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Premier of British Codumbia. We hoped to have been able also to have had one from Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Premier of Canada, but in a very courteous letter acknowledging our request, he expressed his regret at having been compelled, owing to the number of similar invitations, to adopt the general rule of declining to avail himself

Lord Strathcona has compressed a great deal into the hundred or so word of his cablegram. He tells us of the pleasure it gives him to send a message to the people of British Columbia; he speaks of the boundless resources of our province and its magnificent destiny; he shows his appreciation of the gravity of the problems with which we are confronted in this province, and expresses confidence that we will not approach them from a narrow standpoint. His reference is doubtwe will not approach them from a narrow standpoint. His reference is doubtless in part to the Oriental question, and
when he speaks of a narrow standpoint,
he no doubt wishes to remind us that
this is an Imperial as well as a local.

Three of them. this is an Imperial as well as a local matter. He assures us that he is confident that a satisfactory solution of all our problems will be found, and in saying this he is doubtless influenced by the belief that we will deal with every question which may arise as a British people should. Last, but not least, he bids us keep an eye of the "All-Red" line, and he points out that this is a matter with which British Columbia is concerned to a very great degree.

Mr. Borden's message is very inspiring in its language and sentiment. His appreciation of the greatness of our country has been undoubtedly strengthened by the opportunities for observation, which he enjoyed during his re-cent tour. He pleads for a united Canada, for one in which there shall be

A TERCENTENARY

In 1608 Champlain founded Quebec. and it is proposed that the tercentenary of that date shall be fittingly observed. and it is proposed that the tercentenary of that date shall be fittingly observed. The credit of the suggestion belongs to Lord Grey, the Governor-General. This was not the first colony established in what is now Canada, for a settlement had been made at St. Croix Island, in what is now New Brunswick, a few years before, although the colony was moved to Port Royal, now Annapolis, N. S., in the following year. Champlain was at the head of this enterprise. In fact he spent three years along the shores of the Bay of Fundy before going to Quebec. His discovery of the St. John river was celebrated by the people of the city of that name a year or two ago. Nevertheless the founding of Quebec may very properly be recarded as the historic heading of the st. John that the tercent head of the st. John river was celebrated by the people of the city of that name a year or two ago. Nevertheless the founding of Quebec may very properly he recarded as the historic heading to the open of the city of that name a year or two ago. Nevertheless the founding of Quebec may very properly iton." Naturally also we look upon year or two ago. Nevertheless the founding of Quebec may very properly be regarded as the historic beginning of Canada, and it is proper enough to observe it in some appropriate way. We share in the opinion of those who hold that such an anniversary ought to be recognized by the people of both the dominant races of Canada. What form it ought to take may be open to a difference of opinion, but it will hardly be denied that it ought to be representa-tive of Canadian progress and hom-

LITERARY TASTE

It is pleasing to learn on unques-ioned authority that the demand for mmoral fiction is growing less year that thousands of novels of wholesome life are sold where only hundreds of the that the latter have their circulation that our attitude towards English peochiefly among the idle rich, that is among those whose tastes have been vitiated by indulgence, whose passions have been exhausted by excesses or whose silly notions of life find their counterpart in the doings of men and women of depraved ideas and rudi-

There came about a marked revolu-tion in these things about fifteen years ago, when a new lot of romantic novels were written. They were al-ways tolerably ridiculous in their absurd exaggerations. The hero was a melodramatic chap, whose stout sword surd exaggerations. The hero was a mole of John Bull's family. When he comes to Canada, he is just a little mole dramatic chap, whose stout sword was more than a match for the weapons of a score of ignoble variets; the heroine was more beautiful than the heroine was more beautiful than the suspected of being more demonstrative suspected of being more demonstrative. ons of a score of ignoble varlets; the heroine was more beautiful than the law allows and combined with exquisite feminity the muscles of an amazon and a courage that in any one else would be called foothardiness. The only reason, why she was not destroyed over and over again in mind, body and estate, was because it was essential to the story that she and the hero should marry and live happy. the hero should marry and live happy the hero should marry and live happy ever after. The later day romances ran their course, and did a lot of good. They were not only a protest against the pruriency of one class of family, and in our several efforts to writers, but also a relief from the

may regret if a certain small minority community takes pleasure in

IMPORTANT BUT UNSATIS-

The Dominion government referred a certain case to the Supreme Court of Canada for a decision as to the right the matter up. Six judges took part. lumbia, the World disputes the propo-Three of them, Messrs. Justices Duff, liddington and McLennan, held that the Lieutenant Governor is bound to obey instructions which he the powers of provincial companies may receive from the federal ministry. extended far enough to enable them to do business outside of the province in which they were incorporated. Chief Justice Fitzpatrick and Mr. Justice Davies dissented, and Mr. Justice Davies dissented, and Mr. Justice Davies dissented, and Mr. Justice Girouard declined to express an opinion on the unconstitutional issue, holding that it was not properly before the court. Thus, while the majority of the court decided in favor of the claims of the companies, the judgment will hardly be regarded as final, and it is understood that the case will be appealed to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. In the meantime it is suggested that the promoters of companies will hesitate about applying to the policy of the local government. The poration, if they are likely to engage to the contemporary is not very clear what the way to reform the federal ministry.

May we ask it to give a little attention to the observations made in these columns yesterday as to the meaning of Section 55 of the British North America. Act? It can hardly be denied that the Governor General is by that section made expressly subject to Royal Instructions, and it will hardly be called that lieutenant-governors are independent of such instructions. If they are not, then it can matter very this land of ours where we have liberty." In they are not very clear what might happen, if this federal control is admitted and might prove hostile to the provincial authorities for incorporation, if they are likely to engage to the court of the court of the policy of the local government. In the provincial authorities for incorporation, if they are likely to engage to the court of the policy of the local government. In the provincial authorities for incorporation, if they are likely to engage the provincial authorities for incorporation, if they are likely to engage the provincial authorities for incorporation, if they are likely to engage the provincial authorities for incorporation in the color of the claims of the court of the policy of the local government

cause it is the friendly and cordial greeting of a man to his neighbors. In his timely message to the people of Canada generally all the British Columbians will heartly join. ism we are to understand that attitude towards all questions which is
purely local, no doubt the term is applicable to that city. But are we in
Canada "provincial?" Naturally we
are all of the opinion that we individually are not, and cherish the befact largely a great "business propos-ition." Naturally also we look upon questions of world-interest chiefly as to how they will bear upon the affairs of our own country. But this can hardly be called provincialism. It is objected, we have correspondents who object, that the papers devote little attention to the great problems of European politics. In this the papers very fairly reflect the sentiment of the people at large, few of whom care anything about European affairs ex-cept so far as they may be news. Often when we read the editorial comments of leading British papers upon the spleasing to learn on unquesting authority that the demand for moral fiction is growing less year year, so much so that it is said the theorem of the spleasing to learn on unquesting the spleasing the

dealt with. But our critic was a little more specific in what he said. He thought that our attitude towards English peo-It might be readily answered that if this is true, we are only displaying what our critics themselves display. We suppose there is not any use in denying that Canadians think their way of doing things just a little better mentary morals, such as a certain school of novelists loves to portray. Those whose motto is "let us eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die," delight in their outward appearance they may be things of beauty but the they may be things of beauty; but the working class, the people who with their brains or hands labor to make life better, the mothers, who are training the great majority of the children of the land, all right-thinking young men, and all girls have no taste for literary indecencies.

There came about the people of the standard are quite as well satisfied with themselves and their way of doing things as any people under the canony of the land. der the canopy of heaven, and doubt-less with very good reason. When one of them goes to a foreign country, every one knows that he is English. He seems to be under an irresistible impulse to let it be known that he is one of John Bull's family.

heavy novels "with a purpose," with which readers had been surfeited. The same healthy change is noticeable on the stage. Plays which depend for their point upon indecency thinly velled, if covered at all, have become unpopular. Audiences demand wholesome plays, and of course, what they sake they get. on too much side.'

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

of the community takes pleasure in writings which are debasing, but the community can stand it, so long as the community can stand it, so long as the tastes of the majority are decent, and there is happily very little doubt on that point. The marvellous circulation of the cheap magazines is an interesting feature of the case. Most of them are cheap enough, goodness knows, in more senses than one, but they are never by any chance immoral they are never by any chance immoral to the solution of the solution of the solution and all well-formed, large and luscious, is Victoria's testimoly are never by any chance immoral to the World can hardly be pass-knows, in more senses than one, but they are never by any chance immoral to the World can hardly be pass-knows, in more senses than one, but they are never by any chance immoral to the World can hardly be pass-knows, in more senses than one, but they are never by any chance immoral to the World can hardly be pass-knows, in more senses than one, but they are never by any chance immoral time they limit.

OUR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS. The Colonist presents to its readers this morning Christmas greetings from a popular form, which is interesting and it cites freely from Burke on the and can hardly fall to be beneficial. Question. Burke was an exceedingly and can hardly fall to be beneficial. Question. Burke was an exceedingly seeing that the details are too delicate. While many people may regret that the mental food of a large part of the community, aside from the news of the day, is as yet not very nourishing, it is

Trench Revolution, and he sought to satisfactory to know that it is not un- prove that British institutions rested upon any one high in court circles, he upon far more stable grounds than those of France. But as one of his biographers says: "He allowed his im-agination to be touched by the sorrows of kings and queens, and forgot the ral rule of declining to avail himself a certain case to the Supreme Court of Canada for a decision as to the right undoubtedly as good an authority now as he was when he spoke and wrote, of the British Columbia members have

extended far enough to enable them to May we ask it to give a little attention

PROVINCIALISM

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Burns has told us that it is a good thing sometimes to see ourselves as officence in what the future will bring forth. He evidently feels the inspiration of the splendid place which his native province has come to occupy in the eyes of the world. What he says is, perhaps, a little more personal than the expressions of the other diagnished gentlemen, whose words we are able to give this morning, but this was to have been expected, be cause it is the friendly and cordial greeting of a man to his neighbor. In his timely message to the people of Canada generally all the British Columbians will heartly to the people against an act done by him is of a good many-people. It is often york is the most of claumbians will heartly to the people against an act done by him is proper cause it is the friendly and cordial greeting of a man to his neighbor. In his timely message to the people of Canada generally all the British Columbians will heartly to the people against an act done by him is proper cause it is the friendly and cordial greeting of a man to his neighbor. In his timely message to the people of Canada generally all the British Columbians will heartly to the people against an act done by him is of a good many-people. It is often york is the most of a good many-people. It is often york is the most of a good many-people. It is often york is the most of a good many-people. It is often york is the most of the most of the people against an act done by him is proper as the provincial and the provincial would have to do in the case supposed, he would logically be bound to decline you would have to do in the case supposed, he would logically be bound to decline the people upon the point for it would be an unheard of thing for a governor to grant his advisers an appeal to the people against an act done by him is proper as the people of Canada generally all the British Columbians will heartly the people aga

can be no doubt whatever to the ef-licacy of Royal Instructions. The Premier of Canada is advised, by the Colonial office through the Governor-General that His Majesty in Council has decided upon a certain line of action as an essential part of British policy, and this policy is opposed to the views of the Premier. Ought the Premier in such a case to resign, or could he justify to Parliament his acceptance of the Imperial policy in pre ference to his own views? Manifestly such a question cannot be definitely. answered until it arises and Parliament is put in possession of all the facts of the case. We do not say that there is a close parallel between such a case and that of the Bowser Bill, but the principal involved in each is the

An amendment is proposed to the Canadian Shipping act, which reads

the Canada Shipping act is repealed and the following paragraph is sub-stituted therefor:—

"(f) 'coasting voyage' means a voyage between Canada and Newfoundland or St. Pierre or Miquelon or a port or place on the eastern coast of the United States of America, or Mexico or Central America, or in the West-ico or Central America, or in the West-Indies or on the eastern coast of South America, not further south than Rio de Janeiro; and also means a voy-age between any port or place on the western coast of Canada and any other port or place on such coast or other port or place on such coast or on the western coast of the United States of America, not further south than the harbor of Portland in the State of Oregon, and not further north than Cape Spencer in the Territory of Alaska, or any inlet or bay having its entrance on the eastern side of the said cape."

said cape."

We print this for the information of shipping men in Victoria who loubtless have some interest in the matter. The Bill is not a governmen measure and if there is anything in this or the other proposed amendments, which call for consideration, the proper course would be to advise Mr. Temer course would be to advise Mr. Templeman respecting them. The other proposed changes are the substitution of the words "three hundred" in place of "one hundred" in the first line of section 96; of "three hundred" in the first membership of 512,424.

Earl Grey presented to the Quebec Symphony society last week the musical trophy won by the society last February.

Annual reports of the chief registrar of friendly societies shows a total membership of 512,424.

President Roosevelt does not want the people of the United States to call Admiral Evans' fleet "a great armada." He says what happened to the

for the public ear. They manage such things better in Russia. There if an editor has the hardihood to reflect is sent where his creditors cannot his trouble him.

ion in the House of Commons has been adjourned over the Christmas

torpedo boats annually for the next three years. These vessels will be in-dependent of the Royal Navy. It is also proposed that all youths in Australia over eighteen years of age shall be obliged to do military training for sixteen days each year for three years.

Some Socialists addressed a public

ada, for one in which there shall be no east or west in thoughts and aspirations. His reminder that "the spirit of the marketplace" ought not to be the dominant factor in life, as it is not dominant in national greatness, is timely and may well be laid to heart by us all.

Mr. McBride speaks in much the same tone as Mr. Borden. He is full be no one as Mr. Borden. He provincial admitted and might prove hostile to the policy of the local government. In the policy of the local gove

During the past five years the government of Canada has spent three nundred and eighty-three million dollars. proper course in such a case would, it seems to us, be for the premier to allow matters to remain in statu quo until he had an opportunity of stating the facts to the legislature.

Let us suppose a case in which there the property whatever to the effects to the legislature.

Let us suppose a case in which there the suppose a case in which there are the property whatever to the effects to the legislature.

tact with electric light lamps. face of such a warning they persist it so foolish a practice they will hav themselves to blame should fires in their houses on festive occasions cause them to lose their insurance.-Toronto Globe

now of prolonged existence, the bar profits were larger than for the ceding year; and that the president the general manager of the bank both expressed confidence in the underlying soundness of the commercial situation.— Ottawa Journal.

Let Us Have Peace.

The Philadelphia Record says that the otball casualties this year foot used killed and 98 injured. Last year cotball casualties this year foot up 1 killed and 98 injured. Last year ulso 11 were killed, but the number of njured amounted to 103. In 1905 the killed numbered 31 and the injured 137. The figures show that the game in the States is not so deadly as it was. But the Record thinks that if the killing and carnage stop the game will lose half ts attraction to both player and looker on.—Hamilton Times.

One of the natural curiosities of Switzerland is Lake Morat, which turns blood red every tenth year. For turies this freak was regarded by Swiss with superstitious dread, and no until scientists turned their attention to the matter was the belief in the to the matter was the belief in the supernatural partly removed. Even now some of the more ignorant persist in regarding the omen as one of evil import. The reddish color is given the water by a minute plant closely related to the red snow. Every tenth year this plant begins to propogate, and so quickly does it grow that in a short time the whole lake is a crimson tide. The plant is so minute as not to be perceptible without the aid of a microscope, and there was some foundation scope, and there was some foundation for the early belief that the sea had turned into a sea of blood.

Earl Grey presented to the Quebec

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We are making a special show of Tapestry Panels on the First and Second Floors. These are excellent new pieces and worthy of your inspection. We should be pleased to show you these and others, equally interesting, which we are prevented from displaying through lack of display space. These are low in price and make excellent gifts.

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Why not get baby one of those new BABY PLATES, at, each ... 50c

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This season's showing Hearth Furnishings is a sl ing of which we are proud. The best effort Britain's best workers in me tal are here for you. Hand some creations, all BLACK AND BRASS KERBS

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AFTER DINNER COFFEES AND AFTERNOOTEAS, at, each, \$5.00, \$1.50, \$1.25, \$1.00, 75c, 50 35c and BREAD AND BUTTER PLATES, at, per do down to.....\$2.00
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down to \$10.00
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