

Speaking of the evil enthusiasm with which the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec lashed themselves into a race and creed agitation fraught with mischief to the country, the North Sydney *Herald* aptly stigmatizes it as "the madness of the hour." Fortunately, it is as we believe, but for an hour. Yesterday was the date by which the Jesuit Act of Quebec should be disallowed if at all. Since we expressed the decided opinion that the Dominion Government would not for a moment entertain the idea of a veto the opinion of the English law offices of the Crown has been received, and is in favor of the constitutional nature of the Act. The matter is therefore finally settled, and we hope we shall have heard the last of it.

The reviving interest in the game of cricket is a healthy feature in sports and pastimes. Base-ball demands great skill and smartness, and appeals to all those who appreciate those points of a game, but it is after all not the equal of cricket. But the worst point of comparison between the two games is that base-ball has been debased into the worst kind of professionalism, involving extravagant pay to professionals, and all the corruptions and vulgarities incidental to a pastime which has become imbued with the mania of betting. It is also attended with much wrangling and ill-feeling, whereas cricket, as is justly observed by a city contemporary, "has always generated gentlemanly instincts, and its contests are seldom marred by bickerings."

Rumors are said to be emanating from Ottawa of an impending re-adjustment of the Dominion Cabinet. To this by itself there is no objection, but the rumor is also said to be coupled with the foreshadowing of an increase in the number of its members. To this there would be just objection. "If," as the *Week* observes, "the present large staff of ministers is not sufficient to manage the affairs of a Federation of five millions of people who have no less than seven or eight local ministries and parliaments to look after local matters there must be something seriously wrong either with the ministers, the institution or the people. Surely Canadians are not so hard to govern that they require to keep them in hand twice as many cabinet officers as the 60,000,000 of the United States," and, it might be added, within four of the number of the ministry which has on its shoulders the mighty and wide-spread interest of Great Britain and Ireland, India and the Colonies all over the world. The number of the Canadian Cabinet is fifteen.

In view of the military proceedings which have been a feature of the Carnival Week we again draw the attention of the Minister of Militia to the anomalous positions of Deputy Adjutant General of Militia, who hold only the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. In England the rank of Brigadier has been granted in the volunteers—a force, unlike our totally distinct from the Militia. Our D. A. G.'s are actual Commanders in their districts of very considerable forces. The D. A. G.'s of Nova Scotia commanding not only this province, but Prince Edward Island as well. The comparatively junior substantive rank of our D. A. G.'s leads to numerous unpleasant complications when they are working with regulars as well as on social military occasions, and, while we are on this subject we would recommend to Sir John Ross' staff (the General himself is all that could be desired) the perusal of the Canada Militia Act, in order that they may understand the nature of the Constitutional Force which is sometimes called upon to co-operate with the Imperial Troops.

Mr. Dalton McCarthy in a recent speech at Stayner, Ont., pledged himself to move a resolution at the next session of Parliament to abolish the official use of the French language in the North West Territories, which, in this connection, should not be confounded with the Province of Manitoba, in which any initiative in the direction of abolishing the dual language nuisance must come from the Province itself. But the Dominion Government is competent to deal with the question as regards the Territories, and as the North West Act is still undergoing modification, the present would be a good time to begin. No doubt this unnecessary and expensive institution ought to be abolished in Manitoba also, but the use of the two languages stands on a different footing there, owing to the mixed character of the population at the time of its erection into a Province. But, from the immense preponderance of English-speaking people with whom the Territories are filling up, there cannot be a shadow of doubt that steps ought to be taken to obviate the introduction into them of an essentially vexatious and inconvenient arrangement.

"In the days of old," says the *Week*, "When France and England were in hostile variance, and the natives of either country called the others 'ard names, there was one term in particular, used by our soldiers and sailors in speaking of Frenchmen, better and more politely expressed at present by the word 'sacquinary.'" It was certainly an adjective of much force, and it is a question if its application may not yet be sustained, to judge by recent evidences in proof that gory instincts survive strongly still in the French nature." The idea is emphasized by the introduction of bull-fighting to add to the attractions of the Paris exhibition. A poor pretense of humanity was attempted in the interdict of the Prefect of Police of the actual slaughter of the victims, but this was set aside by a matador under the excitement of applause enhanced by the presence of the old Queen Isabella Segunda. The poor beast had been previously pretty well crippled, and it is sadly illustrative of the tigerish frivolity of a Parisian audience that "the whole mass assembled to witness the exploits in the ring, as if frenzied by the sight of blood, rose at once to their feet, yelled and shouted with fury, men and women alike, whilst an unintermittent shower of hats, bonnets, umbrellas, parasols, oranges, bags of fruit, bon-bons and cake, and even opera-glasses, came flying towards the "spada," and his prostrate victim, as tokens of the skill and murderous address of the former."

The Montreal *Witness*, with Jesuit somewhat on the brain, says:—"The tyrant's heel is certainly upon Quebec, and is rapidly driving enterprise from her streets. It is said the Protestant citizens there are afraid to take any steps against the Jesuit aggression lest they should lose business. That may not be true, but what is true, according to the Jesuit organ *La Justice*, is that at Point Lévis English and Scotch workmen are being dismissed as foreigners by British employers at the demand of the French-Canadians led on by that paper. The present object of the Jesuits seems to be to drive all foreigners from the prospective New France, which will then declare itself independent. This is probably an exaggerated view of the situation, though there is certainly enough in the hostile and aggressive attitude of Quebec to engender a suspicion of possibilities. We do not, however, feel any alarm. The Dominion is, we believe, sufficiently consolidated to enable it in an ultimate emergency, to deal with a province proposing independence, as the American Union dealt with the South."

We have more than once alluded to the prevalent shortcoming of our Militia in rapidity of marching. In this essential of military efficiency French troops of old excelled those of England, though an instance, to which we have not at hands the means of referring, of an extraordinary march of Crawford's Light Brigade in the Peninsula showed that English troops when put upon their mettle could equal the best. The following extract from the *Militia Gazette* shows what even Italians are capable of:—"The 10th Regt. of Bersaglieri (Italian rifles), stationed at Cremona, recently made an exceptionally rapid forced march of about seven miles and one-sixth in 1h. 13m, with an average velocity of six miles and one third per hour. After a halt of half an hour, the regiment returned home in an hour and a half without ever halting on the way, thus covering a distance of 21 kilometres (about 14 miles) in about three hours. On its arrival at Cremona, the soldiers were in such perfect condition that they marched past at the double without any effort." We again commend this important point to the serious attention of our Commanding Officers.

We have on several occasions called attention to the mismanagement of the Intercolonial railway, and we note with pleasure that the *Herald*, the leading government organ, has fearlessly taken the subject up and plainly shown that there must be a change. An independent paper like THE CRITIC has manifest advantages over political organs, as it is always in a position to ventilate abuses without fear or favor, while party organs have either to defend or attack as the case may be in such an indiscriminate way, that their utterances have little or no public effect or value. When a government organ then feels compelled to expose the mismanagement of a railroad controlled by the party it supports, the abuse must indeed be serious. It requires great courage for a paper of that description to adopt such a course, as an unfair advantage is always taken of its utterances on such occasions, and we must congratulate the *Herald* on the manly way in which it has spoken out regardless of the use the opposition press might make of its disclosures. When such a staunch supporter of the government gives testimony against the road it should carry great weight, and we hope that the powers that be will institute radical reforms. One of the most needed is placing of the control of the road in the hands of the Chief Superintendent, Mr. Pottinger, free from all interference from Mr. Scriber, who is plainly an enemy of the Maritime Provinces. His evident hostility to our interests is all the harder to bear as he is credited as a Maritime Provincial appointee and thus stands in the way of the advancement of better men from this section. So long as he remains at the head of the road, so long will the mismanagement continue, and the sooner the government makes up its mind to dispense with his costly services, the better for all concerned.

The following extract from a speech by Senator Hoar is worthy of extended circulation as indicating the dawn of a more rational spirit of looking at Canada on the part of intelligent citizens of the United States:—"The chairman has spoken of a matter which the American people are now carefully considering. What is to be our relationship to the young people whose rising nationality is already stirring its heart beat and pulsing its veins upon our northern border? Well, now, I do not think it is very wise for us to undertake too frequently or too anxiously a public discussion of that question just now. Annexation with this country must from the necessity of the case, be a Canadian question. The people of the United States do not conquer people, they do not subject them to our institutions against their will. We do not propose ever to have under the flag vassal States, or subject citizens. If the pear be ripe, as Governor Claflin said, it must ripen by the process of the climate and under the sun where it grows, and not elsewhere. Now, unquestionably there are many considerations which I hope will make our Canadian brethren desire to be united in one country. In the first place it seems to me absolutely impossible that hostile or different commercial systems, or fiscal systems can be maintained when that great country has been filled up along our border. In the next place I do not see how this notion of what is called Commercial Union is likely to be practicable. I know wise men think it, and I would speak with great diffidence in differing from them. But I do not think one tariff under two administrations can be conducted by two peoples, by the people of the U. S. and the people of Canada, and I do not think it is possible that the people of Canada should maintain a political relation with Great Britain and at the same time have absolute freedom of commercial intercourse with us admitting our manufactures without a tax, and establishing, as against the country of which they are a part, a protective, still less an excluding tariff. Now, undoubtedly also the great unsettled portions of Canada, which are by far the greatest portions of Canada are objects, and ought to be objects of great desire to us if we can acquire them honestly and peacefully, but not otherwise."