

NEWFOUNDLAND'S TIFF WITH THE UNITED STATES. The attitude of Newfoundland to the United States for a length of time has been far from satisfactory to Canada, as there seemed to be a disposition to discriminate in trade arrangements in favour of the States and against this country. Presuming upon this manifest desire to cultivate closer relations with Americans the fishermen of the United States have been quietly but effectually intruding upon the fishing grounds of the Newfoundlanders and ignoring the local regulations regarding the taking of bait and dealing with cargoes of fish. The Senate of the United States having refused to ratify a treaty of reciprocity with Newfoundland in return for the privileges granted to Americans, the local Government was compelled to place more stringent restraints upon the proceedings of the Gloucester fishermen in regard to securing bait, etc. They had gone on step by step taking advantage of Newfoundland's complacency until it was evident that they regarded the whole Newfoundland fishing ground as being as free to them as to the Island's fishermen. The Newfoundlanders have had an experience of American aggressiveness which has cooled their desire for closer relations with the United States. The outcome may be a movement favourable to Newfoundland entering Confederation, "a consummation devoutly to be wished" in the interests no less of the Island than of the Dominion.

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COST OF NEGLECTING SIDEWALKS.—In the Superior Court in this city, judgment was given this week against the city in an action for damages claimed on account of an accident arising from a neglected sidewalk. The plaintiff when on her way to Church on Bishop St., on January 4, fell on the ice, by which she suffered severe injury which has left her bereft of her senses of taste and smell. It was shown, that the city had neglected this sidewalk for a long time, so that the asphalt was very uneven and dangerous, especially when the lumps were coated with ice. The city was condemned to pay the plaintiff \$1,000 and costs, which will still further emphasize the costliness of neglecting sidewalks.

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THE BRITISH BUDGET.—On 10th inst., the chancellor of the Exchequer, delivered his Budget speech in the British House of Commons. He made a happy stroke by opening his statement with the announcement of a surplus of \$7,100,000, which caused no little surprise as a deficit was generally anticipated. For the year 1905-6 the revenue was expected to be \$720,020,000, and expenditure \$705,160,000 leaving \$14,860,000 as anticipated surplus. During the past year the national debt had been reduced to extent of \$37,790,000, the amount at close of the year being \$3,775,360,000. As a step towards strengthening the national credit the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed that \$5,000,000 be added to the annual fixed-debt charge to create a sinking fund for the \$50,000,000 treasury bonds due in December next, which he proposed to renew for ten years with the condition that one-tenth be withdrawn and repaid each year. This would absorb five millions of the surplus. He hoped that an

instalment of the Transvaal's contribution to the war fund would be paid next year. The income tax left without change, but the war duty of 4 cents per pound on tea would be wiped off on 1st July. The Budget of the Hon. Austen Chamberlain was very favourably received on both sides of the House.

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THE CANADIAN BUDGET.—Enquiries are pouring in as to the date when the Budget will be introduced at Ottawa. The Government is acting on the principle laid down by Lord Bacon, and endorsed by that eminent statesman, the late Mr. Gladstone, to "avoid overlapping important subjects." The Autonomy Bill is quite enough to occupy the attention of the House of Commons and seems likely to be the standing dish for some time to come. Probably if the tactics threatened by some members are entered upon the Finance Minister will bring down his Budget and the House of Commons will be placed in the embarrassing position of having two matters before it of prime importance. An arrangement might be made to devote so many hours to Autonomy and so many to Budget, and so have what certain theatres call a "continuous performance." Seriously, it is high time the provisions of the Budget were made known as there is always a certain degree of obstruction caused to business while the Budget is impending. The Finance Minister is in no wise to blame for the delay being so prolonged. He, no doubt, is desirous of getting the matter off his mind for a matured speech is burdensome until the hour for delivery comes. Let us have the Budget anyway and give the house the choice as to which it will debate, the Autonomy Bill or the national finances and prospects.

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ONTARIO'S FINANCES.—The new provincial treasurer of Ontario, Colonel Matheson, when delivering his Budget speech gave the gross receipts of the province last year as \$6,128,358, and expenditure \$5,267,000, an increase in 5 years of \$1,557,000. From the gross revenue he deducted timber bonuses and capital paid on drainage debts, leaving an ordinary revenue of \$4,433,453. The gross expenditure he placed at \$5,267,453, from which he deducted sums spent for the Yule Bridge award, Woodstock Asylum, good roads, Trinity Medical building, Kingston Mining Schools, drainage debentures, money paid on common school lands, sugar bonuses and iron mining.

These he regarded as capital expenditures. Thus the ordinary expenditure amounted to \$4,732,408. To this he added the unpaid accounts of 1904, amounting to \$180,000. The deficit from the year, therefore, was \$478,989.

Turning to the assets and liabilities, Mr. Matheson went at length into each item. As to the Temiskaming railway, he strongly condemned the late Government for borrowing five million dollars when but a little over three was needed and the remainder remained in the bank. He offered explanations relative to changes in the public accounts. The sum of \$142,000 from the Dominion was placed as subsidy, although his predecessors had called it interest. "They