

Messrs. Percival, Emming, Timmins, H. Griffith, Anderson and H. R. Griffith also spoke, but history does not state on which side the laurels finally came to rest.

* * * * *

At the second meeting of the series, the attractions were Messrs. W. E. G. Murray and J. B. Clearihue to support, and Messers. S. Breuneau and McNaughton to oppose the cause of annexing Canada to the United States.

Mr. Murray in leading off for the affirmative apologised for being obliged to express sentiments which might appear unpatriotic. He contended that the natural trend of trade between the two countries is north and south rather than east and west, and condemned the retention of an artificial boundary which has only survived so long through the political interest of capitalists in both countries. He cited the case of the general prosperity in Germany which followed immediately after the commercial federation of the various States. and concluded by advocating the annexation as part of a wider scheme of universal Anglo-Saxon federation—i.e., that Canada should annex the States. Mr. Murray is a very good speaker, clear and concise, and if the proportion of rhetoric to facts in his speech was unduly great, it was probably owing to the limitations of the subject.

Mr. Bruneau, who led the opposition, commenced in a satirical vein, but made the unpardonable mistake of reading the greater part of his speech. He paid more attention to hard facts than his opponent, and ably presented the attitude of French Canada to the question. When Mr. Bruneau has learned to speak without the assistance of copious notes, as we suspect he can, he will make an extremely good debater—but his standard is not yet intercollegiate.

Mr. Clearihue's attempt was disappointing. He drew a lurid picture of Canada groaning under the burden of English misrule; of national aspirations continually disregarded by an amateur Colonial office; and employed many similar mis-statements which enjoyed a transient popularity (and were perhaps true) some forty years ago to prove—nothing—for everything could apply equally to government from Washington. These were once excellent arguments for independence—never for annexation—and eight and a half minutes were thus wasted in irrelevance. He then advocated annexation in order to obviate all chance of war with our American neighbours; quoted the result of the Drummond-Arthabaska election as conclusively proving that French-Canadian opinion is favourable to annexation, and completely misquoted Sir John Macdonald to prove that exceptionally loyal statesman similarly disposed. Mr. Clearihue must learn that irrelevance and misquotation are equally fatal when speaking against time and practised opponents.

Mr. McNaughton began rather aggressively, and quoted some hard facts about hard wood. He perhaps laid too much stress on the present importance