

According to a correspondent of one of our city contemporaries our sister city of St. John, whose enterprising Press is somewhat given to poking fun at Halifax on account of the fogs which it assumes to be perennial and abiding, was pretty well furnished with that murky atmospheric article during some of the days when we were enjoying weather of the most perfect description for our Carnival.

We have as yet failed to see the feasibility of any scheme—if scheme there can be said to exist—of bringing about Imperial Federation, beyond the simple idea of a contribution by the great Colonies in aid of the Naval Forces of the Empire, somewhat on the lines of the measure so nearly carried into effect recently by Australia, but it has struck us as not at all improbable that the recent discouraging utterances of Lord Salisbury may have been not a little prompted by a consciousness that any measure in the direction of Imperial Federation would be in accord with Home Rule for Ireland. English Conservative dislike to and distrust of federative principle, especially as applied to the nationalities of Great Britain, is undoubtedly strong, and the County Councils Act was, we imagine, put forth partly, if not principally, as a means of staving off the rising opinion in favor of Federation.

The British Government has appointed a Departmental Committee to enquire into the question of authorizing the investment of trust funds in Colonial securities. This is a matter not only of considerable interest to colonists, but if the stringent law of England were modified, and English trustees were brought to realize the safety of Colonial investments, of great relief to them in the expansion of their powers, with the additional advantage of higher rates of interest than are obtainable in the old country from such limited scope as is now permissible. It is much to be hoped that the enquiry will result in the desired permission. It would have the effect of increasing the supply of British capital in the colonies, and widening English knowledge of the capabilities of her great dependencies, and much credit is due to Sir Charles Tupper for his representations in the matter, which have led to its serious consideration by the Home Government.

We take it to be the resolution of the vast majority of Canadians, that Canada shall work out her own destiny on her own national lines, and by means of her own immense natural resources. If this be the case Unrestricted Reciprocity—whatever may be the precise meaning of that somewhat elastic term—seems to us to be almost as objectionable as Commercial Union. To say nothing of the question of revenue, we desire, as a matter of national aspiration, to see our native manufactures prosperous and secure. They are as much a constituent part of the national economy as any other section of the body politic, and, if secondary to any, to none but the agricultural interests, and it is certain that, with free-trade with America, they would even yet as in former times be utterly swamped. The N. P. has at least given them standing ground, and we believe that a few years' more security from foreign encroachment will leave them in a position to hold their own against any alien competition.

If current reports are at all to be trusted indications are not wanting of a quite possible amelioration in the condition of Ireland. On the whole a less lawless spirit seems to animate the Home Rulers in parliament, and the vote of the Parnellites with the Government on the Royal Grant is said to have given such satisfaction to the Queen that Her Majesty is thought to have become inclined to visit Ireland. Again the new league for defence against landlords seems to be altogether of a more law-abiding nature than the National or Land Leagues. The landlords are already considerably held in check by existing legislation in favor of the tenants, large sums have been raised by Acts of Parliament to enable tenants to purchase their holdings, and Lord Randolph Churchill advocates the appropriation of £100,000,000 to the same purpose. This may seem a startling sum, but it is no more than, if we remember rightly, was proposed by Mr. Gladstone in the outline sketch of his policy which led to his defeat, and against such an additional burden might be set a large decrease of the heavy expenditure on coercion, if the country could only be brought to a state of greater contentment. In addition to these grounds of hope the crops are reported so far to give promise of being much above the average. It is to be hoped these auguries may not be delusive.

It would be difficult to find a stronger tribute to the national importance of the C. P. R., and its Pacific steamboat continuations than is furnished by the San Francisco *Examiner*. Exhorting its own steamship line to Australia to improve its service in time, the *Examiner* continues:—"So long as the Canadian Pacific will carry passengers from Yokohama to London for \$300, and give them a less sea voyage by two days, and carry them in a most luxurious style from Vancouver to the Atlantic seaboard, and vice versa, without change of cars, landing them in Liverpool a day and a half earlier than by the American routes, the British line will unquestionably control the traffic. To this has to be added the further fact that the C. P. R. equipment and its eating-halls are superb as compared with the vile places and still worse cooking on the lines running out of San Francisco. The fare by the San Francisco route is \$325, and the *Examiner* has yet to learn that there is any law which compels Americans or any others to travel by a line which is being rapidly superseded by the more northerly and short one." We have always painted out that American abuse was the measure of the national value of the C. P. R. and its connections. What we have quoted is not in any way abusive or objectionable, but is quite as good testimony as if it were. Such expressions of opinion and statements of facts should go far to encourage a spirit of national pride and self-reliance.

The recent visit of the German Emperor to England may be the means of correcting some of the evidently exaggerated portraits of him which have been so universally current since his accession. He has been painted more or less in all colors, principally black. Personally he is neither angel or demon, though probably a by no means remarkably amiable potentate. However, he seems to have behaved himself as a tolerably decent gentleman during his visit, to have manifested some cordiality, whether sincere or politic, and if he criticised some military points with the sharpness of a man who is at heart a soldier, he was appreciative enough on many others. He seems to have had enough *bonhomie* to have joked very graciously with his Admiral, who got thrown from his horse, and, altogether, not to have been quite so much of an ogre as he has been represented. Considerable exaggeration seems to have been indulged in about the infirmity of his left arm. If the reports are at all correct it cannot amount to much, as he is said to be quite able to pull his horse on his haunches from a gallop, using the left hand alone, which is an exercise of power impossible to a limb seriously crippled. He is probably an instance of the little reliance to be placed on the sensational items in which the press is so fond of indulging.

If it were not for the lack of trial and experience in actual battle of the ironclads, which engenders a strong element of doubt as to whether these gigantic structures might not at any moment be rendered useless, or worse than useless, by some new engine of destruction, the late review at Spithead might well inspire confidence in the invincibility of Great Britain at sea. Three lines of war vessels each five miles in length is a magnificent showing, considering how large a proportion of this magnificent flotilla consisted of some of the largest, most powerful and most completely equipped of the warlike sea-masters of the world. We have, indeed, already begun to admit that the controlling implement may have been found in the dynamite gun, if only the requisite precision of fire can be assured. Its use would, of course, be open to each of two contending forces, and what might be the result no man can precisely foresee. Grand as these great spectacles are they are still painfully suggestive of the diversion of vast sums of money from productive to destructive uses. Practical patriotism, however, leaves no option, and if we cannot forget that the progress of science may within three or four years render that magnificent fleet comparatively useless, there may be some consolation in the idea already entertained by many that the same progress of science is gradually bringing to pass a state of things in which war will be such certain mutual destruction as to become eventually impossible.

The following, if correctly given, is the text of Mr. Hitt's resolution on Commercial Union:—"That whenever it shall be duly certified to the President of the United States that the Government of the Dominion of Canada has declared a desire to establish commercial union with the United States, having a uniform revenue system, like internal taxes to be collected, and like import duties to be imposed on articles brought into either country from other nations, with no duties upon trade between the United States and Canada, he shall appoint three commissioners to meet those who may be likewise designated to represent the Government of Canada, to prepare a plan for the assimilation of the import duties and internal revenue taxes of the two countries, and an equitable division of receipts, in a commercial union; and said commissioners shall report to the President, who shall lay the report before Congress." Now there can be no sort of doubt in the mind of any sane person that Commercial Union so defined would result in political annexation. Mr. Longley further illustrated the position in saying "it is unnecessary for me to say that in such a case the American tariff would largely prevail, and that we in Canada should be practically under the American tariff against the rest of the world." Thanks to awakened Canadian patriotism commercial union—with its inevitable results—is a dead issue, Canadians being now fully persuaded of the superiority of Canadian constitutional institutions, of Canadian habits and morals, and consequently of the inestimable value of Canadian autonomy.

Quite a lively interest has lately been shown, chiefly through correspondents to newspapers, in the question as to the possibility of combatting with any effect and keeping down the numbers of the omnipresent and vivacious mosquito. Most people will no doubt be inclined to put the subject aside with a sort of despairing conviction of the invincibility of that determined and skillful skirmisher. Yet a suggestion has been made which is by no means unworthy of serious consideration. It is the breeding and culture of the dragon fly. If the habits of this harmless and most beautiful insect were carefully and scientifically studied, it is almost certain that much might be done to counteract the tactics of the universal enemy. It has fallen within our experience to have seen examples of the sweeping and exterminating operations of the dragon fly. Some years ago a party of Mounted Police, camping for the night near Fort Ellice, found it absolutely difficult to obtain water from a small stream in a ravine on account of the mosquitos. The officer in charge went down himself to see what the trouble was. While he was vainly endeavoring to defend himself, a small swarm of about a dozen dragon flies suddenly swooped down to the stream. For four or five minutes they darted to and fro, backwards or forwards with equally lightning like rapidity, and at the end of that brief space there was peace. Not a mosquito was to be seen. Between swallows and dragon flies the precincts of the then headquarters at Fort Pelly were also kept at all times clear of the insidious foe. We fancy the man in Canada best qualified to investigate such a subject and suggest means of making this natural ally of man available against his natural enemy would be Professor Saunders, the eminent entomologist of London, Ont.