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Newfoundland.

Recent events in Newfoundland seem to indicate a childishness and lack of national feeling on the part of many of its people that is surprising, to give it the mildest term. They have, we think, almost universal sympathy from Canada for their trouble in having to bear the incubus of the French Shore; but the removal of the difficulty has to be gone about in a manly and business-like way, with some regard for the position of the Imperial Government in the matter. While to any unprejudiced student of the historical points of the case there can be no doubt but that many of the French claims are based on a clerical blunder in the original treaty, the fact remains that for over a century their position has scarcely been questioned, with the result of vastly strengthening their hold on the coast. The islanders are now loudly demanding that the Home Government break or ignore these treaty stipulations—not indeed by forcibly removing the foreign colonists, their factories and fishing boats, but by permitting the English fishermen to take the law into their own hands, and by armed strength resisting any attempt on the part of the French naval force to protect the rights of their people. While the rights of the poorest British subject must be maintained with foreign powers, if it takes every ship, every man and every gun in the Navy to do it—while the slightest encroachment on the part of the French fishermen in excess of treaty stipulations must be promptly resisted, equal privileges must be accorded to them, so long as the treaty exists. It would be the height of criminal madness for two such great nations as England and France to go to war about such a matter—to throw away millions of money and thousands of lives for the sake of a fishing-coast. Far better and cheaper would it be to pay a good round hundred pounds a year to each English fisherman on the island and each member of his family for the rest of their natural lives. There are but three courses open to the Home Government: (1) Break the treaty. This means war, and would be both unjust and absurd. (2) Leave matters as they are. This would be grossly unfair to the islanders and would give rise to serious and continued trouble. (3) Arrange with France for the entire extinction of her rights in Newfoundland and the Gulf; the compensation to be granted her for same to be left to arbitration. This is the most sensible plan. Should France decline to submit the matter to arbitration, or to make the sale except at the most exorbitant figure, nothing more can be done towards the acquisition. But in such a case, Great Britain can do much to improve the condition of her subjects there. The opening of the interior; the inauguration of public works and railways on a large scale; active steps towards bettering the condition of the fishermen; all these could be undertaken to a large extent by the Imperial Government, by a moderate guaran-

tee to capitalists investing. The colonists would have steady employment; emigration would be directed towards the excellent farming land that exists in the interior; and the business of the entire community would receive a wonderful stimulus.

Island Sentiments.

There is, however, a curiously uncertain ring in the sentiments re-echoed from the Island. A strong condemnation of the Imperial action, or inaction, is expressed—what this is based on, would be a difficult question to answer. Diplomatic negotiations are proverbially slow, and it is impossible to upset a treaty of 100 years in as many days. Steps have certainly been taken by our Government, but the French authorities seem singularly averse to going closely into the matter. Then there is, on the Island, an apparently decided objection to entering the Dominion—we term it apparent, because we think it is, to a large extent, voiced by a few interested parties who fear their business would suffer by confederation. We cannot think that the intelligent mass of the community would, if the facts were put squarely before them, object to become part of a nation—and that nation an important and influential part of the Empire—instead of remaining an insignificant crown colony. The most objectionable sentiment to which expression has been given during the last few months is annexation to the United States. Can it be true that England's oldest colony would, in a moment of pettishness, seek to throw off her allegiance to and share in the British Empire in the hope of the "protection" of the Stars and Stripes? Surely such wishes must exist in the minds of only the most debased of her people. No honourable man, and no honourable state could do so; for in the act their honour would be lost. Granted that most of those who cry "annexation" only do so as a supposed lever with which to influence England's action; apart from the doubtful morality of such an act, it is grossly disloyal. For the honour and good name of the Island, we sincerely hope that the accounts have been exaggerated.

The English Press on the Elections.

At no time up to the present has the result of our late general election excited such interest in other parts of the Empire and in foreign countries. That the interest aroused in England was more than usual cannot be wondered at, in view of the twaddle about annexation so freely indulged in; but, apart from that, the concern manifested shows how rapidly things Canadian are growing in importance. Much of this enlistment of sympathy in colonial affairs is due to the efforts of the Royal Canadian Institute and Imperial Federation League, who are steadily spreading knowledge of and awakening interest in the colonies, and taking all possible steps towards the unity of the Empire. With the exception of one journal, the *Daily News*, the leading English papers have been singularly judicious in their remarks on the result of the battle at the polls, especially so as their data were cabled reports. The *Times* drew special attention to the fact that a majority of 20 to 25 votes was equal to 60 or 70 in the Imperial Commons—a plurality—to use an Americanism—with which most-Prime Ministers would be amply satisfied. The editorial of the *Standard* on the subject was an admirable one, and did full justice to the general loyal sentiments of the Liberal party, which had been so misrepresented by their opponents. We regret that the remarks of the *Daily News* betray so much ignorance of our position, both geographically and politically. Instead of the majority of the constituencies nearest the United States returning members favourable to unrestricted reciprocity, by far the greater number of the contiguous counties voted against such a measure. The statement that Ontario and Quæbec are the most intelligent portions of the Dominion is, as a matter of fact, incorrect, and is decidedly a slur on the extreme Eastern and Western Provinces. *Pro rata* to their population the Maritime Provinces are in many respects fully equal, if not superior, to their Western brethren. In literature, which is a

fair test of the intelligence of a people, in attention to historic and national matters, in successful business qualities, this is markedly the case. Who in Canada excel HALIBURTON as a writer, HOWE as an orator, WILLIAMS of KARS as a skilful soldier. Again, the expression "Canadian unity scarcely exists," is misleading. Compared with the unity of the counties in England, one with another, our provincial tie is certainly a loose one; but compared with the unity of Ireland with Great Britain, and of the several states in the American Republic with each other, the tie is an extremely real and close one. The whole article is characterized by a cold and bloodless pessimism, un-British and incorrect to an extreme.

The Dominion Illustrated Prize Competition, 1891. QUESTIONS.

SECOND SERIES.

- 7.—Quote mention of a shipwreck on Lake Ontario; give date and particulars.
- 8.—Where is narrated the escape of a prisoner destined to be burnt?
- 9.—Quote the paragraph mentioning a suicide occurring on the stage of a theatre.
- 10.—Give details of the instance cited of a frontier being kept neutral in war?
- 1.—Where is mention made of a new literary organization in a city in the West of England?
- 12.—Quote the expression or expressions relative to the low standard of morality in Buenos Ayres?

NOTE.—All the material necessary for correctly answering the above questions can be found in Nos. 131 to 139 of the "Dominion Illustrated," being the weekly issues for January and February.