

It is reported that Lord Salisbury has consented to enter into new negotiations with Turkey for a convention based on the withdrawal of Great Britain from Egypt. Conservative administrators have been credited with strong foreign policies, and we trust the rumor is not true, or is it possible that, if true, it may be by way of a concession to France to facilitate negotiations in the Newfoundland matter. If so we venture to predict that like all weak policies it will be found futile.

We are inclined to think it was not without reason that the Provincial Legislature enacted a withdrawal of protection from the ubiquitous sparrow. The weight of all the Canadian evidence we have seen is against him as destructive and mischievous, and even in England, where he has not heretofore attracted much attention, his depredations have at last provoked measures for his wholesale destruction in the shape of a scale of rewards for certain numbers of old birds, young birds and eggs.

The following extract from the report of the Canadian High Commissioner in London deserves attention. It should also operate to put a stop to fraudulent packing of fruit of which we have lately heard so much, and which is as damaging as it is discreditable to the great fruit industry of the Province:—"Canadian fruit is becoming more generally known than it was formerly, as being better in quality than the apples imported from other parts of the Continent, and there is no doubt that a ready market is to be found for any quantity that may be sent over of good quality and carefully packed." In this connection Sir Charles Tupper adds that during the year many enquiries have been received from persons desirous of investing capital in the fruit growing industry in Nova Scotia, and he attributes this interest largely to the increase of imports from Canada and to the uniform quality of the apples.

Lieutenant-Generals are not (to quote Southey's "Crocodile King,") "a numerous rout" in Canada. They are in fact *rara aves*—in more senses than one choice birds in the land—and not only scarce but suggestive of the further parallel of being, if swans at all, "very like black swans." No sooner has one Lieutenant General manifested to an admiring public his appreciation of the natural products of Canada in the item of fur than another opens our eyes to their widest stretch by a parliamentary mileage claim before which a free and liberal charge in the matter of saddlery, which was moreover in accordance with ancestral traditions, sinks into insignificance. It is true that it has been explained that the claim is a *bonâ fide* one, and that the Hon. Member desired to pair for the session, but the question then arises why not have resigned? as it contravenes all fitness that a Nova Scotian constituency should be represented by a gentleman living in London. The serious point, however, more particularly in the former case, is the damage to the honorable prestige of Imperial officers which holds out so strong a temptation to the contemners of everything British to shoot out the tongue.

As the unfettered career of the Emperor William progresses developments occur from time to time which seem to lend confirmation to the hope that he is really actuated by some degree of solid liberalism. An Imperial edict has just been published regarding the army in which justice and common sense are conspicuous. The reserve infantry officers' system hitherto pursued, which provides that "officers must come from the ranks of the nobility" is to be extended to include these nobles by character, in order that the sons of honorable middle-class families may hold appointments in the army, and the same rule is to apply to the Civil Service. The Emperor further disapproves the holding of commissions being dependent on the private income of aspirants, and has decreed an increase of pay to all branches with a view to obviate this evil. He enjoins commanders to set an example of self-sacrifice to officers in the way of checking indulgence in luxuries, expensive entertainments and such like sources of expense. Habits of luxury are to be seriously opposed. Regulations looking to the suppression of duelling in the army have also been issued. The new decrees have created a profound impression.

When Professor Tyndall confines himself to questions of abstract knowledge, the scope of his brilliant mind and the graceful lucidity of his style compel the universal admiration of cultured intelligence. It is to be regretted that the concrete of politics has a deteriorating effect, and has induced him to write to Mr. Gladstone a letter which seems to have justified the terms "vulgar and abusive" applied to it by the *Montreal Witness*, which goes on to say: "after reading this letter one can understand what it is in the Saxon which the Irish Celt hates." The letter is apropos of Mr. Gladstone's change of opinion on Irish matters from that which he held forty years ago, a point which certainly calls for no oburgation. Whether the conclusions arrived at by the veteran statesman were hasty is another question, and one which, if answered in the affirmative, would not constitute an offence justifying the relentless execration poured on Mr. Gladstone's head a year or two ago in what is called "the best society." The virulence of this vituperation is difficult yet perhaps not wholly destitute of some shadow of excuse. It must be remembered that to a majority of Britons the precipitation with which Mr. Gladstone rushed on his new departure, and the crudeness of the schemes he advanced, presented his policy in the light of a most formidable attack on the unity of the Empire, a consideration well calculated to alarm and exasperate all Englishmen, combined as it was with every expression of the deadliest hatred on the part of a majority of Irishmen, and it cannot but be deemed providential that the secession of so large a body of Mr. Gladstone's former followers compelled a delay, out of which by natural processes the lapse of time has evolved a better state of feeling and more moderate counsels on either side.

The pupils of the Bridgetown School deserve every credit, not only for having taken into consideration the propriety of obtaining a national flag to fly over their school house, but for having at once carried out their project with fitting energy and despatch. In a short time they raised the necessary funds, purchased a Dominion ensign 15x7½ feet, cut and dressed a suitable pole and duly hoisted the flag, on which suggestive lessons will be given. We hope other schools throughout the Province will promptly follow this good example.

The renewal of the *Modus Vivendi* for the ensuing fishing season will be received with general satisfaction. It leaves the door still open for amicable arrangement, and furnishes evidence that while Canada is determined to maintain her treaty rights she will do so in no unreasonable spirit. On the other hand the fact that the fishing vessels of the United States thus make payment for the privileges conferred by our licenses is a plain recognition of our rights, much the same as payment of rent would be in a case of private property. It is also a testimony as to the value of the privileges we are able to confer.

An evening contemporary "would like to say that those who sneer at the repeal sentiment in Nova Scotia are likely to stir up a rather able customer. There are more repealers in this Province to-day than there are of the opposite persuasion, the only question being as to how the idea can be accomplished." Does not our contemporary go a little out of its way to enunciate this sentiment? Without sneering it may be allowable to say that the sentiment is one eminently distasteful and objectionable to a section of Nova Scotians who may or may not constitute a majority, but who, if they do not, are yet a very considerable body. And supposing the "able customer" is stirred up it may also be fairly asked, "What is he going to do about it?" while the question as to the accomplishment of the idea is one likely to tax all the ability he may possess. We do not cease to regret that Confederation was not more fully and fairly submitted to our people than it was, but it strikes us also that our far from unesteemed contemporary does not take sufficiently into account the effects of lapse of time, which moderates men's views, and the fact that the generation which was so strenuously opposed to the building up of a great nation is passing somewhat into the sere and yellow leaf, while loyalty to the Dominion is to-day a spirit animating all our great educational institutions.

It has been frequently laid down that of all departments of the public service that of the Militia should be most especially kept entirely free from political intermeddling. Yet we know for a fact that politicians who do not care a rush about the Militia are not above using it where they can in furtherance of their small and local political ends and do not scruple to cause embarrassment to the Minister and hindrance to conscientious Staff Officers in the carrying out of their not always easy or pleasant duties. There is a case in point now pending. A Deputy-Adjutant-General found it absolutely necessary to the efficiency of a battalion to recommend the resignation of a commanding officer physically and otherwise incompetent. Forthwith the political wires are pulled and the Minister is harried by four or five members of Parliament who, knowing nothing whatever of the soundness of the Staff Officer's course, are bound if they can to bolster up the incompetent officer. These men of course look to nothing but votes, and so hot do they make it for the Minister that it is known the Staff Officer will receive no decision on the case till the prorogation of Parliament relieves the Minister from the immediate and daily pressure. Some people are malicious enough to maintain that the Government prefer at heart Staff Officers who give no trouble by insisting on doing their duty. If this be so it is to be feared their uneasiness will be permanent, as we believe there is not now a single Deputy-Adjutant-General in the service who would consent to compromise his duty, which, it is also said, is the reason that two or three of them are by no means beloved at Head Quarters.

The *St. John Evening Gazette*, in an article on raising our own pork, says there is a sort of tradition among the lumbermen that the only kind of pork fit for the lumber woods is the corn fed pork of the west, which can be produced more cheaply than corn-fed pork can be produced in Canada. A New Brunswick farmer, the *Gazette* continues, can take a young pig of good breed and feeding it on potatoes with a slight addition of grain or meal can bring it up to a dressed weight of 200 to 250 lbs. at the end of six or seven months. Pork of this description is, we should unhesitatingly say, purer and more wholesome food than the pork of the Western States. The hard-working farmer feeds his family on it, and why should not the lumberer feed himself on it also. There is scarcely a country in the world where potatoes can be grown more cheaply than in the Maritime Provinces. "It has always," the *Gazette* goes on to say, "been a subject of complaint that in consequence of the high duty on potatoes in the United States, 15 cents a bushel, they could not be produced with profit for export except in years when the potato crop in the United States failed. But if our farmers have such protection for their pork as will keep out the corn-fed pork of the west, and if the pork they produce is fit for the lumber woods, the new tariff will give them a chance of finding a home market for their cheaply raised potatoes by converting them into pork. Last year there were imported into Canada 15,207,172 lbs. of pork, which was entered at a value of 8½ cents per pound, and which paid 1 cent per lb. of duty. This quality of pork would be the product of about 60,000 good average hogs, a number which the farmers of the Maritime Provinces alone could readily supply in addition to their present product. The new tariff ought to be the means of solving the question." There seems indeed to be no valid reason why our farmers should not, aided by the lumberers, take this source of profit into their own hands.