

sions, has stood in the way. Sir Wilfrid Laurier gave notice of motion, that the Home Government be requested to open negotiations with several foreign governments having treaties which apply to the Dominions, with a view to securing the liberty of the Dominions which may desire to withdraw from a treaty without impairing the treaty in respect to the rest of the Empire. Future consideration of the resolution was postponed until the sixteenth instant.

The King's Visit to Canada a Possibility.

There is a possibility that the King may visit Canada on his way to or from the Durbar, at Delhi. Nothing is known definitely on the subject. The only objection likely to arise is that a precedent would be formed, which would lead to an urgent demand for the King to visit all the Dominions. That His Majesty would get a hearty welcome goes without saying.

Anti-Reciprocity Victory in Iowa.

The by-election in Iowa resulted in a decisive victory for the anti-reciprocity farmers of the Middle West. The fact that their candidate was a Republican, but ran upon a platform directly opposed to President Taft's policy, which was ardently supported by the Democratic candidate emphasised the result. The fact of a Republican being elected in opposition to the President on his favourite policy, against a Democrat pledged to support him, shows how the Canadian Reciprocity Treaty has mixed up politics in the United States.

Earthquake in Mexico City.

The surprising thing about the earthquake at Mexico City, which on Wednesday, killed sixty-three people and wounded seventy-five, is that it did so little damage to property. The loss is estimated at only \$100,000 and such estimates are apt to be above rather than below the mark. By a remarkable coincidence, Francisco J. Madero, jun., was to have had a public reception in the city on that day and superstitious Mexicans are already declaring that the calamity was a visitation of divine wrath for their treatment of Diaz. They will probably forget both Diaz and the earthquake in a few weeks.

Sensational Preaching.

- At the opening of the Presbyterian General Assembly, the Rev. Principal Forrest, the retiring Moderator, in a remarkable sermon deplored the tendency towards sensational preaching about almost everything but Christianity. He referred to the advertised sermons dealing in inaccurate history, sanitation, hygiene, politics, political

economy and other subjects of which the preachers often knew very little. "Are we," he asked, "settling down to a sort of respectable professionalism, a kind of parade ground army content with making a decent appearance in the statistical returns, strangers to the zeal, earnestness and devotion of the great Apostle?" There is a good deal of truth in this sweeping criticism and the state of affairs may go far to explain the alleged indifference of the laity. If the clergy do not take their work seriously, they cannot expect other people to do so. At the same time there is much to be said in favour of preaching applied Christianity. The trouble is that sometimes there is too much sensational application and too little Christianity. Let us hope that in many cases the advertised titles are the worst and most sensational part of the sermons.

Canadian Trade.

The Department of Trade and Commerce has issued at Ottawa this week a detailed statement bearing on the trade of Canada during the last fiscal year, a statistical summary of which appeared in our last issue on page 795. The statement now issued shows that among the increases last year in comparison with the previous year in imports for consumption are \$22,000,000 in iron and steel, \$6,000,000 in wood, nearly \$5,000,000 in cottons, \$3,000,000 in coal, \$2,500,000 in sugars, \$2,400,000 in breadstuffs, \$2,000,000 each in oils, drugs, dyes and chemicals, \$1,800,000 in fruit, \$1,600,000 in woollens, and \$1,000,000 each in electrical apparatus, gutta percha, leather, paper and silk. The statement of principal articles exported shows decreases of \$7,000,000 in wheat, \$3,000,000 in apples, and \$1,000,000 each in cattle, coal, fish, hides, cheese and wool. The articles of export showing increases include silver, \$2,000,000; iron and steel, \$1,800,000; bacon and hams, \$1,700,000; cordage, \$1,000,000; hay and seeds, each \$900,000; paper, \$800,000; salted codfish and furs, each \$700,000; leather, \$600,000; wood pulp and nickel, each \$500,000. "A decrease in total exports," says the statement in conclusion, "does not show lessened demand for Canadian goods abroad, but merely a decrease in the amount of goods available for export. On the other hand, an increase in the export of manufactured goods indicated growing popularity of Canadian products in other countries. It must be borne in mind that foreign trade is subject to fluctuations, which it is impossible to control and difficult to explain. From these variations Canada suffers probably less than any other commercial country in the world, and the steady and rapid increase of her business in the world market, and the infrequency and small importance of the periodical reactions are the outstanding features which prove the stability of her commerce and guarantee her advancement in the years to come."