

We note with pleasure the disapproval which a large portion of the American press is now awarding to the Chinese Exclusion Act. In Boston the feeling runs high, and a public meeting has been called to consider the action of the Government.

Another of our Maritime Province men is making his mark in the world in a most satisfactory way. We refer to Mr. Geo. Parkin, the well-known advocate of Imperial Federation, who has just published a school manual, "Round the Empire." The book is intended to give a correct idea of Great Britain's colonial possessions to English children. It is more than probable, therefore, that the next generation of National School children will not have a vague idea that Canada is a snow-covered region, adjacent to New York.

About one-seventh of the fruit space at the World's Exposition has been set aside for Canada. We trust that Nova Scotia will make a good showing. Apples and pears, intended for cold storage, may be sent in by November 1st of this year. More perishable fruit may be preserved in different chemical solutions and exhibited in glass jars. Can none of our ingenious fruit growers devise some plan by which a branch, if not a full tree, of our "Bear River" cherries may be shown in its natural state? The beautiful glossy fruit would not be soon forgotten.

Much interest in the protection of children has been aroused in several European countries by the Montague disclosures. It now transpires that the tiny cripples on exhibition at French fairs are a result of malpractice. Small and weakly babies are obtained, usually from the Spanish peasants, and entrusted to a "cripple-farmer." This creature, by tightly binding the legs of his victims, hinders the circulation of the blood, and at last succeeds in inducing a shrivelled condition of both legs, after which the child is ready for exhibition. The *Lancet* recommends that a "Child's Protective Society" be established in both France and Spain.

If the charge which the Government of the United States is now bringing against Consul McCreery, of Valparaiso, be proven, another dishonest man will meet with his deserts. It is claimed that McCreery abused his official position by sending untrue telegrams and letters about the state of affairs in Chili, and that he profited to the extent of \$36,000 in one week by the effect of said telegrams on the Exchange. It might be as well to suspend the gentleman in question before the charge is proven, as the *fac simile* letters which are now published are not creditable as regards either chirography or orthography to the public school system of his country.

An awful disaster in the shape of a hurricane of wind and rain has just visited Central New Zealand. The storm was not unexpected, but there was little that could be done to prepare the country to withstand it. The gale arose at sea, scattering and wrecking all vessels near the coast, and causing the death of unknown numbers of seamen. On shore buildings were unroofed or blown entirely down by the fearful wind, long stretches of railway embankments were washed away by the rain, and the standing crops ready for harvest (for it is now autumn in the Antipodes) were utterly destroyed. Further particulars of the storm are not forthcoming, owing to the damage done to the telegraph wires in the interior.

The prompt and emphatic action of the Agricultural Department at Ottawa has pretty well quieted the fears of English apple consumers as to the poisonous character of Canadian apples. According to the *Manchester Grocers' Review*, the learned counsel in a celebrated case endeavored to prove that the murdered man had met his death by eating apples which, during their growth, had been sprayed with arsenic. Mr. Frank T. Shutt, M. A., F. C. S., Chemist to the Dominion Central Experimental Farms, Ottawa, in refuting this statement says:—"The suspicion that Canadian apples are poisonous is entirely without foundation, and it is hoped that the publishing of the following positive proof of the absence of arsenic in 'sprayed' apples will serve to assure the English consumer that the practice so useful for preventing the ravages of the codling moth does not result in apples dangerous to health. Mr. Thomas Fletcher, Dominion botanist and etomologist, procured a sample of apples that had undoubtedly been sprayed, and I have submitted them to a careful chemical analysis. The apples examined (Rode Island greenings) were kindly furnished by Mr. Woolverton, editor of the Canadian Horticulturist, who personally vouches for the fact that they were twice sprayed last June with Paris green of the strength of 1 lb of the material to 200 gallons of water. The apples, when received, were just as they had come from the tree, i. e., had not been rubbed—so that any arsenic left from the spraying would still be on the skin. The quantity tested for arsenic was 9 lbs. 7 ozs., measuring about one peck. The process to which they were submitted is one that affords extremely accurate results, and is considered the most delicate of all for the detection of arsenic. If the amount of the minimum fatal dose of arsenic—2½ grains—were spread over 23,000 bushels of apples, the poison could be detected by this method. Though the analysis was conducted with the greatest care, not a trace of arsenic could be detected, thus proving the complete absence of this poison in these apples that had been twice sprayed with Paris green." The widespread publication of this analysis should settle once and for all the prejudices as well as the fears of those who may have thought that the use of Paris green in destroying insect life might result in poisoned fruit.

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Every traveller in Great Britain has experienced discomfort from the absence of checks for baggage on railroads, but it has probably not occurred to many of them to turn the evil to profit rather than loss. A Mrs. Williams recently conceived the idea that she might sue a Railway Company for a tin trunk, which she claimed had been mislaid or wilfully kept from her by the Company. Her claim of £37 1s. was contested, with the pleasing result to the Company at least, of exposing a "plaint," as, upon examination, it was clearly proven that the "tin trunk" was a purely imaginary article. Mrs. Williams will remain for twelve months in jail before introducing further innovations into Great Britain.

A very interesting discussion arose recently in the Imperial House of Commons over the Clergy Discipline Bill, presented by Mr. Balfour. The proposed measure will give more authority to the Established Church, and on that account met with opposition from the Radical members. Up to the present time, a very onerous and difficult matter has been left to the Bishop of the church, for when a stray black sheep assumed the clerical garb, and disgraced her cloth by drunkenness or immorality, he could be made to vacate his living only through an appeal through the Bishop to the civil law. The new bill provides that such case shall be directly under the control of the Bishop's court, so that full power to punish or suspend the delinquent may be obtained, without an appeal to the public courts. As the bill has now passed the House of Commons, it will probably be speedily accepted by the House of Lords.

The proposition of levying a tax on bequests and inheritances is being mooted in London, where a city merchant, at least fourteen times a millionaire, has died, leaving neither public or charitable bequests. A radical writer thinks that the next Parliament will deal with the proposed measure, and will probably adopt a graduated death duty. According to the same ingenious writer, a millionaire might be allowed some option in the matter—that is, he might will certain properties to such public or benevolent objects as he might choose, and in that case, if the amount willed were a fair proportion, the tax on the estate might be remitted. But better, far better, say we, for our rich men to take an active interest in public and benevolent objects during their lifetimes, so that their personalities are blended with their work. There is food for thought in a sentence of George Macdonald's—"In giving a man receives more than he gives, and the more is in proportion to the worth of the thing given."

Ten years ago a clear-headed American patriot, Colonel Auchmuty, founded a great trade school in New York, where for a nominal payment instruction was to be given in carpentry, blacksmithing and other trades. The school was open in the evening as well as through the day for the benefit of busy people. At that time there were six pupils. In the past ten years there have been 3,700 competent workmen trained in the school. Last year alone 521 mechanics, plumbers, stone cutters and bricklayers, left its doors. This year a princely bequest has been made to the school by Mr. Pierrpont Morgan, who thoroughly appreciates the good work done there. Now new branches will be added, and the small charges diminished. A good honest trade, well mastered, is about the greatest safeguard any American or Canadian lad requires, and the man who helps to make handicrafts popular with young people does a valuable national work. We hope some day to see a similar institution in our Dominion.

In Canada, with our continually improving faculties for free education, we have little to fear of the ballot being in the hands of illiterate masses. In Great Britain, and especially in Ireland, the illiterate vote has often carried the day. A disenfranchising clause has therefore been added to the Ballot Act. To many the amendment of the former Act seems like a covert blow at the Irish voters, who send Home Rule members to represent them, and a restraint upon the priests, who wield so mighty a power during elections. The motion has been carried by a large majority in the House of Commons. Another complicated question has arisen over the iron workers and factory hands, who, through no fault of their own, but on account of the miners' strike, were compelled to accept charity through the winter. It seems neither fair nor reasonable that these men, many of them highly intelligent mechanics, should forfeit their franchise because they have been forced to accept charity, and yet, according to the present British law, they will be classed with the disqualified illiterate voters.

A practical scheme for aiding the poor has been carried out in Germany for the past forty-one years. F. W. Raifferson, a broadminded thinker, pitying the laborers who each year fell into the hands of the usurers, both for the purpose of procuring seed and for marketing the crops, evolved what are now known as the "Raifferson Loan Associations." These consist of a number of reputable men in each village, who, without salary, attend to the business part of the work. A capital is provided by donations and low-interest loans from wealthy friends. The money is let out in small sums at a nominal rate of interest, and the individual circumstances of the customers are carefully noted, yet so successful has been the management of the various societies that no society has ever failed, nor has the working capital ever been diminished by bad debts. The late Kaiser William publicly acknowledged the benefit to the State of these Associations. What a sharp contrast is this condition of affairs to the condition of the farmers of Russia, who are compelled to submit to any extortion in their time of need from the hands of the Jews.

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