

victions in a remarkable degree, and a frankness of expression unusual in a statesman of such high office. He is long-sighted, large-sighted; and, to quote Mr. Laurier, "is one of the ablest men that has been presiding over the Colonial Office for many and many a day."

It is hardly fair on the part of the United States press opposed to Bryan, because of the riots of agitators, which he is powerless to prevent, to endeavor to associate him with anarchists. Since the 'silver' candidate has the misfortune to be associated with the demagogues, and since his platform especially appeals to the fanatical among the laboring classes, he must needs have among his followers many socialists and labor agitators. Yet there is no reason to go beyond this, nor to attribute the mad words and works of anarchists to his instigation. From present indications there appears to be a slight reaction again in favor of McKinley and the gold standard. But the contest is close, the results dubious. 'Tis a hot campaign, fought on momentous issues.

IN CANADA.

THE presence of Li Hung Chang has possibly been the notable event of the month in Dominion affairs. There is nothing to be added to the reams that have been written concerning this gentlemanly and astute old Earl; but his visit gave emphasis to the Chinese question when it was brought up in Parliament a few days after his departure from Canada. A more difficult question has rarely come before this or any parliament of a Christian country.

The natural inclination, which we instinctively feel to be the finer and truer one, moves us to remove all restriction and to open wide the doors of our great sparsely settled country to these people. But prudence, and a proper conservation of the interests of our own citizens and the country's future, prevent this. The principle of human brotherhood is not sufficiently deeply implanted in Canadians to make us willing to accept a fellow-citizenship with Africans or Chinese or Hindoos, at least not to the degree of swamping our own nationality and depreciating our own labor worth. And the difficulty is where to draw the line.

THAT the Rev. Charles Eaton is a most entertaining writer, those of us who have read his letters from England to the *Toronto Globe*, readily admit. But the reverend gentleman hardly appreciates the present disposition of the Canadian people, when he talks at three-column length of the desirability and advantages of a Canadian republic.

There is not the slightest response in the Canadian heart to such an ideal. Colonial relationship or annexation; these are the alternatives that present themselves. The latter is not seriously discussed among us, but it presents a greater attraction than Mr. Eaton's glowing picture of "an independent republic, sworn to friendship with both England and the United States from the beginning."

It is doubtful if there will ever come a time when Canada desires to stand alone; since the trend of the ages is not toward isolation, but union, and the British flag wraps a wide circle within its folds.

SINCE mining investments are so largely speculative, it is little use warning people against rash ventures. It would be as futile as to pronounce against bazaar 'fish-ponds,' raffles, or any other game in which we pay our money and take our chance. We all like to 'dip in,' in the hope of coming out gold or

silver-plated. The most that the Government can do is to see that there is some modicum of precious metal in the proffered bath.

But a safe rule for the investor is, to put in only that amount of money which he can afford to lose; by whose loss neither his family nor any one else shall suffer.

This is good advice, and therefore, of course, no one takes it. From the Eden days, men and women have staked their all, and lost or won. It is life.

THE present session of the Federal Parliament is not lacking in liveliness. Both Opposition and Government have been more than once upon their mettle; and Mr. Speaker Edgar has already found the throne a seat far from reposeful.

Although the new House has been but a few weeks in session, several points have been made plain: that Mr. Laurier's quick tact will help him over many a difficult place, and that he will rule his followers rather than be ruled by them; that Sir Charles Tupper makes a splendid leader of Opposition by virtue of his fine fighting qualities; and that the Opposition's long term in office has armed them for a power of attack which it will take all the skill of the Government forces to repel.

THE abolition of the House of Commons bar will meet with general approval; since no one now cares to take the attitude that consumption of alcoholic liquor is necessary for the proper transaction of business by our legislative bodies. While personally the members did not take advantage of its presence to indulge in excess, yet, as Sir Charles Tupper stated, the fact that liquor could be obtained in the House enabled parties to publish very strong and unjustifiable censures in reference to the character and conduct of members, and in order to avoid the possibility of any grounds for such measures he thought it was necessary to adopt the measure proposed by Mr. Craig.

That the motion passed without a dissentient voice showed that no member cared to go on record as opposing it; which speaks well for the advance of public sentiment along this line.

IN regard to the vexed question of civil servants showing political partisanship—which has been debated in press and Parliament,—Sir Richard Cartwright's suggestion that it might be worth considering whether civil servants should not be put upon the same footing as the judges of the country, who do not think they are insulted by being deprived of the franchise, is worth debate. There is no doubt such an arrangement is the only one calculated to place the civil service on a satisfactory basis.

In this connection the statement made in the House by Mr. Hugh John Macdonald, that during his previous occupancy of a seat in the House, three-fourths of his time was occupied in hearing applications for positions or increases of salary, is significant. Unfortunately, his words can be adopted by every member of the Government side of the House to-day.

THE action of the St. Thomas Conservative aldermen, who remained away from the Council meeting called for the purpose of considering how to receive Lord Aberdeen, in order to show their disapproval of his official action,—showed them not better Conservatives, and much less men. The Conservative party is not enriched by the adherence of such petty politicians as these.

The kindly thoughtfulness of the Governor-General is shown by a little incident related to the writer a few days ago. During His Excellency's present tour in Western Ontario, when attending the Dutton Fair, he remembered suddenly that one of his old servants had moved

from the Aberdeen estates some years before, and settled in Canada, in a village named Dutton. Turning to the chief of police who stood near, Lord Aberdeen mentioned the man's name and made inquiries.

The chief recognized the name, went down into the crowded Fair grounds, found the man and brought him up to where His Excellency stood, glad to greet and inquire of the welfare of his old retainer.

THE United States press is making much of the recent emigration of Canadians to Brazil, one journal declaring that the condition of the laboring classes here is so wretched that they are willing to "take yellow fever and Brazil to get out of it."

We have yellow fever in Canada, without going in search of it—a yellow fever that is carrying our men out by the score to the far Pacific coast, where the pick rings merrily, and the metal glitters in the pan; it is a yellow fever that is drawing a swift tide of emigration towards us, and from which no one flees away.

The directors of the Industrial Fair have every cause to congratulate themselves, as the citizens have to congratulate them, upon the success again attendant upon their efforts. But a protest must be entered in the children's name against the present arrangement for Children's Day, which occurs so early in the Fair days that the exhibits the children like best to see are not on the ground. The cat and dog show, the poultry, the live stock, the fruit and vegetables,—none of these have arrived, and they certainly constitute the greatest attractions for the little ones.

It is worth considering whether it would not be more satisfactory to charge a ten-cent admission for children, and to let that fee obtain throughout the Fair days.

ANENT the Rev. Charles Eaton's utterances, the following paragraph, quoted from Nova Scotia correspondence to *The Westminster*, should be of interest:

For the first time since 1867, when four provinces formed the Dominion of Canada, the elections have passed over without one whisper as to the desirability of repeal or secession. No word has been said against Confederation. No one has indulged in longings after "continental union." Anti-unionism is dead forever, which is a very distinct gain to our great Dominion. It is difficult for men living in a great central province to realize the painful facility with which prejudice and ill-will can be evoked in the smaller provinces. Happily there has not been at any time real danger of breaking the union; but now there is certainly less than ever. Discontent has vanished like an evil dream. The only question now for us all is to make Canada the freest, the purest, the best governed country on earth.

THE intimation that certain spiritualists have come to Toronto for the purpose of establishing a 'spiritualist church' in our midst is not acceptable to thoughtful citizens. No fad or fallacy is so dangerous or insidious as that which is put forth under guise of religion. Latter-day spiritualism is a fungous growth whose rank and poisonous luxuriance hides an exalted and beautiful truth, of whose existence we are yet but dimly aware.

To the self-controlled, spiritualism appeals not at all; but for the emotional and morbid it has a fascination which, when indulged, is utterly destructive of all healthful religious worship, all sanity of thought.

There was an instance of a city across the line, where spiritualism, with all its mummery of mediums and séances, so desolated the churches and filled the asylums that ministers, doctors and sober-thoughted citizens remaining, banded themselves together in solemn purpose of investigation and exposé, nor stayed their labors until the last 'medium' was compelled to leave the city.