts are gleaned from the accounts furnished by the *Mail*:

"The total length of the tunnel is 6,000 feet, of which 2,290 feet are under the river and the remainder under dry land. The maximum depth of the river is forty feet. The length of the tunnel under dry land on the Canadian side is 1,994 feet, on the American side 1,716 feet. The length of the open cutting and approaches on the Canadian side will be 3,100 feet, on the American side 2,500 feet, making the tunnel and approaches a total length of 11,600 feet. The amount of soil excavated is 2,100,400 cubic feet. The cast-iron lining will weigh 55,963,600 pounds, secured by 2,000,000 steel bolts seven-eighths of an inch in diameter. The walls of the tunnel are constructed of cast-iron segments, thirteen of which and a key form a circle. The dimensions of each cast iron segment are, length 4 feet 10 inches, width 18 inches, thickness 2 inches, with langes inside 6 inches deep and 12 inches in thickness. These segments are cast with 32 holes in them, 12 on each side and four on each end. The edges are planed in the workshops at the works. They are then heated and dipped in coal tar, from which they come out black and shining. They are bolted together with 2 steel bolts, and the external diameter of the tunnel is 21 feet and the inside 20 feet. No brick or stone was used in its construction, and when fully ready for use it will be simply an iron tube made of plates 6,000 feet long and 20 feet in diameter, perfectly round and water-tight; as dry as a street in summer time, lighted by electric light, ventilated by air engines, and kept at the right temperature with steam pipes."

Eleven delegates, representing the tenant farmers throughout Great Britain, and sent cut by Sir Charles Tupper at the expense of the Dominion Government, are at present visiting in this country. Chosen with a fair regard to the probable weight which would attend their utterances amongst the communities in which they live—being chairman and members of Boards of Guardians and experienced agriculturists—they have come to inquire thoroughly into the farming capabilities of the provinces in general and the western provinces in particular. They are expected to note all they see and present a report on their return. Thus far the impression, they have formed of the country are exceedingly favorable. In a few days they will proceed to the north west where, it may be presumed the bursting granaries will satisfy them in respect to the capabilities of that almost limitless country. Indeed, they will be hard to please if they do not take back with them a glowing account of the advantages which Canada offers as a field for farming settlement, as well as of its resources and general condition. This idea of sending out men from among themselves, men whom they know and whom they can trust to bring a faithful report, is a wise one. Hitherto the difficulty appears to have been to get a fair and impressive view of the capabilities of the country before the British people. They have either not been told of what our country could produce, or have doubted the accuracy of the report. Now they will have no reason to suspect the accounts that they will hear. Consequently, it is not too much to expect that upon the return of these delegates there will be a more satisfactory immigration to this country of that desirable class of settlers, viz., experienced farmers with sufficient capital to give them a start in the North-West.

Those who have been troubled with doubts

the tunnel under the St. Clair river at