

A DETERIORATION.

Liberals have always claimed, and generally obtained, credit for a belief in a non-partisan civil service. It must be matter of great grief to find that men are being turned out of office who have done their work well and who have been guilty of no fault except that of being staunch Conservatives.

When these good people read that some of their prominent newspapers advocate the dismissal of the efficient deputy ministers who have been in office long enough to be thoroughly conversant with the duties they have to perform, and the appointment in their places of men who have only shown their fitness for their position by their loyalty to their political party, they must utter many a heartfelt sigh over the degeneration of the newspaper editors of these latter days.

Yet this is what the Winnipeg Tribune has done. It has gone further. It commends Mr. Sifton, the new Minister of the Interior, because "one of the first things he has done is to place a man at the head of the two departments over which he presides in whom he has perfect confidence and who is in political sympathy with him."

This is a nice way of saying that the office of deputy minister should be the reward of political service. There is no patriotic Canadian who has had the least experience of the evils of the spoils system who will not regret that the present government should interfere with the efficiency of the civil service by making appointments to its most important departments upon the vicious principle of that system.

RECOGNITION OF CUBA.

In the opinion of the New York Times the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee has thrown to the dogs the wisdom of Jefferson, Madison, Monroe and other founders of the Republic in favorably reporting the Cameron resolution on the Cuban question, thus giving its sanction to the recognition of a new sovereignty which is by no means an established fact, and inviting into the family of nations a few thousand Cuban troops dispersed in their mountain fastnesses, fighting with desperate heroism, indeed, for independence, but with no organized government behind and over them which an envoy could find or get access to.

The cases of the republics of Chili, Columbia and Peru, which were recognized by President Monroe in 1822 are referred to, but it is pointed out that as early as 1816 representatives of President Monroe had been sent to inquire into the condition and prospects of the revolted provinces of Spain. It was only four years later, after he had ascertained that their independence was a recognizable fact, that President Monroe felt himself in a position to declare in his message that "all those provinces of Spain are not only in the full enjoyment of their independence, but, considering the state of the war and other circumstances, there is not the most remote prospect of their being deprived of it."

It is pointed out that there is no comparison between the proposed recognition of Cuba and anything else in the history of the United States, and in fact the United States are asked to step aside from the safe ground of strict neutrality and to plunge into a bog of entanglements and complications of which no man can foresee the nature or predict the ending. The Senate Foreign Affairs Committee it is pointed out should be the grave of ill-considered propositions and not a cradle for their nurture. As contradistinguished from the position of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which is supposed to belong to the more conservative element in the United States Congress, is the attitude of the leading members of the House of Representatives, both Democratic and Republican. They, it would seem from conversations had with them, object to any step which would, in their opinion, bring about a war with Spain on the ground that the McKinley administration ought not to be met at the very moment of coming into power by so serious an international problem, and in this conclusion the Democrats fully concurred. Others felt that it would be injudicious on the part of the United States to recognize either the independence or the belligerency of the Cubans until the real situation in the island is known. Thus far members of the House, at least, are in absolute ignorance, except so far as conflicting newspaper reports are concerned, of the strength of the rebels or their ability to maintain more than a guerrilla warfare.

It may be remarked that most of the reports from the Island which have appeared in the papers of the United States have, despite what has been said in some of them as to the press censorship exercised on the Island by the Spanish authorities, been of a pronounced pro-Cuban color. This is a consideration which cannot fail to have struck even the most casual reader of the dispatches, most of which have reached the public by way of New York, Florida and points not generally regarded as being on the lines of direct communication with Havana. In fact it

would not, we think, be going too far to say that not a few of the reports have been the product of the wish rather than of the fact. It would not, therefore, be surprising if, when the report of the Foreign Relations Committee comes up in the Senate, it will be debated almost indefinitely and in fact be kept in discussion in one or other of the Houses for the remaining two months of the life of the Fifty-fourth congress, which will expire on March 3. That this will be the fate of the Cameron resolution there is but little reason to doubt.

President McKinley and the Fifty-Fifth Congress would thus be left free to take any course which they might see fit to adopt, and possibly after more mature consideration it will be seen how foolish it would be to adopt the course advocated by Senator Cameron and the Foreign Relations Committee, which would involve a train of consequences that it is impossible at present to foresee.

A CHANGE.

In an article in its issue of the 19th on "Trade with Our Neighbours" the Toronto Globe deprecates the unfriendly spirit in which the United States discriminates against Canada and contrasts the readiness of the government of that country to enter into reciprocal trade relations with the republics of Central America with its refusal to exchange its productions with those of Canada. The writer says, very truly, that if the Americans by their unfriendly conduct expect to force Canada into annexation they are wrong, and that the only result of such a policy will be to cause the Canadian producer to find other markets, which although not so convenient, afford him a working profit. The Globe produces figures to show that this has been the result of the present tariff and intimates that if the Americans refuse reciprocity in the future Canada will live and prosper without it. We are glad to see that the great Liberal organ has so much confidence in the future of our country. But, we would ask, who are responsible for the feeling, almost universal in the United States, that Canadians are dependent on the markets of that country, if not for existence at least for prosperity? Is it not the Liberal organs, speakers and politicians who have manifested such eagerness to gain reciprocity in face of the plain determination of the United States Government not to grant it on any other terms than that Canada should adopt their tariff? The Globe will find it very hard now to counteract the impression which the subservient and unpatriotic conduct of at least an important section of the Liberal party, a few years ago, did so much to create.

CIVIC AFFAIRS IN MONTREAL.

In an article in its issue of the 19th inst., the Montreal Star advocates the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate the finances of the city of Montreal. After asserting that a general spirit of distrust regarding the city's finances had got abroad and that no honest official would be injured by the fullest investigation into the manner in which the business of the city has been conducted, the Star concludes by saying that "a Royal Commission ought to be appointed by an outside and competent authority like the Provincial Government to make the scrutiny into Montreal's affairs, and it might profitably be assisted by experts from Great Britain. The findings of such a body would be accepted on all sides without question, and every taxpayer would have the comfort of knowing exactly into what kind of a box he slipped his money. We are all shareholders in the management of this city, and it is no remarkable thing that we should want our books audited once in a generation or two by an independent commission."

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

BRADSTREET SAYS: "For the benefit of those who think that the meaning of the so-called short crop of wheat in the United States has been fully discounted by the advance in prices, it is in order to explain that it is the unexpected which generally happens. Various estimates of the American wheat reserves this year place them far below quantities held at like periods for many years—some say 65,000,000 bushels less than last year. One of the best indications of this is found in very small receipts at primary markets, notwithstanding comparatively high prices. In commenting on this situation, Beerbohm writes, December 4, that 'it is therefore quite reasonable to expect that America may, at a given time, find itself absolutely independent and in a position to demand, practically, its own price for wheat.' It should also be remembered that the present season differs from previous ones in that both India and Australia are importers, instead of exporters, of wheat."

MUHAMMAD Djemaladdin Effendi, the Sheik-ul-Islam, head of the Mohammedan church, is suffering from cancer, and his condition is said to be hopeless. He was appointed to his office in 1891, and has not been affected by the changes in the Turkish ministry since his appointment. He, with the Grand Vizier, exercises under the supreme direction of the Sultan, the legislative and executive authority of the empire. Both these officials are appointed by the Sultan,

the Sheik-ul-Islam with the nominal concurrence of the Ulema, a body comprising the clergy and chief functionaries of the law, over which the Sheik-ul-Islam presides, although he himself does not exercise priestly functions. Without his assent no Sultan can legally be deposed.

The free trader who can extract comfort from the published accounts of the investigations of the tariff commission's labors in Montreal must be a veritable Mark Tapley. Manufacturers, mechanics, millers, grocers, dry goods merchants unite in upholding the principles of the National Policy. Protection for manufactured goods and the admission of the raw material free is the all but universal demand. If the ministers who listen to the evidence brought before them make changes in the direction of free trade, it will be in spite and not because of the opinions expressed by the men who control such a large proportion of the great manufacturing and mercantile interests of the Dominion.

The Central American States of Honduras, Nicaragua and San Salvador having united under the name of "The Greater Republic," it is thought that before long Guatemala and Costa Rica will join the union. "It is to be hoped, but scarcely to be expected, that a confederacy will be a long-lived one. If a good government could be added to the splendid natural resources of Central America the whole continent would be benefited. Heretofore the intestine strife and the revolutionary tendencies of the Spanish-American republics have retarded progress and prevented development."

DESPITE the many laws enacted in recent years to protect the lobsters once so abundant along the New England coast of the United States, their numbers are decreasing with alarming rapidity. The only way apparently of saving them from speedy extinction is to gain increased skill in rearing them by artificial means, and the efforts of the Fish Commission are now turned in that direction. Legitimate action cannot decrease the demand, and the conclusion arrived at that the only means of maintaining the supply is by artificial methods, which it is heartily hoped will be successful.

It is probable that the Provincial Parliament will meet for the dispatch of business about the first or second week of February.

USE OF FERTILIZERS.

The last meeting of the Victoria District Fruitgrowers' Association was marked by the reading of a valuable paper on "Commercial Fertilizers," by Mr. W. C. Grant, of Gordon Head, a gentleman who has given the subject studious attention, and whose observations are eminently practical and worthy of consideration.

"The subject is of two wide ranges to deal with in one paper," he said, "and if a little rambling over ground without explanation in detail is indulged in I hope you will bear with me on this account. I will only say in my experience in handling chemical manures and in endeavor to compare them as a substitute for barn-yard manure, and from a financial standpoint reckon their relative value. I know in the offset that we cannot all agree to the conclusion, but as doctors differ in treating their patients, we may be excused if we differ in our methods of treating plants.

"Suppose an interviewer should ask me having expressed his belief that the ideal of Napoleon III was a union of the Latin element as a counterpoise to the Anglo-Saxon influence. 'Her Majesty is reported to have said, 'The nature of the Mexican expedition personally disquieted me in the direction of Cuba, and you may add that tentative Cuba negotiations for the independence of Cuba before my abdication and when I was harassed by internal struggles.'"

The leading London weeklies again devote much space to the Cuban situation. The Statist thinks there is little prospect that Spain will soon be able to assert herself in Cuba, and urges Great Britain, with or without the consent of the great European powers, to offer her good offices to the United States and Spain. The Statist attaches little importance to the general continental objection that the United States right to interfere would be dangerous to every European government with possessions in America, and says: "Unless one or more of the great powers are prepared to forcibly oppose American intervention, a mere verbal objection will not carry weight. In nearly every case they eventually are ruined, and the best friend of Spain is he who tries to induce her to come to some arrangement in time."

U. S. CONSUL WOUNDED.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—A special to the Herald from Bangkok says: A number of Siamese soldiers attacked and wounded Mr. Kellet, the United States consul-general here. They demanded the release of a consular clerk who, they alleged, had been unjustly arrested. Mr. Barrett, the United States minister, has protested. The Siamese government is pursuing dilatory tactics, but promises to make an enquiry into the incident.

SIoux FALLS, N.D., Dec. 23.—A. B. Mackay, professor of Greek in the Baptist college here, hanged himself in his room to-day. He was supposed to have been temporarily deranged as the result of overwork and a slight illness.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—The Pennsylvania Coal Co. has declared a dividend of 5 per cent. on its stock. The regular dividend rate is 18 per cent. per annum.

plied in liquid form. If we allow one land to dry out, all forms of plant food become locked up and may as well not exist.

"Many fruit growers who are thoroughly conversant with which varieties to plant and how to cultivate them know not a little of the art of feeding them, and the time and way to apply fertilizers. This question receives too little attention at the hands of farmers, as much importance is attached to it. Nitrogen, in the form of saltpetre or nitrate of soda, if applied in autumn, will be washed by the winter rains almost completely out of the soil or carried into the subsoil, where only deep-rooted plants can make use of it. Thus the greater part of this valuable fertilizer will be lost. Potash and phosphoric acid may be used at any time, as all but the most leaching soils will retain them. It may be, however, that this is not all that is necessary for the growth of fruits; they require above all things a deep, well-drained and preferably a light soil. As soils vary in their composition, it is first of all necessary to find out in which element or elements (necessary to plant life) the defect occurs. Suppose it to be potash; then is the question, at the least cost, how to get the potash. The most direct way is the most profitable way.

Now my contention is that for those who are not expert horticulturists are, without a home supply of fertilizer, by substituting commercial fertilizers are enabled to cut the working bill in two. We have no troublesome weeds, and heavy manuring nor spreading, etc., and the expense at first cost is small, being considered, is in favor of manure in concentrated form. We need no longer look for higher prices, but seek rather for that which will reduce the cost of production. If the question of the quantity per acre of a superior quality of produce, as the cultivation, rent, taxes, etc., are alike for a full crop as the application of commercial fertilizers we can put our fruit on the market superior in color, quantity and quality, enabling farmers to reap the profits they are so justly entitled to.

Mr. R. M. Palmer, joined in the discussion that followed, and gave those present some valuable pointers on the comparative values of commercial and barnyard manure. A vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Grant for his very able paper.

The subject of spraying machines was then discussed, and the let day of January set as the time for a competitive market. The chairman of the motion, appointed Mr. Palmer, Mr. J. A. Grant and Mr. Stephens a committee to arrange for the exhibit at some point convenient to the horticulturists and others interested in such work. The representative of the Ruggles spraying machine was invited to participate and promised an exhibit. A meritorious exhibit of carrots was shown by Mr. W. C. Grant, illustrating most conclusively the value to his land of a liberal treatment of wood ashes, and alongside was another exhibit of carrots by Mr. Dove, the result of treatment by fish manure. The wood ash treatment was in favor of the liberal treatment. No new subject was assigned for the next meeting, which will be the annual meeting.

UNITED STATES AND SPAIN.

LONDON, Dec. 26.—The attitude of the United States towards Cuba continues to be the most engrossing subject of discussion in political circles here and on the continent. The crisis has revived recollections in Paris of the ill-fated Mexican expedition, and interviews in this connection with the Imperialist Generals, Baral and Gallit, M. Emile, Olivier and others have appeared in the French press.

Queen Isabel, of Spain, in the course of an interview quoted as having expressed her belief that the ideal of Napoleon III was a union of the Latin element as a counterpoise to the Anglo-Saxon influence. "Her Majesty is reported to have said, 'The nature of the Mexican expedition personally disquieted me in the direction of Cuba, and you may add that tentative Cuba negotiations for the independence of Cuba before my abdication and when I was harassed by internal struggles.'"

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QUEEN'S CELEBRATION.

The Colonies to Play an Important Part—Recruits for the Navy.

Archbishop's Farewell—Ambassador Bayard Criticized By the Chronicle—Government Secrets.

LONDON, Dec. 26.—It is understood that Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain has arrived at an important agreement regarding the part which the colonies are to play in 1897 in the celebration of the fact that Queen Victoria's reign has eclipsed in length that of any other English sovereign, and he will make a statement on the subject in the House of Commons early during the coming session.

It is stated in Canadian circles that the proposal of the Toronto Navy League that the Royal Navy be recruited from colonial as well as home seamen, has been coldly received by the Imperial authorities. Naval experts are "critical" with respect to many difficulties in carrying out the scheme, and, according to the Manchester Guardian, they are doubtful of the alleged abundance of good material in the colonies. Even in the case of the sea-faring population of Newfoundland it is not thought that the colony would yield the class of men needed for the navy, while in the other colonies it is said the men likely to volunteer would be of very indifferent stuff. If the question of employing colonial seamen in the navy is seriously raised at a conference of the Imperial Defence Commission, it will be considered very unlikely that it will be found to be all smooth sailing.

Official and diplomatic circles are in a flutter over the outspoken criticism on Mr. Thos. F. Bayard, United States ambassador, in the Chronicle on Thursday last. The Chronicle on the occasion referred to gave great prominence to a Washington letter, saying that instead of rendering either country a service Mr. Bayard, by minimizing the gravity of President Cleveland's Venezuela message to congress, was a most dangerous representative for the United States during a great crisis, and the Washington letter adds: "No thanks are due him that the heat of the situation did not lead to most serious consequences." The Chronicle's correspondent further claims to have the highest authority for making the statement that President Cleveland and Secretary Olney are anxiously yearning that Mr. Bayard should resign; that all negotiations have been taken out of his hands, and that he has known nothing which transpired between Washington and the foreign office here, but has been content to be pushed aside without rendering it.

The dispute between the Italian government and Prince Seiarra, respecting the latter's right to send out of Italy his portrait in the gallery, has been finally settled. A sensation was caused some time ago by the Prince secretly disposing of several important paintings, notably Raphael's "Violin Player." According to the new agreement, Prince Seiarra presents the nation with about a dozen chefs d'oeuvre, and in return the embargo placed upon the sale of the others will be removed.

Dr. Frederick K. Temple, the new Archbishop of Canterbury and formerly Bishop of London, bade farewell to the clergy of that diocese on Wednesday in full robes, preached an eloquent sermon. Mrs. Temple was made the recipient, on behalf of the ladies of the diocese, of a set of Chippendale furniture.

According to present arrangements, Dr. Nansen will arrive at Hull on his visit to England on Tuesday, February 2. He will come direct to London, and deliver his promised address before the Royal Geographical Society.

It is announced as a result of the conference between the Belgian minister of

marine and the company which has undertaken to build the canal that is to make Brussels a seaport, that work on the proposed new water route to the Belgian capital will be commenced early in 1897.

The government is engaged making inquiries into the systematic divulgence of confidential information by persons employed in the department of state, and prosecution will probably follow. It is stated that foreign governments are better informed regarding secrets of the British service than is the case with the secrets of any other power.

It seems that Hubert Crackenthorpe, the author, who mysteriously disappeared in Paris during October, and whose body has been found in the River Seine, committed suicide in an excess of frenzy after receiving a letter from his wife announcing her intentions of commencing divorce proceedings. It is believed that he jumped into the Seine from the Pont Neuf after wandering all night in the Champs Elysees.

Arrangements have been made whereby "The Wishing Can," the new comedy by Wilson Barrett and Elwyn Barrett, is to be taken into the provinces by Cosmo Stuart, the young actor, who is a nephew of the Duke of Richmond, and given a trial tour.

Robert Buchanan's new nautical piece, "Ye Mariners of England," will be tried in the provinces by Herbert Heath, preparatory to its introduction in the metropolis. The great scene of the play is the death of Nelson.

MR. BLAIR AT CALGARY.

WINNIPEG, Dec. 26.—(Special)—At the banquet at Calgary last night, Hon. Mr. Blair contrasted the limit of the auriferous areas of Australia and South Africa with the vast extent in British Columbia and the timber, water and ranching lands. Alberta must, he said, share the development of Kootenay. It devolves on the government to proceed in a wise, careful and statesmanlike manner in the development of that country. A railway must be maintained in the way least burdensome to the people affected. The feeling borne in upon him since coming West was the railway should be built and controlled by the government itself, or the benefit would mainly be lost. The government should prevent timber and coal from falling into the hands of corporations. "If we can improve upon our colleagues the needs of the West as we see them, the Crow's Nest Pass railway will be built forthwith."

MR. KINLEY'S MINISTERS.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—A special to the Times-Herald from Washington says: It is now possible to give some important news concerning the progress which the President-elect has made in the task of making up his cabinet slate. It would be incorrect to say that Major McKinley has fully and finally determined whom he will ask to be his ministers. So far only two direct offers of places in the cabinet have been made, one of these being to Mr. Hanna, who is not likely to be in the cabinet at all, and the other to Mr. Dingley. But the President-elect has practically determined the composition of his cabinet, except as to one, or perhaps two places. Unless he changes his mind, the following will be the McKinley cabinet when it is finally announced:

- Secretary of state, John Sherman, of Ohio.
- Secretary of the treasury, Nelson Dingley, of Maine.
- Secretary of war, Ex-Gov. William Merriam, of Minnesota.
- Secretary of the navy, Cornelius N. Elias, of New York.
- West Virginia general, Nathan Goff, of Wisconsin.
- Postmaster general, Henry C. Payne, of Wisconsin.
- Secretary of agriculture, Judge Waymire, of California.

TO CHECK THE CHINESE.

TORONTO, Dec. 26.—At a meeting of the proprietors of the principal laundries of the city, held last night, it was resolved to request the civic authorities to enact a by-law imposing an annual tax of \$70 on all public laundries, and also compelling them to conform to certain conditions. The object aimed at is the checking of the inroads at present being made into the laundry business by the Chinese.

The Grits have dropped the West Toronto election protests. The trial of the East Durham petition takes place on Monday at Cobourg.

Thomas Glass died to-day as the result of blood-poisoning caused through cutting a corn on his toe.

An extraordinary story of the credulity of Russian peasants comes from Slavjansk, in Southern Russia, where a woman whose little ten-year-old girl had sore eyes consulted a local doctor who was told to apply gunpowder to the child's eyes, and touch it off with a match. She obeyed, blinding the child and injuring herself.

Chicago now has a real Chinese paper, the Chinese News, published by Wong Chin Foo, who, according to the Fourth Estate, "is the most noted Chinaman in the country when it comes to fame as a writer, author, and generally progressive Celestial."

Copenhagen is to have an elevated railroad running along the shore from the city to the woods near Charlottenlund. The motive power will be electricity or compressed air.

is dim and black—it has a horror for me. I do not like the past I recall that I was a poor, weak, emaciated, feeble man. I recalled nights and days of indescribable suffering.

That was the present

before I used the remedial of the Hudson Medical Institute.

That was before I had taken the great Hudyan, found Hudyan was indeed a wonderful specific. I found new life in the great Hudyan. I found Hudyan does cure every case of weakness, of loss of vitality, of nervous exhaustion, of indigestion, of general debility. If you suffer as I did, if you are a weak, emaciated, feeble man, and you will get the great Hudyan and you will be cured.

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