

the prayers were over. Better fifty times do away with the Chaplain and prayers, than perpetuate this annual solemn farce and mockery of religion in high places! There was an apparent air of satire even in the grouping of the various classes of spectators, and the fat little gentleman who rejoices in the splendid title and uniform of Usher of the Black Rod, and who looks after the accommodation of the guests, I fear betrayed a bit of waggishness in that behalf on the present occasion. Now, the Ottawa clergy, both Roman and Protestant, have of late been denouncing with unwonted vigor the customs of what is known in Canada as polite society, notably that which sanctions paucity of feminine attire in the ball-room and other public places; and, lo! here I saw prelate and parson surrounded with a perfect galaxy of semi-nude beauty,—a setting, it would seem, smacking rather more of the earth, earthy, than became these jewels who are expected to shine in the hereafter! More than this, these heavenly-minded beings did not seem to be at all alarmed at their propinquity to the subjects of their pulpit philippics, but on the contrary, by their hand-shakings and beaming smiles of recognition, apparently regarded the lack of clothing exhibited by the fair members of their respective congregations as quite the proper thing, and not at all meriting consideration in their scheme of moral censorship. *O te, vpora, O Mores!*

Although the official military staff which surrounded the vico-regal throne contained some officers of distinguished bearing, there was one of the number whose grandiose posture and general air of importance well nigh proved too much for my resistances. He is a stout gentleman with the voice of a Stentor, who trolls a ponderous bass in one of the city choirs, and everywhere else when occasion offers for him to lift up his voice. He was completely overwhelmed with the magnificence of his position in the Chambers, and such was his excitement that I momentarily expected him to give vent to his musical powers and bawl out a bar or two of "Coronation," or "Old Hundred," to the great hazard of the nerves of those present. The event, however, passed off without a vocal explosion from this interesting son of Mars.

The Speech from the Throne presented but a meagre legislative bill of fare for the session, and was read by His Excellency first in English and then in French, and I feel that I pay a tribute to his patriotism and truly British character when I say that he pronounces his French just like a native—Englishman. This ended the programme of the opening ceremonies, and the vast assemblage dispersed, every man to his own home.

Query.—Would not the Canadian people be content without all this vain attempt at grandeur and travesty upon the customs and traditions of the Imperial Parliament. I think our public affairs generally could be conducted in a much more appropriate and inexpensive way than at present, and the dignity of the executive and our constitutional rights be yet conserved. What party will be the first to make a move in the right direction? Ottawa. DIXIE.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

The newest thing in box stoves, is that being introduced by A. Robb & Sons, Amherst, N. S., which not only has the top to swing, but has two boiler holes with a moveable centre piece.

The A. Christie Wood-Working Co., of St. John, N. B., employ some 30 hands, and pay out \$9,000 a year in wages. The factory is equipped throughout with the latest improved machinery of American manufacture. The facilities for turning out kiln dried lumber, which is so necessary to first-class work, are unsurpassed, their dry-room being the largest and best in New Brunswick. They manufacture doors, sashes, blinds, church altars, pews, etc., and have, in connection with their factory, a large paint shop, for glazing sashes, painting altars, etc. Goods are shipped to all parts of the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and Australia.

A friend recently returned from Dayton, Ohio (population 53,000) reports 700 factories flourishing in that town. None of these factories are on a gigantic scale, but all are doing well, and the aggregate of labor employed is tremendous; while the town is rapidly growing, and all real estate is at a premium. In Halifax, we have abundant wealth, a magnificent position, and all other requirements for a manufacturing town of the first magnitude; but we have got into a groove, and apparently nothing will get us out of it. If Halifax business men and capitalists could be induced to devote even a small portion of their time and money to the establishment of a number of moderate sized factories, instead of embarking it all in shipping, insurance and banking, the effect upon the prosperity of the town would be immediate and marked. Small hardware, locks, hinges, etc., gasfittings, lead pipe, and a large variety of articles, which are imported at a duty of 25 to 30 per cent, could all be manufactured in Halifax under careful direction; while the establishment of a small paper mill to use up the old junk now shipped to New Brunswick would, if economically managed, pay a fair dividend even from the city and provincial trade.

Price & Shaw, builders of fine carriages and sleighs, whose extensive premises are situated on Main street, Portland, St. John, N. B., have been carrying on business since the year 1835. They have suffered severely from fires, having been burnt out several times, but have always raised the business "Phoenix-like from its ashes." Their last fire occurred on the 22nd May, 1877, but they immediately re-built, purchased the most modern machinery, and have added anything that has proved a success in their line of business as it was required. Thirty-five hands are steadily employed the year round; and last year (which, owing to local failures and the "Maritime Bank") was an exceptionally bad one, they built 120 carriages, farm wagons

and hearses, and about 20 sleighs and sleds, besides attending to a very large repairing trade. We have before us a very neat illustrated catalogue issued by the firm showing some 30 different styles of vehicles manufactured by them. Intending purchasers would do well to write for this, as it contains many designs suitable to the Halifax trade.

Apple River, Cumberland County, is evidently prospering, and we append the following synopsis of what has been done in the business line by some of its enterprising men. Isaac Spicer will have about eight hundred thousand feet of lumber cut, and will be able to fill orders for planed flooring, clapboards, shingles, planed pine clapboard, pine and spruce shingles, laths, frames, shelf boards, trunnels, etc. C. F. White has about 100 men and 40 spans of horses at work, and will have about eight million feet of lumber to saw next summer. There will be about 24 cargoes of piling, cut by different parties, shipped from Apple River to New York.

The Bell Cigar Factory, of St. John, N. B., at present (the duldest season of the year) employs forty hands, and is running on full time. Since commencing the manufacture of cigars in 1884, their output has been as follows:—1884, 250,000 cigars; 1885, 480,000; 1886, 620,000; 1887, 1,070,000. The steady increase of their business is attributable to careful selection of raw leaf, which is imported direct from Havana. The special attention given to high-class goods, judicious advertising, and a regulation of profits that keeps the upper Canadian cigar manufacturers in a desirable degree out of the market. A large number of their cigars are smoked by the Haligonian lovers of the "weed." The credit for the extensive business that is done in this city largely belongs to their enterprising agent, Mr. M. H. Ruggles. Their cigars are also responsible for the fragrance that sometimes permeates the atmosphere of Sherbrooke, Quebec and Montreal, in which cities they have quite a satisfactory business, all things considered.

PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW.

DOMINION.—Importers are well satisfied with the assurances of the Government that no changes in the tariff will be made during the present session, and the business of the year will have none of the uncertainties that have characterized former spring importations. Owing to the increased use of opium in British Columbia the members from that Province are advocating a restrictive duty, and it would appear time that strong measures were adopted to stamp out the use of opium, seeing that the importation of that drug has increased six fold in the past few years. The report of the department of the interior shows that the actual number of persons settling upon homesteads in the North-West Territories was greater in the last than in the preceding year. This is encouraging, as the fertility of the country avails little without a hardy population to turn this fertility to account. A movement is now on foot to induce the Government to purchase all the telegraph lines within the Dominion, but it is not thought probably that any action will be taken this session. In Great Britain the telegraphic system is owned and controlled by the Government, and the public have the advantage of a cheap and efficient service. Commercial union or unrestricted trade with the United States has been adopted by the members of the Opposition in the House of Commons as a new plank in the Liberal party's platform. It is gratifying to note that the leaders of the Liberal party have at length decided upon a definite policy, and should they have the courage of their convictions, the next great political fight will be made over a question which Conservative journals have rather hastily pronounced a "fad." The trusts, rings, or combines, such as those that have been established to raise the price of sugar and cotton, are likely to come in for a pretty severe wiggling from the select parliamentary committee which has been appointed to investigate their methods for putting up prices and putting down production, but these combinations can afford to smile on the lecturers upon commercial morality so long as parliament takes no measures to make such trusts illegal. Some reforms in the conduct of our railways are likely to result from the report of the railway commission, the recommendations of which have been very generally adopted by the Government and embodied in the proposed new railway act. A light March breeze was started in the House of Commons by the Hon. Mr. Laurier taking the Speaker to task for having dismissed three French translators without the permission of the Commons. Sir John appeared willing to support the action of the Speaker, which he claimed was, under the circumstances, both justifiable and expedient. Sir Charles Tupper, Minister of Finance, has made a new departure in the general routine of parliamentary proceeding by bringing down the estimates early in the session, and thus allowing the members an opportunity of carefully examining the same before the budget speech is made. The following are the estimates of expenditure of the year commencing July 1st, 1888, and ending July 1st, 1889:—

Interest on public debt....	\$11,875,381	Ocean and river service..	207,000
Charges of management.....	185,018	Lighthouse coast service..	586,360
Civil government.....	1,304,524	Scientific institutions.....	61,250
Administration of justice.....	686,524	Marine hospitals, etc.....	62,000
Police.....	16,500	Steamboat inspection.....	25,000
Penitentiaries.....	352,331	Fisheries.....	375,500
Legislation.....	709,080	Superintendence insurance	8,500
Art, agriculture, statistics	147,950	Subsidies to provinces...	4,188,454
Immigration.....	116,389	Geological survey.....	60,000
Quarantine.....	78,864	Indians.....	1,005,702
Pensions, superannuations	336,391	Northwest police.....	748,426
Militia.....	1,326,500	Miscellaneous.....	475,189
Rivers and canals, income.	273,850	Customs.....	854,430
Public works, income....	1,755,350	Excise.....	351,627