

Government influence, no matter who the party in power may be, and it is therefore to be hoped that the petition of the auditor general will be acceded to. He is an officer of the House of Commons; why should his assistants be nominees of the Government or of any party?

THE WHEAT DEAL.

Lots of money have recently been made and lost in wheat and among the most successful men in the recent deal have been the Ogilvies and other well known Canadian operators. The general opinion is that at any rate for some time to come cereals have touched bottom figures. President Van Horne did not speak without the book when he expressed himself as he did some time back, though many still think that the figures with which he was credited will not obtain for some time at least. In the United States the quantity of land seeded to wheat seems to be somewhat less than last year, and Great Britain announces a decrease of about ten per cent. The Indian acreage is said to be about a million acres smaller than last year, and none of the European states have as much land seeded as last season, while the Argentine and Australia will be in much the same position. Manitoba has on the other hand an augmented acreage of 130,090, with the prospects of a good yield never brighter. In consequence, however, of the speculative movement wheat, flour and even bread have advanced, and it is not likely that there will be much, if any, let up on existing figures.

CIVIC SERVICE SALARIES.

Mr. Bechard, one of the veteran members of the House of Commons at Ottawa, has introduced a Bill providing that any public employe may assign his salary to another, and that one-fourth, one-

fifth or one-third of his wages may be attached under the judgment of the Court according to the size of the salary. It has not only been a matter of notoriety but of scandal that Dominion civil service officials have been in the habit of running into debt, and then snapping their fingers at their creditors, who have no recourse against them, their salaries being sacred from the seizure of the bailiff. It will, of course, be said then, why should such men be given credit? They, however, manage to get it, and frequently the debtor is a serious sufferer, at times to the loss of his entire account and at others being subjected to a tardiness of payment which might almost be described as the slowest thing on earth. Mr. Bechard's last named proposition is, we think, a good one; but as to the provision for the assignment of salaries it appears to be calculated to seriously interfere with and possibly to defeat the other provisions of which we have spoken in terms of commendation.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

If there were no Colonist to abuse, what would the Times do? and were there no Times to vilify how would the Colonist amuse its readers?

THEY are now talking of erecting and equipping in Montreal a cold storage warehouse of the same class as those in New York and Chicago.

LOBSTERS, mackerel, herring and sardines are more plentiful this year than last, and the Atlantic seal fishery has resulted in an increase of 117,237 skins in the take.

R. DUNSMUIR & Sons have, it is announced, purchased the East Wellington mines from R. D. Chandler, of San Francisco, and have also bought out the Americans who were interested in the E. & N. Railway.

THE enlarging tendency of pork packing operations in Canada has been maintained the past year, the returns showing an increase over any previous year in both summer and winter work. The total indicated for the entire year is 510,55 hogs, an increase of 21 per cent. compared with the preceding year.

GREAT BRITAIN is credited with an annual output of 180,000,000 tons of coal, employing 640,000 persons, and having a value at the pits mouth of \$1 70 per ton. The United States comes second with a total output for 1894 of 164,486,209 tons. The average value of bituminous coal at the pit in the United States is 96 cents per ton, and of anthracite \$1.60 a ton.

THE right of the Province to protect deer by prohibiting the export of their skins has been upheld by a judgment of Chief Justice Davie deciding that the section of the game act under which Mr. Joseph Boscowitz had been convicted in the police court of having in his possession deer skins with intent to export, was intra vires of the provincial legislature.

WE must confess that we fail to see what there is in Hon. Dr. Montague to lead the government papers to make such a fuss regarding him. His speech during the Budget debate was such a one as might have been expected from almost any stump orator, while the manner in which he caught John Charlton was clever—and that is all. But, as some people are doing, to talk of the Dr. as the coming leader of the Conservative party—the supplanter of Sir Mackenzie Bowell—"Holy Jupiter, fustend!" If the Dr. is the best material the party have—next, we suppose, to John Haggart, whose protegee the Dr. is regarded as being—we would say, with all reverence and respect "God help the party!"