

each. It is quite evident that important light is being shed on the Atlantic service question, and that the Government would do well to hasten slowly in committing the country to any scheme sooner than is absolutely necessary.

The Price of
Wheat.

The price of wheat has been going up steadily for several weeks, and it seems likely to continue improving, as the real cause of the increase is a shortage in wheat production in foreign countries. The effect of the rise has been most marked in commercial circles, but it bids fair to be very serious in the political sphere of action also. Every cent added to the price of the bushel of wheat tells against Mr. Bryan's election to the Presidency of the United States, for the strength of his campaign has been the "hard times" cry. Without the farmer vote he has no hope of success, and the majority of the farmers have heretofore been Republican; the likelihood of their remaining so will be greatly increased by the brightening prospect for the agricultural industry. The importance of all this for Canada can hardly be overrated. It means relief of the most welcome kind for Manitoba and the North-West Territory, and opens up a more hopeful outlook for immigration next season.

The Whale Fisheries
Failure

The report that the whale fishery has this season been a disastrous failure recalls one of the most singular and fascinating periods of adventure. For half a century before the discovery of great deposits of petroleum drove whale oil out of use as an illuminant, a large number of sailing vessels were engaged in the search for whales in the northern parts of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. They were manned by hardy sailors, chiefly from the northern districts and islands of Scotland. The task of capturing the whale by means of hand harpoons thrown from open boats was always a perilous and often a fatal one, apart altogether from the discomforts and dangers inseparable from the navigation of these Arctic and sub-Arctic waters. There is a close historical connection between the practice of whale fishing and the search for "the North-west passage," with which the names of such famous navigators as Ross, Parry, Franklin, and McClintock are bound up. Steam vessels having superseded the old sailing "whalers," and the demand for whale oil having been almost extinguished by the discovery of cheap supplies of other illuminating compounds, the romance associated with the whale trade in the minds of a past generation has quite disappeared, though narratives of hardship in that calling should always find a legitimate place in the literature of adventure.

The Imperial
Zollverein.

A few months ago Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, in a public speech, indicated his sympathy with the idea of a preferential discrimination in favour of imports from British colonies in British markets. Quite recently he has intimated that he does not consider such a scheme of Imperialism feasible. What has happened to induce him to change his opinions, or his views, must be left to conjecture, but it is not unlikely that protests from the various colonies had something to do with it. Any arrangement such as he suggested would amount to a serious impairment of the commercial autonomy of a self-governing colony, and this will not be lightly surrendered after having been won by a struggle. It is worthy of note, in this connection, that Mr. Chamberlain had an interview with Sir Richard Cartwright, the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce, before he returned to England from his American sojourn, and that Sir Richard has little patience with the principle of preferential trade.

The American
Catholic Feud.

It is probable that the publication at the present time of the Baltimore decree of 1892 respecting the secular education of Roman Catholic children, is due to something more than an undesigned coincidence. The enforced retirement of Bishop Keane from the management of Washington University is usually regarded as a victory for Archbishop Corrigan and his party; one way to offset it in the public view was to publish the decree which four years ago was an undoubted victory for Archbishop Ireland, and this is what has been done. The decree, alike in its occasion, its source, and its terms, is of the very greatest importance ecclesiastically, sociologically, and historically. It was issued by a Convocation of archbishops and bishops assembled by Cardinal Satolli as representative of the Pope himself, and exercising as his delegate full Papal authority *quoad hoc*. It was issued for the purpose of deciding the point raised by Archbishop Ireland whether Catholic parents might under certain circumstances send their children to the public secular schools which they are taxed to maintain. It "strictly forbids any one, whether bishop or priest, either by act or by threat to exclude from the sacraments worthy parents who choose to send their children to the public schools," and it is announced that this prohibition applies with still greater force to the children themselves. The decree, which emanated formally from Cardinal Satolli as Papal delegate, purports to be "the express prohibition of the sovereign pontiff through the Sacred Congregation," and, as such, it carries with it the most indisputable authority. The following excerpts from it are interesting as further indicating its scope and aim: "When there is no Catholic school at all, or when the one that is available is little fitted for giving the children education in keeping with their condition, then the public schools may be attended with a safe conscience. . . . For the standing and growth of Catholic schools, it seems that care should be taken that the teachers not only prove themselves qualified by previous examination before the diocesan board and by a diploma received from it, but also have a teacher's diploma from the School Board of the State, awarded after successful examination." If the text of this document as published is correct, it means, in the long run, a great revolution in the education of American Catholics and a corresponding addition to the influence of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States.

The Pope and
Anglican Orders.

The letter of Leo XIII, bluntly declining on behalf of the Church of Rome to recognize the orders of the Church of England, has been a subject for much interesting comment. Among others, Archbishop O'Brien, of Halifax, one of the ablest dignitaries of the Roman Catholic Church, has given his opinions to the public. He says he does not see what other reply the Pope could have given or his English correspondents could have expected. Even if the ordinations of the present priests of the Church of England were valid, they could not validly ordain others unless they adopted the proper form prescribed for the purpose. One is tempted to wonder what the applicants for the Pope's opinion intended to do with it if it were favourable. Perhaps they thought it would pave the way to a reunion of the Church of England with the Church of Rome, which eight hundred years of conflict have made extremely difficult; perhaps they thought it would make it easier for the individual priest of the former to follow Cardinal Newman's example and transfer himself to the latter. Whatever the ulterior motive, the answer of His Holiness has settled the matter adversely, and it is not likely that Protestant clergymen will ever again put themselves in a position to be so snubbed.