Civic Business Of the Week.

A Brief and Practical Session of the Aldermen—Mr. Croft's Bridge Proposal.

Eastern Misrepresentation Calls for Comment—Permanent Walks for Broad Street.

A brief and business-like session of the city council was that of last evening, which was brought to a close in less than an hour and a half, with all work of the week disposed of. Just prior to the adjournment it was arranged to meet Mr. Henry Croft, with reference to the proposal made by him for the bridging of James Bay in return for a long lease of the reclaimed mud flats, at 10 o'clock to-morrow (Wednesday) morning. It is also probable that a special meeting of the council, in committee, will be held very shortly, to take the matter of public works under advisement, the finance committee reporting the appropriations considerably eaten into already.

After routine business had been disposed of last night, the correspondence file for the week was taken up, with all members of the council present.

Dr. E. B. C. Hanington wrote to say that the swans had arrived safely at St. John, N. B., and the corporation of that city greatly appreciated the courtesy shown.

This semi-private communication was disposed of with the observation by the mayor that it was most satisfactory to know that the swans had got through safely.

L. H. Fullagar, in behalf of St. James' church, wrote for a determination of the basis of assessment upon which the church in question is taxed $69.50 instead of $56, which amount the church board believe to be correct. It was suggested that a friendly legal test be made, without costs being charged on either side.

The matter being clearly one for determination by the court of revision and appeal therefrom, the letter was referred to the city solicitor for his opinion for the guidance of the council.

Frank Higgins, in behalf of clients who have recently established a barber shop in the old post office building, asked permission for them to place a barber's pole in front of their premises.

This communication elicited the observation by the mayor that under existing by-laws all such poles are forbidden, and are to be removed as soon as an order is given by the city engineer.

Both Ald. MacGregor and Ald. Humphrey thought the engineer should take the by-law for his instruction and proceed with the removal of objectionable poles and posts.

Ald. Williams, on the contrary, held that clearing out the barber poles was "carrying a thing too far." He moved, in amendment to a motion to file the request, that it be granted.

The amendment failed, however, for want of a seconder, and the original resolution prevailed.

Applications from James Owens and Michael Drake for the position of inspector of permanent sidewalks were referred to the city engineer for his consideration.

City Clerk W. J. Dowler submitted his report of communications dealt with during the past week, which was filed, as follows:

"From Lucy Edwards—Re. box drain on Harrison street.

"From W. Jackson—Requesting that a box drain running from his residence at 93 Carr street to Niagara street be repaired.

"From Arthur Holmes—Directing attention to a previous petition to the council in January last, requesting that a crossing be laid on Yates street from the northwest corner to the southwest corner of that street and Broad street.

"From J. H. Lawson and thirteen others—Requesting that a sidewalk be laid on the south side of Simcoe street, from Menzies to Oswego."

From the city solicitor came the following report with regard to the North Pembroke street drain:

"With reference to the proposed drain from North Pembroke street through certain property of Messrs. Jones and others, on the north side of the street, which has been referred to me for consideration, I have the honor to report as follows: It is intended to lay the drain along the site of a proposed roadway running in a northerly direction from and at right angles to North Pembroke street; this road has never been opened, and at present forms part of a field in the occupation of a lessee who has a crop growing upon it. The owners, although prepared to allow the corporation to lay the drain, have received notice from their tenant that he will insist, before the work is proceeded with, on being paid the sum of $50 as compensation for the damage done to the crop, or otherwise he will determine his lease and claim damages from his lessors. Under these circumstances Mr. Jones and his co-owners cannot consent to allow the corporation to proceed with the work until the demands of the tenant have been complied with."

It appeared that all the tenant asked compensation for was his standing crop. Ald. Stewart and Hayward therefore thought the work might well be deferred until this crop was harvested.

Ald. Beckwith held that the owners of the property should assume the burden of the tenant's loss, and that the work in question should be done before the warm weather comes.

The necessity for immediate action was further emphasized by Ald. Kinsman and Brydon, the former of whom held that $50 was an over-estimate of the amount of loss involved; while the latter held that $50 should not weigh against the possibility of an epidemic.

The motion was finally made by Ald. Stewart and Hayward that action be deferred until the harvesting of the crop referred to; as an amendment, Ald. Beckwith and Brydon moved that the communication be filed and the work proceeded with.

In place of either action proposed, the mayor suggested that the work be undertaken as soon as a right-of-way may be secured from the owners, or reasonable terms be made with the tenant.

Ald. Beckwith thought that a special committee should be made to confer with Mr. Jones as trustee for the owners of the property, and secure a satisfactory arrangement. Both resolution and amendment being withdrawn in favor of this proposal, it was seconded by Ald. Kinsman and duly carried, Ald. Beckwith, Hayward and MacGregor being nominated by the mayor to compose the committee in question.

A report from City Engineer C. H. Topp was considered seriatim and disposed of in the following order:

Pine street, 300 feet of box drain required at a cost of $36; gravelling and grading, $65, or a total of $101. Ordered to be proceeded with at once.

Belton avenue, 275 feet of box drain, $35; and other improvements, $135. Also to be proceeded with.

As for Messrs. Heisterman & Co.'s application for a refund of the proportionate cost of permanent sidewalk in front of the premises of Hall, Goepel & Co., the city engineer commented that no statement of actual cost had been filed in the engineer's office, of which fact the firm interested will be notified.

A second report from the engineer read as follows:

"In accordance with instructions regarding certain communications which were referred to me at your last meeting, I have the honor to report respectfully as follows: (1) From A. F. Gibson, regarding an open drain on the west side of Richmond avenue. This would require 1,052 feet of box drain at an estimated cost of 12 cents per lineal foot. I therefore regret that I cannot recommend the above to be done at present, as there are several other drains in equally as bad condition at more central parts of the city which I consider should have first attention. (2) From William Denny, with respect to damage done to property by blasting on Pandora street. I may say that the street inspector and myself have examined the property in front of house No. 216, mentioned in the communication, and find the damage is not worthy of mention; I would therefore recommend that no action be taken. (3) From Thomas Speed, re construction of box drain on Speed avenue—after due examination I would respectfully recommend that no action be taken."

This was adopted, and still another from the same official presented to the following sense:

"I would respectfully ask your honorable body to take steps towards passing the by-laws re my appointment here at your earliest convenience, and defining my duties, etc., as mentioned in a letter of instructions received from you. I may say I can secure copies of the usual forms used in Ontario should you so desire. I understand Mr. Cousins is leaving at the end of this month, when my duties will be at once increased, and I will be required to complete the works commenced previous to my appointment. I therefore thought that now would be the proper time to have this matter settled, thereby giving me a fair chance to serve you as an efficient servant in every particular. I would also ask that the matter of appointing an assistant in my department be considered at your convenience, as most of my time for the future will be taken up at Beaver lake and in outside work in the city, the result being that plans, office work, etc., would be neglected."

In connection with the above, the mayor observed that while it was not necessary that a city engineer should be appointed by by-law, such action should be taken for a proper definition of the duties of engineer and street superintendent.

City Librarian Goward suggested that some recognition should be made of the services of his daughter and assistant librarian, his letter going to the finance committee for a report.

S. Hocking and fourteen others petitioned the council for an increase of 25c. per day in their wages as miners in the employ of the corporation during blasting operations.

The street superintendent and city engineer will report upon the justice of the request.

In this connection Ald. Williams thought that hand drilling should be done away with and the city's steam drill again brought into service.

The finance committee presented accounts for payment, totalling $4,350, which were duly passed.

From the fire wardens came a report recommending that the old chemical engine be put in good condition and a span of horses purchased at a cost of not more than $300, for the Yates street station. The committee also enclosed the following report from Chief Deasy:

"I have the honor to report an alarm of fire from box 61, at 4:40 o'clock Sunday afternoon. In turning a corner, a long ladder on the chemical engine struck a telephone pole, overturning the machine and pinning the driver between the engine and the sidewalk. No serious injury was done to the driver, horses or engine. I relieved two drivers from duty until the cause of the accident was investigated, and now make the following report thereon: The chemical engine and hose carriage left the fire hall together, the hose carriage making for box 61 at the corner of Cormorant and Store streets; the chemical driver mistaking the number and intending to drive to box 62. They reached the corner of Government and Cormorant streets together, one intending to go straight on, the other to turn down Government street. In making the turn and to avoid a collision, the driver of the chemical brought his machine too close to a large telephone post, with the result mentioned. Driver Swain, of the hose carriage, was driving moderately, and I find was not to blame. Driver Deasy was making all haste to the mill district, and through mistaking the number turned in, is the party responsible for the accident, which is the first that has happened during the time he has been driving. When the two drivers left the hall they were told that Sayward's mill was afire, and the Government street turn was the nearest way to it. Driver Swain saw the smoke rising straight ahead; Driver Deasy saw no smoke, and was expecting Swain to turn. In justice to all parties concerned, Driver Deasy will pay all costs of repairing the machine, which will be a warning to drivers and make them more careful in the future. At 1:40 a.m. to-day a dangerous incendiary fire was discovered on Store street, in a building adjacent to the cold storage building and the Canadian Talmt Works. The fire was promptly suppressed by the chemical engine and a serious conflagration averted. The police deserve credit for so promptly turning in the alarm.

This latter report elicited the observation from Ald. Beckwith that it might be well to ascertain whether the drivers of the department were competent for their duties.

His Worship answered that while personally he knew nothing of the men or their fitness as drivers, this was the first accident that had occurred in years—which was perhaps the best answer that could be made as to the competence of the drivers.

The report was adopted without further discussion.

On the motion of Ald. MacGregor the city solicitor was requested to ascertain the right of the city to levy and collect taxes on the property owned by the Dominion government and known as the old post office building, which had recently been converted into business premises.

It was also agreed, on Ald. MacGregor's motion, that the council lay a permanent sidewalk of concrete on Broad street from Yates street to the offices of the Globe Publishing Company, the work to be done by day labor.

Some little discussion arose on this latter motion, the Mayor suggesting that there might not be funds in hand to complete the work, in which event it was agreed it should wait its turn. Inquiry being made as to the delay in commencing work on the permanent walks for Government street, it was explained that the city engineer had not notified the property owners as to their proportion of liability. This will be done as quickly as possible and the work proceed.

Just prior to adjournment, Ald. Beckwith directed the attention of the council to an article which he had seen reprinted in the Colonist from the Halifax Chronicle. In this article certain misleading statements were made, and he held that it was the duty of the council to take up the matter and give expression to their disapproval of such statements being sent broadcast through the country. For instance the article in question made the startling staement that as British Columbia's price for accepting confederation, Canada expended $10,000,000 in money and land for building the C. P. R., of which a very considerable portion was spent in British Columbia—

Mayor Redfern (interrupting): "The public has too much sense to believe rubbish."

The alderman did not entirely agree with His Worship. One could but be surprised, he said, to see how gullible the public was. He held that in such matters as this it was the duty of the council of British Columbia's capital to strengthen in every way possible the hands of the representatives at Ottawa in their efforts to secure the rights of the province. Another statement in the same article to which he had referred was that a sum of $3,000,000 had been spent since the coming in of the present government on the Crow's Nest Pass railway, British Columbia reaping the direct and most tangible advantage. This, too, he wished to corerct. It was well known that the men who benefited most through the construction of this road were the business men of Manitoba and the more Eastern provinces.

Ald. Williams endorsed the observations of Ald. Beckwith in this regard, and the meeting thereupon came to an end.

THE MACHINE GUN.

There are two distinct types of the modern machine gun or rifle calibre—the single barrel automatic, in which the energy of recoil, or of a portion of the powder gasses, maintains a constant fire after the first shot is discharged by hand, and the multi-barrel type, in which from two to ten barrels are grouped together, the operations of loading and firing them being performed through the simple revolution of a hand crank. The rate of fire, even from single-barrel guns, has reached 700 shots per minute, and with the multi-barrel type 1,200.

There is no more deadly weapon than this arm when it is skilfully handled against masses of troops within its range, either in steady aim or, if pivoted, swept slowly through an arc of train. "A buzz-saw of death," says one observer of its work; "it scoured the hills like a steam hose," says another; "the devil that spits bullets," the Swazis named it, and one of Lobengula's fighting indunas describes its death-hail thus: "I led my men on, but saw them falling like cut corn. We then halted, knelt and fired; but still they fell. We lay down, protected by our shields; but most of the remainder were killed. So I crawled away and fled."

The place of the machine gun in the attach seems still undetermined. It is unquestionably an aid to infantry in close fighting, since under such escort a constant fire can be maintained. Again, in high-angle firing a hailstorm of bullets can be rained upon the heads of men behind intrenchments. Its effectiveness in defence, however, is beyond doubt. Nothing can equal it in stopping the rush of desperate men or in reinforcing the fire of infantry. The place of the arm therefore is essentially in the reserve, as a gun of position.—Cassier's Magazine.

THE APPEAL ALLOWED.

Supreme Court Passes on the Case of Hobbs v. the E. & N. Railway.

Press despatches received yesterday from Ottawa announce that the Supreme court of Canada has allowed the appeal in Hobbs v. the E. & N. Railway Company. The case effects the right of Hobbs to the coal under certain lands which he purchased from the company. Some years ago Mr. Hobbs, now residing on Douglas street, in this city, purchased from the company 160 acres just out of Nanaimo, including the land under which the Extension mine is situated. The company handed him a deed reserving to them the coal and minerals. This he refused to accept so his purchase money was returned but like the deed was not accepted. Then Mr. Hobbs sued the company for a specific performance of contract. The case was tried by Chief Justice Davie, who gave a verdict in favor of the company. An appeal was taken to the Full court and while they held that certain reservations should not have been made in the deed, decided that the coal should be reserved for the company. Mr. Hobbs appealed to the Supreme court of Canada on the question of his right to the coal and the decision now given is in his favor. As very valuable coal fields are involved it is possible that the case will be carried to the privy council.

The parties interested had not received any private information from Ottawa yesterday.

AMPHION MINSTRELS.

Performance to Be Given at the A. O. U. W. Hall This Evening.

The "burnt cork" artists of H. M. S. Amphion will give a performance in A. O. U. W. hall this evening in aid of a deserving charity. Reserved seats can be obtained at Hall & Co.'s drug store. Mr. Arthur Langfield is the pianist and musical director; Mr. Jessie Longfield, first violin; Mr. W. Edwards, second violin; Mr. Oliver Soper, guitar; Messrs. T. Kelleher and E. Honeyset, mandolins; H. Trist, banjo; and C. Campbell, guitar. The doors open at 7:30 and the performance will commence at 8 o'clock. The programme follows:

CANADA'S HYMN OF THE EMPIRE.

(Temporary tune, "Morecambe," No. 174, Book of Praise.)

INVOCATION.

I.

Eternal Father, God of our fair land,
A Loyal Nation lifts her heart to Thee;
Before the world we dare to take Thy hand,
Claiming Thy guidance to our destiny.

OUR MESSAGE TO THE WORLD.

II.

Our word is Peace, our rights are equal laws,
Our arms of love we spread from sea to sea,
Our life is progress toward the broader cause,
Our hope through justice to give liberty.

III.

No tyrant owns us, and we own no slave,
But brothers see in all the good and true;
Home of the hopeful, refuge of the brave,
Here may despair her faith in man renew.

IV.

In amity to bind the rich and poor,
To break the shackles from the mind and soul,
By honest labor make contentment sure,
We upward press, on to our destined goal.

V.

Seeking by knowledge to let the light,
And all the blessings Art and Science bring,
Till our vast lands with human smiles are bright
And every league shall hear our children sing.

VI.

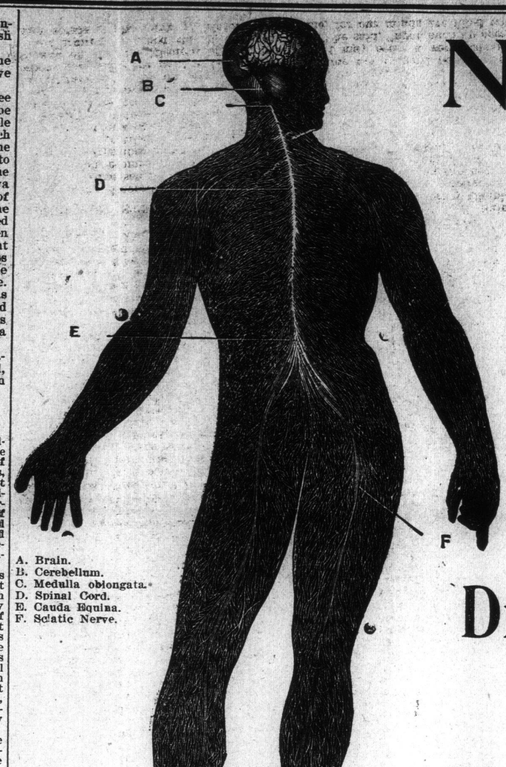
In our strong right we bid aggression halt,
And treason fear our British bugle call;
Our bond of Empire brooks no vile assault,
We rise with Britain or with Britain fall.

OUR DESTINY.

VII.

Thus shall we take our high and sovereign place,
And CANADA for truth and honor stand,
A Loyal People, a united race,
A happy nation in a glorious land.

Toronto, May 23. —Arthur Cox.



A. Brain.
B. Cerebellum.
C. Medulla oblongata.
D. Spinal Cord.
E. Cauda Equina.
F. Sciatic Nerve.

Nervous Prostration

The utter collapse of the body which accompanies pronervous stration impresses one with the supreme importance of the nervous system. Just think. There could be no feeling, no sensation, no action, no breathing, no circulation of the blood, no growth, no life, without the nervous system. There could be no sympathy or harmony among the different organs of the body. The body would be nothing more than a "dead mass" over which the brain had no control.

Exhausted by disease, overwork, or worry, the nerves become weaker and weaker. Their cry for proper nourishment is made known by nervous headaches and dyspepsia, brain fag, loss of energy and ambition, confusion of the mental faculties, fear to venture, irritability, sleeplessness and despondency. These are the signs of approaching nervous prostration—the signs of starved and exhausted nerves.

Dr. Chase's Nerve Food

Is prepared from the last and favorite prescription of Dr. A. Chase and is his greatest scientific discovery. It nourishes the starved and exhausted nerves back to health and strength, and inspires new confidence and ambition in the weak and exhausted. It does not stimulate; it does not give false hope; it creates new brain and nerve cells to replace those wasted by disease, overwork and worry. It makes the blood rich and pure, and sends through the body the thrill of new life and vigor, which imparts energy and strength to every organ of the body. It restores pale, weak men and women to robust health.

Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, 50 cents a large box, at all dealers, or sent postpaid, along with a copy of Dr. Chase's new book, "The Ills of Life and How to Cure Them," on receipt of price by

Edmanson, Bates & Co., Toronto.

TIMELY TOPICS.

PROTECTION IN BRITAIN.

The condition of Britain under protection is rapidly passing from memory. The state of affairs which urged Sir Robert Peel to propose a reduction of taxation on 750 foreign articles, with a sliding scale reduction on grain, was most deplorable. In Leeds there were 20,936 persons whose average earnings were less than a shilling a week. In Nottingham 10,580 persons, nearly a fifth of the population, were in receipt of parochial relief. In most of the trades in Birmingham men were earning from one-third to one-half of what would be regarded as regular wages. In Paisley 30 failures took place within two months. In Manchester 12,000 families, after pawning their furniture and everything, they could dispense with, were supported by voluntary charity. In Spitalfields 8,000 looms were idle and 24,000 people were thrown on the parochial relief. In London, by the reports from special handicrafts, there were 1,000 printers and 9,000 tailors out of work. This was the culmination of a policy designed for the protection of native industries, and which resulted in taxes on about 1,000 articles of ordinary use, a system showing the complications inseparable from an attempt to help each by obstructing all the others.

THE BALANCE OF TRADE.

The faith generally placed in the balance of trade as an indication of national conditions is unwarranted on account of the failure of statisticians to record the nature of the contracts which go to make up the volume of exports and imports. It is not always safe to assume that large imports with small exports show a sinking into debt to foreign producers. That is the indication on the surface, but it is not reliable. Large imports may mean the returns from past lending, and may be merely the collection of interest or rent from foreigners. That is in a measure the nature of Britain's large "unfavorable" balance of trade. It is the form in which rent and interest are collected from foreign countries. It does not show that the people of Britian are sinking into debt to the foreigners, but that the foreigners are doing their best to pay interest and rent to the British. The great exports and small imports of Ireland do not show that the people are making others their debtors, but that they are trying to pay their rent to absentee land-owners. The only returns for these large exports are the receipts for rents, and until statisticians can record the nature of all commercial paper passing between nations their reports will be of little value as indications of commercial or industrial prosperity.

EXTINCTION OF GREAT NAMES

Neither Bacon, Newton, Locke, Davy nor Stuart Mill left a son to inherit his fame; while of historians Hume, Gibbon and Macaulay were never married. Among our great painters Reynolds, Lawrence and the late Lord Leighton were bachelors. Hogarth perpetrated a romantic love match, which was fruitless; and Turner, the great magician of color and canvas, twice soured by early disappointments, never married. Handel, who may almost be claimed as an Englishman, had no wife but his art; Braham, perhaps our greatest singer, whose daughter we some of us remember as Lady Waldegrave, I believe, left no son; while of the giants of the footlights Davy Garrick and John Kemble died childless, and the direct male issue of Edmund Kean ended with the death of his son Charles.—Pall Mall Gazette.

BARON VON STERNBERG.

Baron Hermann Speck Von Sternberg, the German Commissioner on the Samoan Commission, comes of a well-to-do Saxon family, a member of which, Herr Alexander Speck, settled in Leeds half a century ago. Herr Speck married an English lady, Miss Stocks of Holmfirth, and was afterwards created a Baron by the Bavarian Government with the title of "Von Sternberg." Baron Hermann is his second son. He was born in Leeds in 1852, and on the resettlement of his father in Germany entered the Saxon army and obtained the rank of Major. He then devoted himself to diplomacy, and is now a Councillor of Legation. He holds the position of First Secretary in the German Embassy at Washington.

SAVONAROLA.

Savonarola has been termed the Puritan of Catholicism, and his followers were nicknamed "the Weepers." When the French left Florence a republic was established, of which Savonarola was the guiding spirit. The most stringent enactments were made for the repression of vice and frivolity, gambling was prohibited, ostentation in dress was restrained. Women flocked to the public square to fling down their most costly ornaments, and a huge "bonfire of vanities" was made. On account of his views and his assumption of the gift of prophecy he was cited in 1495 to answer a charge of heresy at Rome, and on failing to appear was forbidden to preach. He disregarded the order, a conspiracy for the return of the Medici was severely dealt with, five of the conspirators being executed. In 1497 he was excommunicated, but went on tending the sick monks during the plague. At the new elections the Medici was successful, and Savonarola was forbidden to preach. Finally he was brought to trial for heresy, sedition and falsely claiming to see visions and to prophesy, was found guilty and burned. He and two Dominican disciples met this fate on May 23, 1498.

CAMILLE KRANTZ.

M. Camille Krantz, who has succeeded M. de Freycinet as Minister of War, is just 20 years younger than his predecessor. Otherwise he has much in common with him, being also an engineer and a military student. He has hitherto held the portfolio of Public Works in the Dupuy Cabinet. Educated at the Military Polytechnic School, he entered the army as a lieutenant of artillery, and served in the war of 1870. He then received the appointment as engineer to the state manufactories. Later on he was actively concerned in the management of the Paris Exhibition of 1878. Being a lawyer as well as a soldier and engineer, his next appointment was that of Master of Requests at the Council of State. He is at the present moment professor of administrative law at the National School of Roads and Bridges. It was not until 1891 that M. Krantz entered politics. In that year he was elected one of the deputies for the Vosges. In the Chamber he distinguished himself by his treatment of financial questions. In 1898 he was elected one of the vice-presidents of the Chamber, and last November he joined the Dupuy Cabinet as Minister of Public Works. M. Krantz is a man of ideas and of considerable judgment and knowledge. That he has a good deal of courage as well is sufficiently evidenced by his acceptance of the thorny seat vacated by M. de Freycinet in the Rue Saint Dominique.

THE BOOK OF SPORTS.

The Book of Sports was issued by James I. in 1617 for use in Lancashire, where the King found a conflict on the subject of Sunday amusements between the Puritans and the gentry, many of whom were Roman Catholics. Permission was given for dancing, archery, leaping, vaulting, etc., and of "having of May games, Whitsun ales and morris dances, and the setting up of maypoles and other sports therewith used," provided there was no neglect of divine service. But bear-baiting, bull-baiting and bowling were forbidden on the Sabbath. On 1618 James I. ordered it to be read from the pulpit, but it met with such opposition that he was obliged to yield.

BEWARE OF RUSSIA.

Rev. A. H. Baldwin, of All Saints' Church, Toronto, and Honorary Chaplain of the Royal Grenadiers delivered a very interesting sermon on the occasion of a recent garrison parade, frankly criticizing Russia's attitude towards Great Britain at a time when the Czar is responsible for the calling of the Peace Conference. Rev. Mr. Baldwin's text was from the 10th chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel, 34th verse, "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth; I came not to send peace, but a sword." It may seem a very strange text to us," he said, "upon such an occasion as this, for our minds are filled with the great and it may be important conference concerning peace, and the suggestion that the nations are to do away as far as possible with national armies. Yet we have chosen such a text as this, 'not peace, but war.' We look upon this conference and hope in some way it may produce much good, but we are not unconscious of the great country which for long years has sought an entrance—and fought for it, though baffled—into the Mediterranean, seeking to come through that and battle once more with old England. We have before us this country, which contains its Siberia, one of the darkest portions of the wide world; we have the present attitude of Russia towards the Finns. We have this country stretching out its hand, massive and guarded, toward Afghanistan; we are not ignorant of its devices in regard to the great and growing possessions of Great Britain in India, and we are aware of its devices in China, that country now to be cut into sections by the great nations of Europe. Another question which stands before the people is the division of Africa. It is by no means settled; by no means is there perfect peace there, nor it there likely to be. But yet we pray that good may somehow come out of this movement brought about by the ruler of a great nation, who is himself so desperately in earnest as regards war. One of the leading papers of the old country recently gave us a very strange picture of peace entering Vulcan's forge and saying, 'I thought peace was about to come,' to which Vulcan replies, 'Never have I been so busy in my life.' It is easy to read and understand the trend of events yet we pray for peace. God forbid that we should use a prayer which I saw in the newspapers of yesterday, and which is reported to have been uttered by the Bishop of New York. We are told there that God might suggest, if you please, and that the conference might devise some means of carrying out His purpose. I have always been taught that God is to begin, continue and end everything. No king, lord, dignitary or conference is superior to God, and I for one refuse to say 'amen' to such a petition. That is not the prayer we should pray, but prayers such as we have had this day, earnest prayers, looking to God and praying for His peace."

The following is the prayer set forth by the Bishop of New York so strongly objected to by Mr. Baldwin:

"Almighty God, who hast made of one blood all nations to dwell upon the face of the earth, and who teachest men to be of one mind in a house, we beseech Thee that, as Thou didst preside in the council of the blessed Apostles, so Thy Holy Spirit may abide in and with those who are now convened to promote peace and good will among the nations of the earth. Enlighten their understandings; constrain their wills; touch and transform their hearts, and by Thy mighty power make them to think and do the thing that pleaseth Thee, so that by what Thou mayest suggest, and they may devise, peace and happiness, truth and justice may in all lands prevail, and that the day be brought near when men shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks, until all Thy children being taught of the Lord, great shall be the peace of all kindreds and nations and tongues to the everlasting triumph of Thy law of love, and the glory of Thy Holy Name, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen."

ABERDEEN AND THE CABLE.

Responding to the toast "Imperial Interests" at the annual dinner of the Society of Authors, which took place in London recently, Lord Aberdeen made an interesting reference to the Pacific Cable scheme. Part of his speech is as follows: "It is increasingly recognized that the constituent parts of that great entity, the British Empire are, or ought to be, a sort of mutual benefit society. But none the less would there be, in a combination so vast and complex, a liability to 'hitches' in the adjustment of affairs. Then came the value and the force of the sentiment, and the practical reasoning, based on the recognition of community of interest and of general purpose. When alluding to 'hitches' I have in mind, among other things, a certain sense of disappointment which has been occasioned in one very important branch of the empire firm, namely, in Canada, regarding a recent announcement, or, rather, the absence of announcement, with reference to the Pacific cable scheme. I allude to this not as a carping critic, but rather to express a strong hope, even expectation, that with a little more time and consideration, and exchange of views, the desired contribution, or some equivalent, might yet be forthcoming. And it is at such a time as this that a special advantage is gained from the settled condition of mutual confidence in the main disposition of both parties in the discussion. The reduction of about 25 per cent. in the duties on British goods is, in a country which depends very largely on its customs duties for revenue, a real and practical manifestation of good-will and confidence not only in the British people, who certainly received it most cordially, but also a mark of confidence on the part of the Canadian Government in the loyalty and patriotism of the Canadians—a confidence in which they responded worthily.

"It is very natural that in Canada, as a young and ambitious country, there should be a strong wish to secure the fullest scope and protection for any indigenous production, in the shape of literature, from the point of view both of commerce and of fame. Moreover, the proximity of that portentous good neighbor, the United States, by no means simplifies the problem. But of course the desideratum is that the attainment of reasonable demands on the part of Canada should be sought, not by a method which would cause friction and even a deadlock, but by a more excellent way. And in the solution of this question the Authors' Society can exercise a most important influence. It is of the utmost moment that there should be such a body as this, the unquestioned repository of the main opinion of the leading authors of the day, and of the great host who looked to them as their spokesmen and their chiefs."

Commenting on the foregoing, the Morning Post said: "No one has a better right to careful attention when he speaks on Canada than Lord Aberdeen. Perhaps it is not yet too late for the Central Government to reconsider its position in the matter of the All-British cable, so as to remove any feeling that there is a want of confidence in this particular instance between the mother country and the colonies. Canada has done so much in recent years to prove her splendid loyalty that any action which should tend to damp her enthusiasm must be viewed with regret."

On Lord Aberdeen's reference to the subject of copyright, the Post says: "But we can have little doubt that British authors will soon have no reason to complain of the law of copyright as it is interpreted in Canada."

The Daily Mail, in a brief editorial on the all-British Pacific cable question, says that the correspondence relating to the subject is amazing reading. "No attempt is made to blink the fact that if the undertaking is a success it cannot fail to promote Imperial Unity. And we have it on the authority of the best expert evidence that the cable will pay its way from the first, and will, in a very little time, be highly profitable. This anticipation, of course, relates to days of peace; in event of war the value of an all-British cable reaching to the farthest corners of the empire will be incalculable. Viewed from every aspect this enterprise is one that the mother country should further and support in every way."

MACHINE AND HAND WORK.

It is unfair to make comparisons without duly considering surroundings and history. The state of the machine tool art, like other industries in America and Europe, has been mainly shaped by economic conditions. What those conditions are, and how they have operated, it is beyond the scope of this article to discuss. It is sufficient to state that in America the tendency is to reduce all production to machine operations. In European countries the tendency is to employ machinery as an assistant to production, and to rely on skilful hand labor to compete, and in some cases to produce outright, the highest grade of work. The consequence is that we find in America the highest skill and talent devoted to the production of machinery on which the article is made, and in Europe the highest skill devoted to the production of the article itself. As far as talent is concerned, there is as much on one side of the Atlantic as on the other; it is simply progressing on different lines.—H. F. L. Orcutt, in The Engineering Magazine for June.