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## The Journal of Commerce

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## Special Articles

### The Canadian Dairying Industry.

By Ernest H. Godfrey, F.S.S.

### Will Canada Import Gold this Fall?

by H. M. P. Eckardt.

### The War and Illegitimacy.

By J. W. Macmillan.

### Shipbuilding in British Columbia.

Special Correspondence

### Conditions in the West.

By E. Cora Hind.

### Banking and Business Affairs in the U. S.

By Elmer H. Youngman.

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## Ireland and Canada

FOR some weeks little was heard about the Irish question. Perhaps this was a good sign. The Irish Convention, however, is still meeting. The very fact that it is continuing its deliberations is a hopeful indication, for there were many to predict that the conflicting elements invited to the Convention would speedily quarrel. The Convention, after holding its early sessions in the Irish capital, moved on to Belfast, where its members were most hospitably welcomed in the chief home of the Ulstermen and where the delegates from the South were afforded an opportunity to see the industry and enterprise of the North, in which they must have felt a measure of pride. Now the Convention is meeting in Cork, the very centre of ultra Irish opinion, where even the O'Brienites and the Sinn Fein enthusiasts seem to feel that the duties of hospitality demand that they shall make the visitors from the North welcome. The social intercourse which has thus been brought about between North and South is a factor of value in the present situation. At a late moment a cloud has arisen over the Cork gathering, through the death in prison of a Sinn Fein leader whose funeral in Dublin has been made a great popular demonstration. Still, there is much ground for hoping that the good work of the Convention will continue.

The authorities have wisely arranged that the proceedings of the Convention shall be conducted with closed doors and have forbidden the publication of any reports of it other than may be officially issued. The Convention represents all classes of the Irish people except the section of extremists. The O'Brien section seem to have held aloof from the Convention through dislike of John Redmond and other leaders of the Nationalist party. The avowed object of the Sinn Fein party is the complete separation of Ireland from the British Empire. Their number, unfortunately, is considerable; their success in several important election campaigns recently is evidence of that. Nevertheless, it is more than probable that many of those who, for the moment, array themselves under the Sinn Fein banner, would be content with a liberal measure of Home Rule for Ireland, as a portion of the Empire, if such could be assured beyond question. As between such a measure and the folly of the Sinn Fein there is every reason to believe that the great majority of the Irish people could declare for the maintenance of the union.

While all proposals for Home Rule within the Empire will, no doubt, receive fair consideration, the brief memoranda of the proceedings officially issued indicate that the members of the Convention are hoping to find the best solution of their problem in the

adoption, in some degree, of the systems of government existing in the Overseas Dominions. In the opinion of some Irishmen the granting to Ireland of the constitutional liberty that is enjoyed by the Dominion of Canada would be a satisfactory settlement. The situation of Ireland, however, is not that of Canada. If Canada had been only an hour's journey from England it is not likely that our present form of government would have been established. The fact that the Dominions and Colonies were thousands of miles away from London unquestionably called for treatment of an exceptional character, especially in the bygone days when the means of communication were not what they are to-day, when the barrier of distance had not yet been almost annihilated by science. Canada, largely by reason of distance from London, has been content to be without representation in the Imperial Parliament, and even to-day is slow to seek such representation lest it involve some sacrifice of present authority. It is not probable that Ireland would be satisfied to be entirely unrepresented in London. The constitution of the Dominion would, therefore, as a whole, not be adapted to Irish conditions. But there is much in the history and character of the systems which, with some variation in detail, prevail in the several Dominions that may be of value in the preparation of the revised Home Rule scheme which, it is earnestly to be hoped, will be the outcome of the Irish Convention.

## Divorce Laws

A WINNIPEG despatch of last week, widely published, states that a divorce law will be enacted at the next session of the Manitoba Legislature. This, the report says, is because of the difficulty of obtaining divorce under existing legislation unless a heavy outlay of money is incurred. Under existing laws a Manitoban who desires relief from the marriage bonds has to apply for a special Act of the Parliament of Canada. The difficulties and expense of such a procedure, it is stated, lead many people to resort to the United States, to obtain divorce under American law. To remedy this condition of affairs, it is proposed to have a Manitoba divorce law, modelled after that of the Province of British Columbia.

The divorce law in Manitoba—which also exists in Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta—is quite open to the criticisms that are applied to it. It is in almost every respect an unwise law. But no remedy is to be found in the quarter indicated by the Winnipeg despatch. The report evidently emanates, not from responsible authority, but from interested parties who erroneously suppose that because British Columbia has a divorce law there is nothing to prevent Manitoba having one.