

NORTH OF ENGLAND LETTER.

"Colored" news, we correspondents are accused of sending to Canada, and of all men, by Lord Rosebery. His Lordship's preface to the new book by E. S. Montague and Bron Herbert, "Canada and the Empire," has received the widest attention in the English press. The book itself embodies the reasons why these two tourists consider the Imperial Zollverein impracticable. Perhaps the preface matters most, and in particular the statement that Canadians receive an unfaithful reflex of Home opinion. For himself, your correspondent dissents vigorously. The brief notes in these letters on the larger politics are dictated by no other interest than that of truth. Statesman as he is, Lord Rosebery himself is not less biased, but more than the average journalist, and the correspondent may retaliate with an adversion to "colored" arguments.

News for export to Canada is prejudiced, as all human communications must be, to an extent. But compared to the distorted news that is flashed between European capitals, it is somewhat akin to the Gospel. We on this side receive news from Canada that is plainly tinctured by self-interest and such news is accepted with the customary reserve. You—if you hear more of one side of the fiscal controversy than another—doubtless draw your own conclusions. Something is suppressed or else the press indicates disproportionately the rooted opposition to any change which is constitutional in our people. It is probably true that the London papers are temporarily ahead of popular opinion, and readers will do well to remember the statement, reiterated on various occasions in these columns, that Chamberlain is the faith of a minority. For better or worse, that simple fact is true.

Mentioning books on Canada reminds one that several Canadian works of fiction are now having a vogue in the libraries. These, like the Kilties, the bowlers, and so on, are all to the good in fostering national sentiment. Especially noteworthy is "The Imperialist," by Sara Jeanette Duncan, a work which is spoiled artistically by its compromise between the political pamphlet and the novel. Yet the pictures of life in the fictitious Elgin (Ont.), atone for a great deal, and one can learn much of the Canadian point of view from Mrs. Duncan's book. Ralph Connor's book receives their attention, and "Fort Amity" (Quiller-Couch), a tale of old Quebec, is read ravenously. Furthermore, there is a serial running now which promises well: "Prudence Mallory, The Story of a Canadian Farm," by Ridgwell Cullum. Between this and that, the public should understand the Dominion better soon.

Fiction and the price of iron have more perhaps in common than would appear at first sight. Our paper announces jubilation in the Midlands over a healthier demand for steel than has been known this long time. On the same day come reports from our North-East Coast of furnaces blown out, because of continued depression. Dumping from the States and Germany seems to be commencing a well-earned rest. Company meetings in almost all cases have disclosed a good financial year, and makers are standing out for decent prices. Steel rails are 25 per cent. more dear than in times of past depression they have been. Heavy stocks existed in those days and gambling was rife, whereas stocks to-day are consistently light and the speculator in iron warrants is not too welcome. Coals are not exactly cheap, but the presumption is that steel will continue to be made whether or not prices have to be further reduced.

As the book of evidence taken by the Tariff Commission witnesses, there is a distinct desire for protection amongst a large body of our iron traders. Per contra some of the staunchest of our Free Traders are iron-masters who desire nothing better than to stand upon their own merits against all-comers. Of course people are not wanting who contrast sneeringly the attitude of Mr. Hugh Bell, for instance, with the controllers of the Soo and Sydney works. A great point is made of the alleged desire to make the Canadian tariff level with the United States tariff to British makers.

The increase in the tobacco trade, to which recent allusion was made here, opens a new phase. The U. K. Tobacco Dealers' Alliance now takes the field in earnest opposition to the Imperial Company, which is, of course, the "Trust." Tobaccos, cigars, and cigarettes, under new brands, are to be introduced. They are to be manufactured by this Alliance of

thousands of retailers and dealers in a central factory. Every incentive exists for the retailer to push Alliance goods, for they are the anti-monopolist make, and moreover a proportion of profit goes into a benevolent fund. Three-fourths of this royalty goes to local branches, and one-fourth to headquarters. No doubt retailers everywhere will follow with interest this defensive policy of their English colleagues. Australia has already been cornered by the Imperial and American companies in concert; and last advices from South Africa show that certain consolidations in the interest of the Trusts have been made there.

Continental example, in canal management has made a profound impression on our commercial leaders. Incidentally, the name of Canada was cited as one country that had benefited exceedingly by the use of canals. In this kingdom we have 4,000 miles of canals, some of which are derelict, and all of which are neglected. The canal system is not homogeneous, and its just operation is smothered by the conflicting interest of railway companies. Some of the ditches will take only 7 ft. boats, while others will serve for barges of 14 ft. in beam. In all, our canals are a lamentable example of all that they ought not to be. Feeling is such that remedial measures seem inevitable. Showing what others are doing, let France be cited. Since 1879, France has spent 100 millions sterling on canalization, and has 20 millions more ear-marked for outlay.

The tide of tourists has set westwards again. From one American, homeward bound through Paris and Liverpool, a story is gathered which may appeal to the Canadian sense of humor. Outside one shop on the boulevards stands the sign:

English Spoken,
American Understood.

NORTH COUNTRY.

Manchester, Eng., Sept. 30th, 1904.



THE ACCOUNTANTS' CONGRESS IN ST. LOUIS.

One of the features of the St. Louis Exhibition of 1904 has been the number and variety of congresses, banking, commercial, sociological, religious, or other, that have been held at it. Among them was one in September, organized by the chartered Accountants of the United States, their object being to get together not only United States public accountants but British and Canadian. They were very fairly successful in this attempt, for on the 26th, 27th, and 28th of September there came together about one hundred American accountants, besides guests from Britain. The British delegates were: Mr. F. W. Pixley, representing the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales, and Mr. James Martin, F.S.A.A., F.S.S., secretary of the Society of Accountants and Auditors. Also, from Canada: Mr. John Hyde, president of the Dominion Accountants' Association; Mr. J. W. Ross, president of the Associated Accountants of Montreal; Mr. F. H. Macpherson, F.C.A., of Windsor, and Mr. P. S. Ross, of Montreal. The six gentlemen last named were official guests of the Federation of Accountants of the United States of America, who conducted the Congress.

The object of this gathering was the reading of papers of professional interest to men engaged in the occupation of auditing and accountancy, and the discussion of such papers. The gathering resulted in the submission of valuable papers and in the interchange of much valuable experience. Mr. Hyde, of Montreal, made a brief but brisk address, dealing mainly with the history of the profession in Canada. Mr. Wilkinson, a man of marked experience and ability, who was secretary of the Congress and secretary of the Federation, read a paper on the C.P.A. movement in the United States, and Mr. Martin led in the discussion upon it. Among the principal papers were one entitled: "Brief History of the Movement Toward Uniform Municipal Accounts," by Harvey O. Chase, of Boston. Another, "The Municipal Balance Sheet," by Henry W. Wilmot, A.C.A., C.P.A., of New York. "Revenues and Expenses, as Distinguished from Receipts and Disbursements, in Municipal Accounting," by F. A. Cleveland, Ph.D., New York. "Appropriations," by Ernest Reckitt, C.P.A., of Chicago. The letters we have quoted above, "C.P.A.," mean Certified Public Accountant, and are applied to those who by examination receive a certificate from the governments of the states in which they live