

"Le Journal," of Paris, says, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, being asked why Canada did not join the United States, replied:—"We should disappear. French Canada would disappear much more quickly in that gigantic furnace than in the flood of Anglo-Saxon immigration. All who love the French language ought to wish for us to remain Canadians. Besides," concluded the Canadian Premier, "there is nothing nowadays to foreshadow such a change." If the journalists of Paris were to acquire a knowledge of the history of this continent they would discover that Sir Wilfrid's dictum: "We should disappear," is based upon the experience of the French in the United States. Territories in the States as large as what they speak of as "French Canada," that is, the Province of Quebec, which were once as French as is that Province, are now indistinguishable from the rest of the country. The French language therein is a memory, French customs are rarely observed, French laws are no longer recognized, and there is no trace left in the United States of the racial privileges enjoyed by French Canadians. Yet, Parisian editors desire Canada to join the United States in order to have the French language and customs and laws preserved!

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The Premier is reported to have offered to grant a preferential tariff in favour of imports from France to extent of about one-half of what is granted on British imports, the concession to be contingent upon Canadian products entering France being allowed the same rebate duty. This would take somewhat from the Imperial nature of the present preferential tariff, but if the arrangement resulted in enlarging our trade with France British exporters would have no ground of complaint as enlarging our imports from that country would not diminish those from Great Britain.

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A wave of indignation is passing over a section of the American Press caused by the revelations made respecting child-labour in southern factories. The reports thereof read like extracts from reports published before the British Factory Acts were passed. Children from 8 to 12 years of age are employed ten hours a day in the mills and factories in the Southern States, in the country which the national anthem describes as the "Sweet Land of Liberty." It will be interesting to watch the movement for putting an end to this scandal which one of the ablest of journals in the United States speaks of as, "A recrudescence of southern slavery, the victims being white children instead of negro men and women."

President Roosevelt has delivered a judgment on Trusts or Combines which indicates his desire to see some legal restraint put upon those vast aggregations of capital. He described them as creatures of the State, he spoke of the national government as a, or the Sovereign power, and threw out an intimation that what this sovereign power had created it could regulate and control. Now, it is a mere truism that the government of a nation is in that nation the sovereign power, but that Trusts or Combines or any form of organized enterprise are created by the government is a delusion. Legislation may declare in what manner and under what conditions a company may be organized so as to have a legal status as a corporate body, but, if there were no such legislation industrial organizations would be formed and their operations would be maintained. No principle can be stated for the justification of restraining Trusts which does not strike at the very vitals of trading enterprise and the freedom of individuals to invest capital for trading purposes. If A. B. C. may legally combine their capital to form a company and D. E. F. may do the same to organize a second company, is it not absurd to deny the right of those two companies to join their resources so as to form a combined company? President Roosevelt's idea as to the sovereign power of the national government seems more in harmony with a despotism like Russia or Turkey than with a Republic, or such ideas of what a republic involves as prevail amongst the people of the United States.

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No person with a spark of those feelings which honour humanity by differentiating man from the brutes can have read the description of the international military ride from Brussels to Ostend without indignation at such wanton cruelty to the horses who were the victims of this outrage. The distance of the course was 82½ miles. Before the 40th mile was reached four horses collapsed, and any one who knows anything of this noblest of animals knows that such a break down probably meant a cruel death. At a later stage other horses broke down, three indeed dropped dead and a fourth was shot to end its agony. The horse that ran to victory ended its course and its life at the same time. Such a display of inhuman callousness is a scandal to all concerned.

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The English journalists were sceptical about the productive resources of Manitoba and the North West Territories until they had seen some parts of that region and gazed with wondering eyes upon the vast wheat fields and prolific farms. One of them met a settler from his own county who, at home, was earning \$4.50 per week as a farm hand, whereas he now owns a large farm from which he has already drawn enough to pay for it, to buy implements, horses and cattle. That's the sort of "object lesson" to tell in England, where the story of that one settler's experience will act as a stimulus to the immigration of the right class for our vacant lands.