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All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

AMONG the most interesting comments in our English exchanges, dated a couple of weeks ago, are those upon the Scotch railway strike. That the strikers made serious mistakes in their conduct of the struggle, and that some bad men amongst them, or unprincipled hangers-on, wrought grievous injury to the cause by their misdeeds, is admitted on all hands. The contest, too, seems to have been very unequal from the beginning. But, on the other hand, the facts brought to light during the progress of the struggle show beyond all controversy that the men have cruel grievances and wrongs. The publicity given to these facts, and the feeling thereby aroused in the breasts of British lovers of fair play, of all classes, afford a pretty good guarantee that something will be done in the near future to remove those grievances and remedy those wrongs. Hence the railway men are pretty sure to reap future victory as the outgrowth of present defeat. This was strikingly suggested in the tone of a recent debate in the House of Commons on a motion of Mr. Channing's. The coincidence of the debate with the crisis of the strike was accidental, as Mr. Channing's notice of motion had been given some weeks before. According to the statistics brought forward by Mr. Channing the directors of the Scotch lines, though the worst, are not the only offenders. On twelve English and Welsh lines, he said, 33,179 out of 55,278 men worked over twelve hours a day during September, 1889. There were 69,825 cases of duty for upwards of fifteen hours, and 7,341 for upwards of eighteen hours. The minor railways were even worse. The North British, in Scotland, in September, 1887, employed 554 engine-drivers over eighteen hours a day, and in September, 1889, the number had increased to 927, while between March, 1888, and March, 1890, the number rose from 514 to 1,016. It is no wonder that Mr. Channing "denounced the conduct of the North British directors as 'deplorable and discreditable,'" and that "not a word was said in their defence during the night." Although the Government opposed the motion, several of their supporters frankly declared their intention of supporting it. The President of the Board of Trade finally sought to secure its withdrawal by announcing that he would be prepared to move a resolution affirming that the hours of railway men are excessive, and that a select committee should be appointed to consider whether, and how far, legislative restriction

should be applied. Mr. Channing's motion was, nevertheless, pressed to a division and lost by a majority of but seventeen. Sir Michael Hicks Beach afterwards announced that he would put a motion on the paper for the appointment of the committee. Notwithstanding the reluctance of Parliament to interfere in the relations between employers and employed, it is clear that such interference in the case of railway men will shortly come. The only wonder in the case of the railways, which exist by public charter, which are invested with extraordinary rights over private property, and upon which the safety and convenience of the travelling and mercantile public so largely depend, is that regulation by the State is so slow in coming. To say nothing of the cruel advantage taken of the necessities of labourers, it is evident that the employment of engine-drivers eighteen hours a day is fraught with frightful risk to travellers, and should not be permitted in any civilized country. It should be added to the statements of fact, that the refusal of the Scotch directors to hold any communication with the delegates of the Union was vigorously denounced.

CONCERNING the fierce political struggle now in progress, there is little that is new to be said. The leaders of the Government party, whilst urging the desirability of entering into fresh negotiations for a renewal of the old reciprocity arrangement, on which the plea for dissolution was based—though on an ampler scale—are more and more directly challenging the unrestricted reciprocity advocated by their opponents, as involving disloyalty to the Mother Country, destruction to Canadian industries, and subservience to Washington with annexation as its outcome. It has been noticeable from the first that the press supporting the Government never took kindly or heartily to the idea of the proposed unrestricted reciprocity. Hence, as we anticipated, the contest is now being fought out on these distinct issues. The leaders of the Opposition seem to gather confidence as the struggle goes on, and are becoming more aggressive in putting forward the merits of their one panacea for all the financial ills which afflict the country. Nor are there wanting indications that their policy has taken a deeper hold upon some of the constituencies, especially the rural constituencies, than was at first supposed. While the leaders on both sides profess to be confident of success, there seems really to be no means yet available of making a forecast of the result that can be regarded as in any degree reliable. It may be that nomination day, which is drawing near, will afford some clue to the probabilities, but it is more likely that the morning of the fifth of March will find the whole country in a state of profound uncertainty as to the result. One somewhat unusual sign of the intensity of the struggle and the importance of the issue is the fact that cases of the crossing over of men of some influence from one camp to the other are quite common, a fact which adds much to the uncertainty of the situation.

IT is in one respect an advantage that the real issue between the two parties has become so clearly defined. If the country must be periodically convulsed by these great party struggles, it is far better that the battle should be waged for what is regarded on the one side and the other as a great principle, or a policy of vital importance to the prosperity of the commonwealth, than that it should degenerate into a mere scramble for office between the Outs and the Ins. But it is, nevertheless, to be deplored that there is already abundant evidence that the appeal is to be, in many cases, more to prejudice and passion than to principle. The speeches made at the great Liberal meeting of last week in this city were in many respects argumentative and able, yet those of Sir Richard Cartwright and Mr. S. H. Blake were marred by the necessity under which they found or fancied themselves placed, of retorting the charge of disloyalty upon their opponents by raking up mistakes made by certain public men so long ago that the many years of loyal service intervening should have consigned them to oblivion. On the other side the Government speakers might do well to consider whether a cry of disloyalty which may be so easily interpreted as implying that the Mother Country requires Canada to sacrifice her own prosperity and progress, from regard to the

interests of British manufacturers, is not adapted to weaken rather than strengthen the sentiment of loyalty to British connection. It is, moreover, to be borne in mind that Great Britain has never intimated, so far as publicly known, that she asks or expects any such sacrifice. A still more reprehensible feature of the contest is likely to be, we fear, the expenditure of large sums of money in questionable ways, and the wholesale bribery of constituencies by the promise of large public expenditures, a method which has already been reduced almost to a science. Whether the Opposition, who have complained in previous elections of lack of funds, have really at their disposal the large sums of money with which rumour now credits them, we have no means of knowing; but such cases as that in which a body of supporters of the Government in Montreal pledged themselves to raise a hundred thousand dollars as one contribution in aid of their party, suggest the fear that the possession of unlimited funds will not fail to prove a source of temptation and danger, and one is disposed to regret that neither party has had the courage to incorporate the adoption of the British method of limited expenditure as a plank in its platform.

IT speaks well for the growth of *esprit de corps* among journalists that so large a number of representatives came together at the meeting of the Press Association the other evening, in a time of intense political excitement. The influence of the periodical press in the formation of public opinion and morals in these days is unquestionably great, and whatever tends to raise the profession to a higher level is worthy of every encouragement. That such is the tendency of the Association is sufficiently evident from a perusal of the proceedings. The President, Mr. Andrew Pattullo, of the Woodstock *Sentinel-Review*, might well congratulate those present that so many held the interests of the Association above those of the politicians. Among the various subjects which came up for discussion, that introduced by Mr. Ross, of Ottawa, in his paper on "Type-Setting and Casting Machines," is of special interest because of the revolution which is pretty sure, sooner or later, to be brought about in all the larger printing offices by the perfection of these machines. Another interesting discussion was that concerning the use of plate-matter. The question here seemed to be one between economy and individuality; the objectors urging with a good deal of force that the quality of individuality, which should characterize every newspaper, is being destroyed by the stereotyper. Mr. Houston's paper on journalism dealt with the question of qualification for the profession, and took a middle ground between the views of those who contend for a wholly practical preparation, and those who would have chairs of journalism in colleges. The latter experiment, it may be remarked in passing, seems, for the present at least, to have failed where it has been tried, probably for want of students. There are various questions touching the ethics of journalism, to which the Association would do well to turn its attention at an early date. Those concerning the character of advertisements, and the devices sometimes used, with the evident intention of leading the unwary reader to mistake a paid-for reading notice for an editorial commendation, suggest themselves as illustrations. No one who has had experience of the inducements offered for dishonest journalism can doubt that there is a field of usefulness for Press Associations in cultivating and maintaining a high sense of honour and dignity in the profession.

NEWFOUNDLAND'S grievances and sorrows are multiplying. If late despatches are reliable, to her disaffection to the Mother Country is now added a deep sense of exasperation against Canada. According to the despatch, resolutions have been unanimously adopted in the Legislature, after an animated discussion with closed doors, reciting the course and conclusion of negotiations entered into with the United States Government, with the consent and approval of the British Government, looking to reciprocal trade between the Island and the United States. It is further stated that, though strongly urged by Newfoundland, the British Government has up to date declined to ratify the Convention, which was concluded, and on December 16th last accepted by Secretary Blain