

We again wrote Mr. Bilodeau, asking him to give us a proper statement, showing the assets, liabilities, cost of distribution, list of creditors, etc., and in reply we received the enclosed letter, which speaks for itself. We are sending it on to you, thinking it may interest your readers, because so many people now are assigning to local lawyers or assignees all over the country, and it is simply impossible to get a satisfactory report from the assignee. Kindly return the letter if you have no use for it.

This sort of thing is going right on in Ontario, to say nothing of the North-West.

Truly yours,

E. BOISSEAU.

Toronto, 13th October, 1905.

Here follows the letter to which Mr. Boisseau refers. It is brief, and very, very cool. Possibly, however, Mr. Bilodeau considers that he is not paid for sympathy, so he does not waste any. Also, that he is under no obligation to go into particulars about costs, as distinguished from the bill of sale. It is well that the claim was so small as \$82.65, else it might have been worth while to exact a little more information from this assignee.—[Ed. M. T.]

Cocagne, N.B., Oct. 9, 1905.

E. Boisseau & Co.

Sirs,—In regard of estate of D. L. Goguen:

Amount of sale.....	\$235 74
Bill of sale and cost.....	200 65

Leaving	\$ 34 09
Amount of claims.....	\$566 30

I hope you will understand now where your money has been lost.

M. BILODEAU.

NORTH OF ENGLAND LETTER.

Perhaps readers will supply their own explanations of a common matter of fact. One has noted how people here exclaim: "But how he has improved!" whenever one of their kin returns from Canada for a sojourn with his own folk, or when a really informative letter from him is received. There may be exceptions. A few immigrants may improve none, or may even change for the worse in the new land. But we, who are able to make comparison, find that physical, mental and material progress is the rule with them. The case is the same with city as with country people, and in all stations of life. Men who seem to have sucked life dry in this country return from Canada humanized and rejuvenated. What the secret is, and whether it is a Canadian possession exclusively, one does not pretend to say. Suffice it to note the fact, and to turn it over to philosophers to digest. Certainly the influence of the Canadian spirit on the mind has very important effects upon business.

Between the Crockville Convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and the Brick Lane branch of the United Grand Junction Ebenezer Temperance Association there is at least a certain kinship in name. The resolution of the Crockville convention, avowing loyalty to the British Trades Union Congress and its opposition to the Chamberlain programme has been duly published. What the representative quality of the Canadian Congress may be one does not know, although one has had opportunity to assess its British counterpart at its right value. Lately the British Congress has gained weight in politics. Whether it will lose power now that it becomes more definitely socialistic remains to be seen. In the airiest manner the delegates trade votes between themselves which aggregate to millions, and profess to register the opinions of the masses. As a matter of fact, the British Congress represents little more than the opinions of a few paid and unpaid officials. Some of these are men of capacity and some are mere wind-bags. In any case, none of them has

the right to speak authoritatively for the shadowy hundreds of thousands of votes in the background; and the English artisan is not the man to have his opinion cut and dried for him by the leaders of his trade associations.

Severe things have been said about Professor Mavor's report on the North-West by Mr. W. L. Griffith, the Secretary to the High Commissioner. Those who are opposed—to use their own words—to the project of making Canada "almost the sole granary of England" base their objection on climatic possibilities rather than on doubts of Canada's capacity in normal years. They speak of failures of crops, and hint at threatenings of starvation for us "even in times of peace." Perhaps this sort of talk is not exactly ingenuous. And though it may happen some day that the States and Japan will gain free entrance to Canada's corn, those contingencies are not immediate. However, our little Englishers are warming themselves with the hope that the Dominion will eventually be able to get better prices for grain in other countries than in this one. The unselfishness is so beautiful that one regrets to find it tinged with political coloring.

The physical degeneration of large masses of people in the industrial districts is a growing menace to the best interests of Old England. To an extent, failing physique involves the drink question, and some authorities are emphatic in attributing the deterioration to the misuse of alcohol. Some of the municipalities are manned by councillors holding that view. Hence comes it that in quite a number of districts posters have been procured and put upon the walls, warning residents against the evils of alcohol. These are charged to the rates, and it is, perhaps, not surprising that liquor traders should be moved to energetic protest. The posters have passed the limits of dispassionate language in some cases, and ratepayers have been presented with vehement denunciations of drink by rhetorical gentlemen, who possess no special title to scientific knowledge of their subject. Licensed dealers now enquire when vegetarian, homœopathic, socialistic and anti-vaccinationist bills will be printed and exhibited on walls at the general expense.

Exporters here have been more or less perturbed by the boycott phenomenon in the Far East. Beginning with a taboo on American goods in China, it has extended to a proscription of English goods in Bengal. Already the first-named has been found hollow, and few profess any belief in the continuity of the Hindu exertion. Nevertheless, a certain unease is natural, for these departures from sound business principles may lead to worse later on. We had thought the Orientals to be a little too Western nowadays to allow a sentimental agitation to interfere with

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