

have been suddenly struck with the cruelty of killing seals at sea, and think that all sea-going seals should be reserved for the pleasure of being slaughtered on their return to the American Islands. Before the Paris tribunal of arbitration we heard of the shocking immorality of killing seals at sea; but the arbitrators did not accept the new moral code, which was presented with so much unction. Canadians, we may say, have not yet been converted to the new sealing humanitarian morality. We have an old-fashioned notion that killing seals, whether on sea or land, is part of the inheritance of the dominion given in primitive times to man over the rest of the animal creation. But we are prepared to respect the contrite view of our tender-conscienced neighbors; and we should be ready to bless Congress for leaving all the seals to us, if we did not know that they will send their sealers, under our flag, to do what their consciences will not permit them to do, under their own.

For some time past the attention of the whole world has been rivetted on what is going on on the coast of China. That Russia desired a port far enough south not to be ice-bound, for her great Siberian railway, has long been known, and that she was at liberty to occupy such port without protest from England was no secret. Now when she occupies Port Arthur no one is taken by surprise. At the outset her press declares, with brutal frankness, that the occupation will be permanent. Germany comes forward and seizes another Chinese port, on pretence of seeking compensation for the murder of two of her subjects, who went to China in the character of missionaries. She made the seizure before she made the claim. The pretext is the thinnest of disguises. France, jealous of Germany, takes a finger in the pie, equally without notice and without leave seized the island of Hai-Nan. The first reports represented, as usual, that England was shut out, isolated, and given the cold shoulder all round, when all at once comes a rumor that a British fleet of twenty vessels has reached Port Hamilton, and is beside a Japanese fleet of equal number. The object of the demonstration is to back a protest against the dismissal of a British financial agent for Corea, and the appointment of a Russian in his place. Japan fully concurs in the British demand for the restoration of the English agent. The menaces of a partition of China have a cold-blooded aspect and no foundation of right. If, like Turkey, China had given provocation for such treatment, the menaces would have some semblance of justice; in the actual circumstances they have none. Canada, with one coast on the Pacific, may look forward to the building up of a considerable trade with China, and any partition of that country would give us several countries to deal with, where there is now but one. In this respect, our interests in China are the same as those of England and the United States. When England acquires foreign territory, she leaves the whole world to trade with it on the same conditions as she does herself. For this reason, the nations with two scales in the tariffs of their foreign possessions can never become general favorites; it is this fact that makes Germany, with its single tariff, less objectionable as the holder of foreign territory, than France with her double scale, reaching out to all her possessions.

A great trust has been formed to supply New York with milk. It has obtained control of 800 wholesale and 200 retail dairies; 1,500 red and gilded wagons, with rubber tires and floor tanks, air-tight and dust proof, will daily distribute 950,000 quarts of lactial fluid. As one journal remarks, "the milk trust is a fine and clear example" of a distributing trust, capable of indefinite extension in other directions. There is no denying that this is the way the

world is going and is likely to continue to go. If promises be realized, New York will be better served under the Milk Trust than at present, and at lower prices. Of these promises, the first is likely to be realized; of the second, it may, with so much past Trust experience before us, be permitted to doubt. There is, perhaps, nothing in which so great a proportionate saving can be made as in a monopoly delivery of milk. Milk delivery is a standing illustration which the Socialists are never tired of quoting, to show the wastefulness of present methods. But while they are talking, the trusts of the old pattern are acting. The creation of a huge milk trust emphasizes the fact, in a way to make a decided impression, that the methods of the Trusts and the Socialists are absolutely identical in the main features, the difference being that the Trust is capitalistic, and the other plan socialistic. Does it follow that the Trust will prove to be the forerunner of a socialistic regime? That is the problem of which the next century may bring the solution.

OUR FOREIGN TRADE.

Ottawa authorities have about completed their returns for the trade of the Dominion for the year ending June 30th, 1897. The value of imports during that period is about the same as in the previous year; the revenue, however, shows a falling off, while the exports show a remarkable expansion, the result of higher prices for farm products and a larger volume of trade. The total imports entered for consumption were \$111,294,021, as against imports of \$110,587,480 the preceding year. The duty collected amounted to \$19,891,997, as against \$20,219,037, a decrease of \$327,040. The rate of duty remains almost without change, standing at an average 17.8 per cent. if spread over the aggregate imports, or 30 per cent. if only the dutiable imports are considered.

The distribution of our trade still continues unsatisfactory, from the standpoint of those who appreciate the advantage of commercial relations with Great Britain. During the year we purchased goods in the United States amounting to a total value of \$61,649,041 or \$8,075,028 in excess of the previous year; while in Great Britain we bought goods valued at \$29,412,188, a decrease of \$8,567,554 as compared with 1895-96. Notwithstanding this unequal distribution of Canadian purchases, Great Britain took of our exports \$69,533,852, while the United States received commodities valued at \$48,991,485. The balance of trade in 1896-7 as between Canada and Great Britain is in Canada's favor by \$40,121,664 for the year. As between Canada and the United States, it is in favor of the Americans by \$17,657,556.

It remains to be seen what effect the preferential tariff may have upon our trade relations with these two countries. If anything can be said on economic grounds in favor of building artificial trade channels it would seem reasonable to believe that while creating a temporary disadvantage it is bound, in the course of time, to be a source of benefit to Canadian trade. According to the statistics of the Government, upon the total imports of British goods there was collected duty to the amount of \$6,205,367, an average rate of 21 per cent.; upon total imports from the United States the sum of \$8,147,075, an average rate of but 13 per cent., while upon the dutiable portion of imports the average duty on American imports was only about 26 per cent., as against 30 per cent. on imports from Great Britain.

That the exports from this country in the fiscal year 1896-97 exceeded those of the previous year by \$17,581,086, amounting to an aggregate of \$128,959,888 in value, is a cause for general satisfaction. Compared with 1895-