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**The Alaskan Commission.** Some very strong expressions have been made by some Canadian papers as to the *personnel* of the United States representatives of the commission. The treaty requires that the members shall be "impartial jurists" of the respective countries whose interests are involved. It is said that the appointments which were made "were dictated by political necessity, and as the price of ratification by the Senate." This is a strange course for a nation like that of the United States to pursue, and stranger still that there could be found public men willing to place themselves in such a position before the civilized world. By consenting to serve on the commission they solemnly declared themselves to be impartial jurists at the very moment when they were fraudulently pledging themselves to yield nothing no matter what the facts of the case might turn out to be on investigation. What Canada or Great Britain may do in the matter by way of protest is not known, but what they ought to do, is to appoint as their representatives none but distinguished jurists, and the more distinguished the better. Then, whatever the outcome, there would be a pardonable pride in the representatives chosen. The Watchman of Boston that cannot be said to be very favorable to Britain if the utterances during the Boer war was an indication, says "We should feel as the Canadians do in similar circumstances."

**The Cattle Disease.** The foot and mouth disease which prevailed quite extensively in New England some weeks ago and was thought to be overcome has broken out again in the vicinity of Boston. In order to stamp out the disease the United States authorities adopted most drastic measures which as the result shows—proved futile. Every member of the herd in which the disease was found, was slaughtered. This was done at a great expense to the Government, and heavy loss to the proprietors. The matter has now been taken in hand by the Board of Health of Massachusetts, who have established a most rigid quarantine of the territory around Boston. As this is a much more rational method than the other, it is hoped that it may prove effective. While the disease is very contagious, it usually runs its course in about two weeks and is ordinarily fatal in only two per cent. of the cases. It is said by authorities that the spread of the disease can be prevented by a strict quarantine of the sick and a thorough disinfecting of the recovered cattle, and the premises. This disease is a serious matter as it is having a most disastrous effect upon the cattle trade with the Old Country and an embargo is laid upon all cattle passing through New England for shipment to Great Britain.

**Bank of Commerce, etc.** It is announced in the Press that a provisional agreement has been made between the Bank of Commerce and the Halifax Banking Company for the amalgamation of the two companies. This will give the Bank of Commerce fifteen additional points in Nova Scotia and two in New Brunswick. The Bank of Commerce by this amalgamation will now have 105 branches, including those of London, Eng., New York and San Francisco. The directorate of the Halifax Banking Co. will continue as a local advisory board, and the entire staff will be taken into the employ of the Bank of Commerce. The Halifax Banking Company was established in 1825 and incorporated in 1872. Its paid up capital is \$600,000 and its rest \$525,000. It has deposits of \$4,000,000 and assets of \$6,000,000. The Bank of

Commerce assumes all the liabilities of the Halifax Banking Co., and will give \$700,000 par value of stock for the excess of assets over liabilities. When the amalgamation is completed the Bank of Commerce will have a paid up capital and rest combined of nearly \$10,000,000 and total assets of some \$80,000,000. This will make it one of the strongest monetary institutions of the country.

**Consolidated Schools.** Sir William Macdonald of Montreal has made possible a scheme which if properly worked ought to be of great benefit to the schools of the country. It is proposed to select a centre, easy of access, for the children in surrounding districts; for the establishment of a graded school. The people of the selected district are not asked to pay any more for the advantages of a well-organized graded school, and for conveying their children to it from their own homes than they now pay for the common school in their own district. One such school is to be established in each province as an experiment. If it works well others will be established in different sections of the country later. The school for New Brunswick will be located at Kingston, Kings Co., and the one in Nova Scotia at Middleton, Annapolis Co. It is claimed by the promoters that when the Union system is well organized, it will not cost the country people any more, than does the small school with one teacher. The working of the scheme will be regarded with much interest. All good citizens hope the first step may be very successful. It is said that a union of this kind has been in successful operation in Charlotte Co., N. B., for several years. They have thus become the pioneers of the movement in Canada. Charlotte Co. is generally to the fore in anything pertaining to the progress of the country.

**Church Growth in England.** The statistics of what are called the Free churches in England show an increase of 37,000 members over those of last year. Sunday school teachers have increased 5,000, and Sunday school scholars 45,000. The membership of the Free churches taken together is 1,982,801, while estimates given by local clergy of the Established church give it a membership of 2,004,493, only 21,692 more than that of the Free churches. The Established church has 2,851,656 Sunday school scholars, while the Free churches have 3,321,539. So there are 469,380 more scholars in the Sunday schools of the Free churches than there are in those of the Church of England. The membership of the Free churches taken separately are:

Wesleyans and Methodists of all classes	1,040,835
Bible Christians	39,145
Baptists	357,066
Congregationalists	414,218
Presbyterians	78,024
Society of Friends	17,115
Seven smaller bodies	45,398
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,982,801</b>

**Typhoid at Cornell.** Cornell University which has for its president a son of Prince Edward Island has been invaded by the typhoid germ. Already eighteen students have died and many are dangerously ill. It is said that a large number have left the University and returned to their homes. The physicians ascribe the epidemic to impure water, and if what is said of the water supply of the schools and the town be true, then there has been criminal neglect somewhere and by somebody. It is said that the University offers the town \$150,000 to help defray the cost of a public filter plant through which all water for domestic

use must pass. All boarding house keepers have been required to sign a pledge to serve no drinking water that has not been boiled. People cannot be too careful of the sources of their water supply. Wells, springs, reservoirs, etc., should be frequently cleaned, because the germs of fatal diseases lurk in water. This is a case of "better late than never"—but to those at a distance, it looks as if one of the first things to be considered in the establishment of a great University, where thousands of students gather, would be the water supply.

**Russia in Manchuria.** It was supposed that Russia had agreed to evacuate Manchuria, but to know what kind of evacuation has taken place, may be learned from a survey of the railroad in its southern section from Harbin to Port Arthur and Dalny, a distance of 615 miles. Harbin is within 36 hours of the Russian garrisoned cities of Eastern Siberia, and at the other end of the line, on the coast, is the strongest Russian fortress in Asia. Guard houses are being erected along the line, every three or four miles. There are frontier guards at every station and barracks at the larger stations. Eight miles below Harbin the road crosses again the Sungari River, and from the encampment here, a steamer runs to Kirin. Sixty-seven miles further the road reaches Kuanchengtza, a busy city of 140,000 inhabitants, which is strongly held by Russian troops. Farther down comes Tieling, which stands at the head of navigation on the Lien River, the chief waterway of Southern Manchuria. This place is also thoroughly Russianized. South from here, the third station is Mukden, a city of 300,000 inhabitants, the capital of the province which is, however, under the military control of Russia. Thirty-four miles south of the capital are the coal mines of Yentar, which are the exclusive property of the railroad. Their present yield is 150,000 tons per day, but it is estimated that there are 16,000,000 tons in sight. The next station Liau Yang, a city of 100,000 inhabitants, is regarded as a point of great strategic importance. The Russians say that after the evacuation there will be a permanent force of 3500 stationed here. At the present time every public office and building is occupied by soldiers. From here to Port Arthur and Dalny, are other stations occupied in the same way by the Russians, and everywhere along the line Chinese and Russians are seen living together. It looks as if Manchuria would soon be Russian in fact, though nominally at present a part of China.

**Great Britain and Muscat.** Where is Muscat? This is a question which might be asked and many evasive answers given, because people do not know where it is situated. It is the capital of the independent state of Oman or Muscat, which occupies the eastern corner of Arabia. The capital with its commercial suburb of Mutrah, a town of 60,000 inhabitants, is the centre of a trade valued at nearly \$5,000,000, of which about four-fifths is done with Great Britain and India. The ruler of Muscat has long been in friendly relations with the Government of India which has a political agent at his court. The harbor of Muscat the capital, is a most excellent one, and admirably situated for the commerce between Eastern Arabia, Persia, India, and the east coast of Africa on the Red Sea. The Sultanate of Oman is a strip of maritime territory extending between the Strait of Ormuz and Ras-el-Had, the eastern cape of Arabia, and for an indefinite distance along the shore of the Indian Ocean. If Great Britain should annex this territory it will be because of the magnificent harbor it contains and for strategic purposes.