

bad sewage have left it is a work of reform worthy of the best efforts of every resident. One need but visit the poor apologies for docks which now line the water front, or approach them by boat from the harbour, and use his eyes in order to get a vivid impression on the one hand of the extent to which cheapness, disorder, and foulness now hold sway, and on the other of the magnificent effects which may be produced if the projects of the Association can be carried out in their integrity. Instead of blaming the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for its comprehensive designs, for profiting by the general neglect and bringing order out of confusion for its own behoof, the city will really owe it a debt of gratitude, if, by its enterprise and energy, or even by its cupidity, it shall have been the means of arousing the people to vigorous action. When the Citizens' Association has succeeded in removing this greatest source of disgrace and danger and shall have transformed the city fronts into the safe and convenient mart for railway and steamboat traffic it should be, it need not be disbanded. There are other nuisances to be abated and other improvements to be effected in the residential and outlying parts of the city which may give it useful employment for years to come.

THE evidently permitted escape of the *Black Diamond*, the sealing schooner seized by the United States revenue cutter, *Rush*, in Behring Sea, while it gives a semi-farcical character to the act of seizure, does not in the least lessen the gravity of the transaction from the international point of view. The fact still remains that a British vessel was forcibly stopped, searched and rifled of her cargo and equipments, or a part of them, upon the high sea. Time was when the British assertion of the right of search of American vessels led to very serious consequences, resulting in the renunciation of an untenable claim. Canadians will be very slow to believe that the great nation which is just now indulging in an unique display of naval power, will tamely submit to have vessels, sailing under her flag, subjected to such indignity and wrong, in the open Pacific. The occasion is one which demands plain speech and resolute action. The explanation of tacit concurrence hinted at by some of the United States officials cannot be considered for a moment. No self-respecting nation can permit another nation to exercise police supervision and authority over its subjects on neutral territory. Nor can the argument that the seals of Behring sea have their breeding grounds on United States soil, and that, therefore, the United States right of property in them holds good and carries with it the right to protect and reclaim them wherever found, be regarded as other than preposterous. The admission of such a claim would lead to the most absurd and dangerous conclusions. It is in the interest of the Canadian, as well as of the American fishermen, that the seals should not be exterminated, and no doubt both the Canadian and British Governments would readily agree to any reasonable restrictions necessary for their preservation. But any such restrictions should be matter of mutual consent and arrangement. It is to the credit of the people of the United States that many of their journals of the better class frankly admit that no claim of exclusive jurisdiction in Behring Sea can be maintained, and openly condemn the high-handed acts of their own authorities. Canadians will show themselves sadly lacking in spirit if they do not insist upon a prompt and decided intimation from the British Government as to whether it will or will not protect Canadian vessels in Behring Sea.

THE appointment by the British Government of a departmental committee to inquire into the question of authorizing the investment of trust funds in colonial securities is a matter of considerable interest to colonists. The action taken is the result of representations which Sir Charles Tupper and other colonial representatives have been for some time urging upon the attention of the Government. Should the inquiry result in the permission of such investments by trustees, the effect in increasing the supply of British capital in the colonies, and in lessening rates of interest, would probably be considerable. As things are at present it must be rather tantalizing to parties in search of capital for the development of Canadian industries and enterprises to note the difference in rates of interest demanded by English and Canadian capitalists. Looking at the vast amounts of money seeking investment in the Mother Country on the one hand, and the vast sources of wealth lying undeveloped here for want of capital on the other, it is evident that whatever helps to bridge the chasm between British capital and colonial industries will be a boon to all parties concerned.

THE decision of Secretary Windom, communicated to the Detroit collector of customs, to the effect that foreign-built railway cars entering the United States, either laden or for the purpose of being laden with mails, passengers, baggage, express matter or freight, are to be regarded as legalized vehicles of transportation rather than as importations subject to duty, settles a disquieting question, and relieves the managers of the Canadian railways involved from an unpleasant suspense. The fact that this result is undoubtedly due to the urgent remonstrances of the New England and other cities affected, shows the extent to which commercial considerations rule and will rule in questions of international politics. The struggle from first to last has been between the American railway companies anxious for monopoly and American traders and manufacturers desirous of the cheaper rates of transport secured by competition. There can be little doubt that the leanings of the Washington officials were in the direction of assessing duty on the Canadian cars, and that only the vigorous protest of the New Englanders prevented the erection of this formidable additional barrier against international traffic. The proprietors of the American roads will probably renew the contest with redoubled vigour on other lines, and especially with a view to having their Canadian competitors subjected to the regulations of the Inter-State Commerce Committee, not only in the United States, but in Canada.

IMPERIAL Federation seems to receive scanty encouragement from high official sources in England. Lord Salisbury's refusal to countenance the idea of calling a convention of Colonial representatives to formulate a definite scheme will act, no doubt, as a damper upon the enthusiasm of the few prominent Englishmen who are striving to galvanize the project into activity, though it is rather absurd to suppose, as a cable correspondent states, that the rebuff has "completely broken up the movement." Lord Salisbury does not think the British Government should take any initiative in the matter, lest it should look as if Great Britain were seeking to move the Colonies. Well; why not? Surely the scheme is at least as much in the interest of the Mother country as of the Colonies. Why should she not take the initiative if the scheme is a good one? She need scarcely fear that her suggestion in such a matter would be understood as a mandate. If necessary a few words of explanation would set that right. The fact is, no doubt, that the Government and the people of Great Britain are in no hurry to divest themselves of any of their Imperial prerogatives, even for the sake of sharing them with the Colonies, any more than the Colonies are in haste to part with a portion of their autonomy for the sake of centralizing authority in England. But though a convention of Colonial representatives in England, as suggested by Sir Charles Tupper, would be a natural and necessary preliminary to definite action, it would evidently be out of place at the present stage of progress. The spectacle of such a convention sitting in London, and discussing the disposal of their money, militia and, to a certain extent, liberty, would scarcely be an attractive one to the people of Canada, with their present views. Evidently the first step must be to get a cordial endorsement of the idea by a majority of the people of the Colonies. Then delegates could be chosen to represent the views of the majority, not, as at present, those of a section. So long as a goodly majority and some enthusiasm for Federation cannot be had in Canada, so long it would be worse than useless to call a meeting of delegates in England. Not even the acceptance by our High Commissioner of membership in the Executive Council of the League can commit Canada to the movement, whether intended to do so or not.

IF doubt was arising in any quarter as to whether Britannia still rules the waves the grand naval review of Monday was well calculated to dispel that doubt. The marine display was unquestionably the grandest ever made, in respect both to number of vessels and to completeness of equipment for attack or defence. It is true, no doubt, that the modern warship and torpedo boat of iron or steel have never yet been subjected to the crucial test of a naval engagement, and that there may be undiscovered possibilities of failure or disaster imprisoned within those ponderous coats of mail. Just as the steel-clad warrior of ancient times would find the very armour on which he relied for safety the source of his greatest danger in the presence of modern weapons, so it may be that these tremendous floating forts of iron and steel may any day be rendered worse than useless by some new implement of destruction. There is, in fact, some reason

to suppose that this implement may be already in process of development in the shape of the dynamite gun. There is no doubt that in the terrible dynamite is wrapped up an explosive force by which the strongest walls of metal may be dashed to pieces like a piece of pottery. If the problem of dropping dynamite bombs with precision at a distance of five or six miles has been or can be actually solved, it is difficult to see what future reliance can be placed in plates of metal or tons of gunpowder. Of course the shooting of dynamite, too, would be a game at which both parties could play, with the assurance of final victory for the party with the most money, nerve, and skill in seamanship. But while it is impossible to forget that the progress of scientific invention may within three years render that magnificent fleet which was drawn up in five-mile lines before Portsmouth comparatively useless, it is equally impossible not to admire the energy, resources, and pluck of the people of those tight little isles which can overawe the world with such a spectacle of maritime power. To the moralist and the philosopher the thought of so many men and so much capital and skill diverted from productive to destructive uses may be a saddening evidence of human folly and depravity. But to that practical patriotism which takes the world as it is, the evidence thus afforded that Great Britain is still prepared to defend her coasts and commerce, if need be, against the combined navies of the world, is profoundly reassuring.

THERE seems, unfortunately, little reason to hope that the complete defeat and dispersion of the Dervishes by Gen. Grenfell will have any permanent effect in the pacification of the Soudan, or even in securing Egypt from further attack. The death of Nad-el-Jumi, the Dervish leader, and the Emirs who accompanied him, may, it is true, discourage similar invasions for a time. But it is not likely that many months will pass until another leader, professing some divine authority and mission, will appear and win the same fanatical allegiance. It is becoming increasingly clear that permanent security for Egypt, as well as any effectual checking of the abominable slave traffic, can be effected only by a vigorous policy in the Soudan itself. Military officers who are acquainted with the country are urging the occupation of Berber as the key to the Soudan, and it is probably only a question of time when their advice will be acted on and a strong force sent to occupy this and other important towns. To those without special sources of information and judging only by appearances from a distance, it would seem to be more humane, as well as more expedient, to take possession of the whole country and establish peace and civilization, than to incur the constant repetition of these petty but horrible conflicts. The small loss of the victors, the large numbers of the enemy slain, and the too suggestive intimation that they neither asked nor expected quarter, show that the affair must have been a butchery rather than a battle. Certainly England can reap neither gain nor glory from the continuance of that kind of warfare.

WHETHER the recent defeat of General Boulanger at the French local elections presages his final disappearance from French politics or not is a matter of public interest only by reason of its bearing upon the future relations of the French Republic to the other nations of Europe. Of the crushing nature of that defeat there can be little question. The best explanation which the redoubtable General has been able to invent is one which saves his future prospects only at the expense of his political sagacity. If it be true that his defeat was due to the greater influence which local candidates were able to bring to bear in a contest in which local issues were predominant, what can be said of the discernment of a would-be national leader who could thus expose himself to discomfiture and loss of prestige with no better assurance of success, and no more practical object than to test or display his own popularity. The obvious inference is, too, that his professed friends in the cantons must have been sadly wanting either in perception or in candour, else he would have been better advised. Perhaps it is most reasonable to conclude, though in view of his past reappearances on the stage from which he was supposed to have finally vanished prediction is hazardous, that in fleeing from his native land, instead of boldly facing his prosecutors, he dispelled the mirage through which he had hitherto been viewed by the mercurial populace and made it too clear that he is not exactly of the stuff of which heroes are made. If his eclipse proves to be as permanent as it is at present complete, the French Republic will have