

road to the Government of Manitoba in the form of a lease for 99 years, at a rental of \$240,000 a year. The rumor adds that the Manitoba Government will in turn lease the road to Mackenzie & Mann. The bargain is said to include a stipulation for a reduced rate on wheat.

That no less than 30,000 additional mounted troops are to be sent to South Africa is the news from England. At the same time word comes from Capetown that the leaders of the Africander Bond are willing to urge the armed Boers to surrender, on condition that they all be allowed to return to their farms, and that the rebels shall not be punished. Some Burghers suggest that Louis Botha and Christian DeWet be made members of the Governor's Council, one in Orange River Colony and the other in the Transvaal. This is impossible at present; as soon as these leaders show that they are willing to join hands cordially with the British, this policy might be adopted with advantage to all. Even then it might cause some friction with tried loyalists, but means might be taken to render this slight. Conciliation will be the true policy when the war is over, and to make it successful we must be willing to pay something for it.

Complaint is made by the Rev. John Mackie of St. Andrew's church, Kingston, that the battymen and cadets of that place were ordered (compelled is the word used) to St. George's cathedral, on Saturday, the day of the Queen's funeral. Against this he protested to Ottawa in time to get the order reversed, but failed. This the reverend gentleman characterizes as "a flagrant infringement of religious liberty." It would have been better if members who belonged to other churches had been left the option of attending their own church. It is true, as Mr. Mackie says, there is no state church in Canada; but the soldiers go in mass to different churches at different times and places, without any pretence that these churches are regarded as state churches. If there be church parade the soldiers must go to some one church, though it need not always be the same church. If any objected, their wishes ought to be respected; but they do not object, so far as known. Mr. Mackie further objects to the reading of the proclamation of King Edward in St. George's cathedral. The chief channel of communication with the public for this intelligence is the Official Gazette; beyond that what objection could there have been to its being read in other churches? As things go, Mr. Mackie thinks the place to read the proclamation would have been the market square. Word comes from Ottawa that some Catholics object to the form of the coronation oath which declares the mass and prayers to the Virgin Mary to be superstitious and idolatrous, and that objections have been formulated for transmission to the Imperial government.

#### HONEST GOODS.

In the long run it will never be found a paying proposition to try to palm off provisions either of poor quality or of short weight on the British consumer. At one time large quantities of cheese used to be shipped to Great Britain from the United States. Then the shippers began to trade upon their reputation; they adulterated their cheese and misrepresented its quality; with the result that the British market refused it at any price. At any rate, the exports of that article from the United States fell to infinitesimal proportions, and its high place was gradually taken by Canada, which the latter still retains.

But what are we to think of the practice, which would

appear to be a growing one, of some of the producers in this country of hiding bad cheese within good, hoping to receive the price for good? Some time ago the quality of a portion of the cheese made in Ontario was criticized on the score of its want of cleanliness. But now, judging from the reports of instructors in the eastern provinces, there is also a very widespread practice of supplying watered milk, besides carelessness in packing and a disregard of cleanliness in shipping. One well-known exporter declared that there was positive dishonesty in making. Balls of rancid curd have been put in cheese in order to get rid of them. In some cases cuttings from old cheese have been incorporated in new makes. In one case a piece of colored cheese was actually found in white cheese. Mr. Derbyshire, the well-known dairyman, goes even further. He says that in some cases makers who find themselves with sour cheese not worth a dollar in the world, had cut these into pieces and placed them inside new cheeses, hoping that the flaw would not be detected. Some of the instructors report that in nearly half the factories the milk is watered. One reported that some of the factories were positively dirty.

And all this when the sure ending of such folly must be surely known by the producers! What it has resulted in before will as surely follow now if persisted in. The trouble is that not only will the dishonest shippers suffer, but those of a different calibre as well. It is not an easy task to create a good reputation, but this is very much easier than to retrieve it when once lost through carelessness or dishonesty.

It is not only in the cheese trade that these abuses are beginning to be noticed. The British fruit merchants have begun to complain that some exporters in this country are in the habit of putting big fine apples at the tops and bottoms of the barrels, and filling up the centre with small, inferior fruit. The Hon. Sydney Fisher's bill, to be introduced at the present session of Parliament, to regulate the grading, packing and marking of the barrels, ought to be of considerable benefit to the trade, especially the clauses as to misrepresentation—consisting of false marking of grade, size, or variety. What is needed most, however, is that the producer—each individual shipper of cheese, fruit, or any other article—should realize that the reputation of his country for common honesty is at stake; or, to put the matter on a lower basis, that for every dollar he may chance to make now through flim-flam methods, he jeopardizes ten dollars later on.

#### BRITISH TIMBER TRADE.

In noticing some features of the timber trade in the British Islands during last year, as set forth in Farnworth & Jardine's circular for January, we note first the remarkable import of pitch pine from America into Liverpool, some 900,000 feet in excess of 1899. Prices opened high and advanced until they reached the highest point for many years—then declined in the autumn. Both the imports and the stock on hand of hewn and sawn pitch pine timber at Liverpool are the largest for five years, but of planks the stock is the smallest and the market satisfactory.

Coming to Canadian woods, we find British Columbia pine, both logs and planks, lumped in with Oregon pine in the Liverpool list, so that we cannot make out the supply of the former. A cargo arrived from Chemainus late in the year, and was soon disposed of almost entirely, and there is now an opening for more. A demand for Quebec pine developed during the year quite out of proportion to the average conditions of the market in other