

explosion of nitro-benzine took place in a building in which a workman was known to have been. A fire ensued, and when it was got under it was found that three feet of boiling liquid was on the floor of the building. When it cooled a search was made for the man's remains, but no trace whatever was found of them. It was then thought that he might, after all, have left the place before the explosion. To put the matter to the test carcasses of animals were put into the liquid, and it was found that they disappeared in about two hours. Twenty-four hours had elapsed between the explosion and the first search.

Merit, like virtue, has its own reward. At Lyttelton, in New Zealand, the other day, a schoolmaster set out before two hundred boys the names of six famous men—Livingstone, Stonewall Jackson, Gladstone, Howard, the philanthropist; Searle, the champion sculler, and John L. Sullivan, the pugilist. The boys were asked then to vote as to which was the greatest man of the lot, and out of the 200 votes Sullivan got nearly 140, most of the balance being cast for Searle.

A new vegetable is about to be introduced to the people of the United States through the Department of Agriculture. It is nothing more nor less than the root of the Calla lily, which resembles somewhat in appearance the ordinary Irish tuber, with the addition of a few whiskers that have nothing to do with the case or with the qualities of the article as an esculant. However, it is more elongated, and when cut the interior is a trifle more viscid. In cooking it is first to be boiled in order to destroy certain acid properties, after which it may be fried, roasted, baked or what not, according to taste. Farmers in Florida have begun to raise these calla roots for market. The plants grow rapidly in swamps, and so thickly that the yield of a single flooded acre is enormous. They reproduce themselves by the multiplication of their bulb underground, so that the grower has simply to dig up the off-shoots and leave the parents to propagate anew. So prolific and palatable are they that their propagation in many parts of the United States, where conditions are favorable, may reasonably be looked forward to as an agricultural industry of the future.

The only line of pseudo scientists, the superstitious, self-styled "scholars" of the early part of this and the latter part of the eighteenth century, believed that filth would breed microbes, but, as the absurd idea of "spontaneous generation" has long since been exploded, it will not be discussed in this "note," which is solely intended to explain the manner

in which microbes multiply. There are several species of these minute creatures and they have various ways of reproducing their species, but the most common is what the investigators term "reproduction by fissure." If, with a strong microscope a microbe is watched for a short time a "construction," appearing on each side in the centre of the body is seen. This soon shows itself in the shape of a line across, and then all of a sudden, the microbe separates in the middle and behold there are two in place of one! Each of these rapidly increase in size until they are as large as the original, when the miracle of the side spots and transverse appear and in place of two microbes there are four. By this wonderful plan of reproduction one increase to two, two to four, four to eight, eight to sixteen, until within the space of five hours there are 2,000,000 wiggling individuals from a single specimen!

ENGLISH OPINIONS.

If it be true, as the London *Chronicle* in a recent article says, that "Canadian resources, were they stretched to a far greater extent than will ever be possible would not begin to compare with those of the United States," how comes it that the five million peoples living in this country have made the progress which so far has characterized them? We admit with Mr. Wilson, editor of the London *Investors' Review*, and with the editor of the *Chronicle*, that eighty-five million pounds sterling of a public debt (of all descriptions) is a big load to carry, but we deny that the bulk of it has been expended in railways for which there is no economic demand and in the embellishment of cities and buildings. Canada has its substantial public works, many of them contributing to the prosperity of the country and designed to open it up and the mighty resources of which it is possessed. Our railways, banks and other public enterprises are not in the hands of receivers, as are many upon the other side the lines, and during the depression manifested a far greater amount of stability. But the fact is, as these far off authorities on our industrial conditions and needs put it, we have too much protection to suit them, and the British cotton and iron manufacturers do not find we are purchasing from them to the extent that we were accustomed to do, while our cattle, our sheep, our butter and our cheese, with other products, stand in the light and in the way of British agricultural industry.

A number of the papers, whose editors bask in the sunlight of the proprietors of the papers we have named, are endorsing all that they have said, and tell us we should be thankful for some good home

truths; but we deny, as it is charged, that protection has done nothing for us. Still we are glad to be patted on the head and condescendingly informed that on the whole we are pretty good boys, and that we have very great resources which can best be developed by an honest, straightforward policy. This reminds one very much of something of the kind of course, that our grandfathers used to give us with respect to the regulation of ourselves and our private concerns, and might ordinarily be passed as a matter of course; but we do object to Mr. Wilson, the *Chronicle* or any other newspaper or individual under the guise of friendship decrying our credit, because, as the *Chronicle* says, "With our own land going to waste for lack of capital, would it not be folly for English people to throw their money away on comparatively small towns?" Yet these people, for whom Mr. Wilson professes to speak, have, in the past, made large sums of money out of us, and then it was another side of the shield which they were in the habit of exhibiting. —*Commercial Journal*.

INSOLVENT LEGISLATION.

The Insolvent law, which was introduced in the Senate last session and passed through several of its stages, is to be reprinted and distributed among the people before it is taken up in the House of Commons next session. No doubt a vigorous effort will be made to bring the farming and non-business classes under the provisions of the Act, upon very favorable conditions. This point, it will be remembered, was one which was much disputed in the upper House as well as among the different trade organizations. The bankers will, it is expected, ask for certain further amendments regarding the securities which they may happen to hold, with a view, it is said, towards still further securing their claims on the general dividend. As to the conditions precedent to the discharge of an insolvent, there is much difference of opinion; many holding that there shall be no discharge, except on paying a hundred cents on the dollar, or by unanimous consent of the creditors. From this on, we may expect to see the subject of Insolvent legislation threshed out pretty regularly, until a measure be either adopted or finally rejected.

CAPE COLONY imported in 1884, 677,754 cubic feet of manufactured wood in 1893, the imports were 3,784,047 feet. Of planed and grooved the 1884 imports were 146,003 feet, in 1893, 1,261,565 feet. What is Canada doing to get this trade? We may answer the contemporary from which the above extract was taken that the Ross-Maclaren Co., has entered into a contract to forward a hundred million feet of British Columbia lumber to South Africa within a year.