

English and Norwegian bottoms, with the balance rising steadily in favour of the Norwegian. For example, the number of vessels that entered flying the English flag was 317 in 1884, as against 306 in 1885, showing a decrease of eleven vessels. Those bearing the Norwegian flag in 1884 amounted to 204, while in 1885 the number had increased to 239, so that, practically, the carrying-trade of the port is surely passing into the hands of the thrifty Norwegian, and how this has come to pass curiously illustrates the interdependence of one industry upon another. It appears that after Mr. Plimsoll's success in passing his now well-known Act, a very large number of perfectly seaworthy vessels were condemned and sold at merely nominal prices; and as they were bought up, in almost every instance, by Norwegians, the result is that we have the self-same vessels plying between Quebec and Liverpool that formerly carried the English flag and were manned by English sailors, but are now flying the Norwegian or Swedish colours, and are manned by Norwegian sailors. Strange to say, this change has not proved advantageous to Quebec, for the Norwegian is frugality itself, and he differs as widely from his English brother of "the deep" as chalk from cheese. Fish is his staple article of food, and this he brings with him from home, and in port he confines himself to his ship; he does not drink nor spend his money foolishly, and in every respect he is a model sailor, having as little disposition to spend his money in Quebec as in the middle of the Atlantic. Of course the Quebec traders denounce him, and declare—truly enough, I dare say—that he does very little for the business of the port. It is deserving of attention, however, that he does a great deal more than our French friends from the other side of the Atlantic, who sent us just one ship as against three in 1884.

As we approach the meeting of Parliament, it is not improbable that an effort will be made to revive the drooping fortunes of the hungry Rouge and the not less hungry Bleu or Castor. What we all want here is place and money, for which, to tell the truth, we are prepared to make almost any patriotic sacrifice. Long practice has made the average Quebec politician a veritable expert at the popular game of "grab"; in his own estimation, at least, he plays it with an acuteness that is perfectly machiavellian in all its details, rendering an apprehension of his true motives next to impossible; and he is in this respect so entirely self-satisfied he quite forgets that he is all the time going about with his visor down. I think it was the late Sir George Cartier that said it was more convenient, and in the end less expensive, to buy his opponents in this Province than to fight them. Perhaps Sir George was not so far wrong after all, and it certainly betrayed on his part a keen insight into the methods that dominate the political interest of the Province of Quebec. Sham patriotism, a good deal of sham religion, and a still larger proportion of sham virtue, are about the chief ingredients in the composition of the average politician. His florid rhetoric constitutes his whole working capital, and the simple-minded *habitant* of the rural districts, who lives in blissful ignorance of politics, supplies the necessary voting force which enables the orator to work his way to the public chest. It is to be feared that political honesty is neither understood nor appreciated among us as it ought to be, and I am sorry to believe that the condition of things is not improving. The resignation of the Hon. Mr. Joly is the severest defeat sustained by the so-called Liberal party in this Province for many a long day; but it may be said that the resignation of Mr. Watts, the able member for Drummond and Arthabaska, has converted a defeat into a rout. Both the gentlemen referred to have large private means, and, therefore, unlike the progressive politician, are not under any financial necessity to cause them to fashion their opinions in harmony with varying popular fancies. I believe the English-speaking Liberals will either vote against their party or abstain from voting altogether. The French Liberals have now a grand opportunity of organizing a solid Rouge party without any English admixture whatever; they appear in the first instance to have selected Mr. Chas. Langelier as their standard-bearer in Lotbinière, and it is safe to say that one more in harmony with present political aspirations could hardly have been chosen. For reasons, however, Mr. Langelier has been abandoned. Speaking of Mr. Watts' resignation, we were authoritatively informed that "the French Liberals felt surprised." Of course this feeling was intelligible because Mr. Watts' action runs counter to all the political traditions which have grown around the party within the past few years, and bespeaks a conscientiousness which was totally unexpected in their ranks, and any politician subject to these inconvenient qualms of conscience is not to be depended upon; therefore "the Liberals feel disgusted at these tactics, and are more than ever determined to send in future *their own nationality* to Parliament." Precisely so; and when we go before the other Provinces of Confederation we will point to the excessive liberality dealt out to the English minority, provided always that its members happen to be above the objectionable weakness of conscientious and independent political

action. Your readers may perceive that, to coin a word for the occasion, the "grabbists" are purging themselves from even the suspicion of honesty, a suspicion, let it be frankly confessed, not entertained by one in ten thousand. The English-speaking minority have only to withdraw for a little, and their revenge will be complete; in the meantime we wish the Liberal movement every success. It is the beginning of the end.

THE air is full of rumours of new papers to be started here in support of this party and the other. Some of the rumours appear very much like a senseless and unmeaning joke, but they obtain currency and we cannot help taking notice of them. It is tolerably certain that French politicians cannot afford to spend money subsidizing newspapers that nobody would read, and whose influence in political warfare would simply be *nil*. Other people who are credited with journalistic intentions have not got the money, and altogether we suspect that it is an ingenious bid, and made in the personal interest of a few "knowing ones," in the vain hope that somebody will be foolish enough to buy up these literary Goliaths even before their birth. So long as an agitation requires nothing but lung power the French-Canadian is willing enough to supply it; but he objects very strongly to help with "the sinews of war"; "that is not in his line," as a gentleman once remarked to the writer. Even the terrible patriotic outburst over the death of Riel, which threatened instant destruction to everybody, was not a financial success: for example, when the great meeting was held in Montreal in Notre Dame Church, under the auspices of the St. Jean Baptiste Society, four thousand people were present, including Senator Trudel, Hon. Louis Beaudet, J. O. Dupuis, President of the Society, and others, and the choir, under Charles Labelle, consisted of five hundred voices, and yet with all the attractions, including "Senator Trudel" and a choir of five hundred voices, the collection made for the laudable purpose of saying masses for the repose of Riel's soul amounted to \$52.36, or about one cent per head including "Senator Trudel"; and as if to show the utter hollowness and hypocrisy of the recent agitation, we are now assured that funds for the unfortunate family of Riel are slowly coming in, and up to date the committee in Montreal have collected \$490! Great Trudel! What a cheap patriot! \$490! Truly the mountain has laboured and brought forth a mouse.

NEMO.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE CHINESE LABOURER.

IN the January *Overland Monthly* Mr. H. Shewin discusses two articles that had previously appeared in the same magazine respecting the Wyoming Riots and the general question of the exclusion of the Chinese. Mr. Shewin puts in an able plea for the Chinese, contending that the discrimination against them is neither wise nor just. He maintains that there is need of reviewing the evidence on which such discrimination is based; and toward such a review he contributes something of his own observation of the Chinese labourer. He offers it for what it is worth: it may, he says, be exceptional; but it is not exclusively one person's experience, for he takes into consideration the experience of all others whom he has talked with. It covers a residence of some twenty years in a farming neighbourhood on the Pacific Coast, where, though himself engaged otherwise than in farming, he has been in a position to observe closely the labourers on the ranches about him. From his observations we select a few passages that may prove of interest to our readers:

In the first place, I have learned that there are Chinamen and Chinamen. As well judge the Maine farmer lad by the New York city Arab, as the well-bred, honest, steady young fellow from the rice-farms up the river from Canton by the Hong Kong street coolie or dock-rat. Most people are quite without discrimination in selecting a Chinese workman, and seem to think it is pure luck whether they get a clear-skinned, bright-eyed boy, modest, intelligent, and trustworthy, or a hard-looking old opium smoker.

These farmers' boys are self-respecting fellows. They will not take insulting treatment, nor even rough jokes; they will not bear aggressions on their personal dignity. I have known one of them to leave a place because some article of food was locked up from him, on the ground that there was only enough to go round the family; yet he would, probably, if nothing had been said to him, have estimated that some one must go without, and silently refrained from taking any himself, as I have often known them to do, even when it was a favourite dish. Many a household has been suddenly deprived of its very satisfactory cook, because some one had mocked him rudely, or put hands on him roughly. It is worth while to note this, in view of the popular idea that a Chinaman will go anywhere and endure anything for money. On the contrary, many of this class of Chinamen will throw up a paying position, and remain some time out of work sooner than receive indignity. In other cases they submit, but you have a sullen, silent servant, evidently enduring you with difficulty, regarding you as a low-bred person, much his inferior, to whom circumstances compel him temporarily to be subject. There is almost none of the fierce resentment of Indian or Spaniard about them; they do not desire to stab an employer