

Secondly, incoming trains from the United States are bringing back whole families from the factories and brickfields of Massachusetts, those industries having shut down to a large extent from fear that the Presidential election, if it go in the direction of loosening the protection tariff, may catch them with too large stocks on hand—at least that is the reason given to the dismissed employees. So extensive is this return of "exodites" that the *Montreal Witness* states they have increased until "extra cars have had to be put on to carry the people and their baggage back to their native places." "Very few of the passengers," the *Montreal Witness* continues, come through to Montreal, compared with the large numbers that get off at the various way stations this side of the line between St. Lambert and St. Armand."

The third incident is indirect, but may be important in its bearing. The strenuous decial of the Fisheries Treaty by the Liberal party, as it finds voice in the debates of the Canadian Commons, on the score of the absolute surrender of Canadian rights, which it suits that party to set up, may quite possibly—as Americans are well inclined to believe that Liberal utterances represent the broad sentiment of the country—have some weight in lulling, to a certain extent, the antagonism of the American irconcilables, who may lay to their souls the flattering fiction that they have once more gone well to windward of the dull Britisher and the stupid Colonist.

### THE AWAKENING OF ENTERPRISE.

One of the most gratifying signs of the times is the evident awakening of Nova Scotians to the knowledge that there are within the Province all the elements necessary to build up a wealthy and prosperous country and to support a large population. While other countries have been making rapid strides in advance, we have, seemingly, been at a stand-still. We say seemingly, as in reality for some years back a quiet transformation has been going on, and the way has been paved to take advantage, in the best possible manner, of our great natural resources. The exodus of our young men has been a subject of much anxious investigation by our political economists, and has also led to unlimited newspaper controversy. We consider this "exodus" as far from an "unmixed evil," and that in many cases it has resulted in good. Change of scene, contact with our enterprising neighbors, new trials, and new conquests, must have expanded the young men's minds, and transformed them from "happy-go-lucky" individuals into pushing business men. They soon discover that other countries, without a tittle of the natural advantages of their own, are rendered by enterprise living hives of industry, and many of them eventually return home filled with work and ambition, and this is soon made manifest by improvements in their old neighborhoods. In Germany and other of the much-enlightened countries of Europe travel was considered such an important part of the education, not only of the rich, but of the poor, that all apprentices to trades had to devote some years in roaming before settling down to their avocations. The late Sir Wm. Young was such a believer in this theory that we are told he jokingly advocated sending the members of our Provincial Legislature for a trip through the States, at the public expense, wisely intimating that the knowledge acquired would result in a vast amount of good to the Province. But to return to our subject. On every side we see evidence of the awakening of our people. From the agricultural portion of the Province, especially the fruit-growing sections, intelligent men are debating the best grades of fruit to use, and miles of new orchards are being planted. In Cumberland and other counties, large tracts of the most productive hay lands have been reclaimed from the sea. Improved breeds of stock are being everywhere introduced, and competent professors of agriculture are instructing the people in the theory as well as the practice of farming. All the large manufactories have been doing good businesses, and the outlook is very bright. The mines of all kinds are being vigorously worked, and this year will see great strides made in this direction. Railroads and new systems of water communication have been, and will be opened up; telephones are being introduced everywhere, and our capitalists discovering the benefits of co-operation are forming numerous companies, all supplied with home capital. The crowds at our hotels, the numerous arrivals in our ports, the great shipments of freight, are all proofs that Nova Scotia is now thoroughly awake.

### LIVE PROJECTS.

We desire to draw particular attention to the letter in our last week's issue of Mr. J. H. Townsend, on our leading article of the week before, advocating the establishment of a Mint in Halifax. As we put forth this idea with a very serious purpose, we were particularly pleased to find the subject so ably taken up. This, again, is a desideratum which should be taken up and urged on the Dominion Government by men of all parties. We, therefore, consider the last three paragraphs of Mr. Townsend's letter especially worthy of being noted. To this end we may reproduce them, and we appeal to the necessarily more influential Daily Press of the Provincial Capital, as well as to the Press throughout Nova Scotia, of all political opinions, to lend their weight to an agitation which seems to us to promise substantial advantage to the Province. Surely we can all unite together in such a cause, and the matter rightly managed, might, we venture to hope, afford the Dominion Government the opportunity of initiating a more cordial *entente* with our own. Says Mr. Townsend.—

"If my memory serves me correctly, the Branch Mint at the sub-treasury in New York is in charge of the State Assayer, who therefore controls the Assay department in connection therewith.

Why could not some joint arrangement be arrived at between the Provincial Government, who are so vitally interested in the advancement of

our mining interests, and the Dominion Government, for joint action, by which a conclusion could be reached at an early day.

The establishment of a Canadian Mint and Assay Office in the City of Halifax, and ultimately, an efficient school of mines, under the jurisdiction of the Local Government, is a programme which should be persistently kept before both Governments, and in the minds of the electors of the Province, until it is accomplished."

We will not believe that this appeal will be made in vain.

In addition to the project of the Mint, we have suggested that of an observatory in connection with Dalhousie College, a proposition which should enlist the sympathy and stimulate the public spirit of some of our rich citizens, many of whom are by no means backward in contributing of their substance to objects of public benefit and utility. Nova Scotia has been far from insignificant in the production of men who have taken high rank in science and literature, and may dwell with some pride on the fact that in the person of Professor Simon Newcombe, she has already furnished astronomy with one of its first living exponents.

This, likewise, is a subject we do not intend to let drop, and similar considerations to those we have urged in the case of the Mint, should, in this case also, tend to the united action of "all parts and conditions of men."

We have further dwelt on the expediency of creating the appointment of a Nova Scotia Emigration Agent in England, one of which we should suppose no one political party would begrudge the other the patronage, if the benefit to the Province could be shown to be likely to be what we think it would, and if the right kind of man be selected.

We have yet another suggestion to start in the minds of our fellow-citizens. One of the worst features of our good city is the unfortunate narrowness of our streets, a misfortune brought into painful prominence by the Street Railway.

The evils of this old-time inheritance have been accentuated by the short-sighted action which, neglecting the purchase of city property when it was cheaper, was content to build the station at North street, when the Intercolonial should have been pushed through to the meridian of the Citadel Hill. Water street, narrow enough in all conscience of old, has been further curtailed in breadth by the freight line to the Deep Water Terminals. If there was ever a city in urgent need of an elevated Railway to mitigate these extreme inconveniences it is the City of Halifax.

### THE ELEVENTH CENTURY.

There were, it is stated in the English papers, great rejoicings on the Wemyss estates, in Scotland, on the 8th March last, over the birth of a son and heir. This heir is said to be the 28th in direct descent from Hugh, who was fourth from Macduff Maormor, of Fife, in the reign of Malcolm Canmore. There is nothing peculiar generally about young heirs, or whose births or majorities rejoicings may take place, but this long descent is remarkable enough to suggest some commentary.

Many, perhaps most people, think of Shakspeare's Macbeth as an entirely legendary fiction. It is not, however, altogether so. There is a substratum of historical fact underlying it. The murder of Duncan is the dramatic incident invented. Macbeth seems to have been a vassal of a Norwegian Prince, who conquered a part of the North of Scotland. In his absence, Duncan invaded his territory, and was defeated and killed by Macbeth, in a battle near Elgin, in 1039. Macbeth was afterwards proclaimed king, and there is some evidence that he was not by any means a bad one for his day. However, he was an usurper, and Edward, the confessor, espousing the cause of Duncan's son, Malcolm, who had fled to England, charged Siward, Earl of Northumberland, with the task of reinstating him. The great earls who governed, with almost regal power, the five or six earldoms into which England was then divided, had their own forces at command; it was therefore probably entirely by a Northumbrian army that Macbeth was defeated near Dunsinane, by Siward, in 1054. It was not, however, till 1056 or 1057, that he was again defeated and slain by Macduff and Malcolm Canmore (the large-headed) who married Margaret, sister of Edgar Atheling, the heir of the Saxon Line. The stout "Thane of Fife," the birth of whose direct descendant has just been celebrated, was therefore no myth, but a very substantial and valiant person.

Ten years afterwards, William the Norman conquered England, and during his reign, Malcolm, who was probably attached to the Saxon Line, invaded England, but was soon brought to submission by the stern and able warrior he had provoked, and did homage to the Norman monarch for his kingdom. He rose again in the reign of William Rufus, and was ultimately slain in a battle near Alnwick.

Nor is this the only connection of the eleventh century with poetry and romance. It is indeed a singularly interesting period, marked by Harold's conquest of the Welsh, and his great defeat of Harold Hardrada, the gigantic king of Norway, in Yorkshire, coincident with the landing of William, a victory which indeed led directly to the fatal overthrow of Hastings.

Earlier in the reign of Edward lived Leofric, Earl of Mercia, whose daughter Harold married, and whose wife was the "Lady Godiva," of Coventry fame. That this compassionate lady did persuade her husband to remit a heavy tax is more than probable, but not very likely in the manner related in the well-known legend, Earl Leofric having been, according to such information as we have, a somewhat beneficent and mild-mannered man for an Earl of the period, though an energetic ruler and able leader.

The whole career of Harold, the singular misfortune which enabled William to bring religious terrors to bear upon his cause, and the extraordinary resolution and ability of the great Norman, with the remarkable intricacies of the whole reign of Edward, combine with the singular pieces of romance alluded to to render the 11th century one of the most interesting periods of history.