

In Washington the Government are being constantly embarrassed about the finances of the nation. It is not just the same kind that the Hon. Finance Minister of Canada has sometimes to grapple with, however. There is no need of making a summer trip to England every year to obtain a large loan on advantageous terms. The great trouble is just what to do with the surplus! The import duties of the United States are yet up to nearly the same high figure as in war times, and the manufacturing interests are roused to the highest pitch of opposition at any attempt to lower them. What can be done under the circumstances? There is now reported to be a surplus of one hundred and fifty one million dollars in the Treasury, and the outlook indicates still more serious embarrassment in the same direction. Last year the customs duties were lowered on a large number of articles, but yet that has not yet met the case. The customs receipts for last month were a million and a half greater than for April of last year. There is still a pretty large national debt, but it is being paid off faster than the bond holders desire, and faster than some deem it safe in view of financial disarrangements. TRUTH would like to do anything to assist them out of such a grave difficulty. How would it do to try a Minister of Railways at Washington? If a man with the same resources for suggestions can be found as one TRUTH has heard of, the chances would be there would soon be few reasons for complaint over an uncontrollable surplus.

A good many hard things are being said by our neighbors about their Mormon population, and a good many harsh remedies are suggested in order to rid the country of their presence and the demoralization of their manners and customs, but still they go on flourishing and multiplying. Last week three hundred and eighteen converts to Mormonism arrived at New York from Great Britain, and they made at once for the "Land of Promise." More are soon to be looked for. The work goes steadily on, and all the Acts and Courts arraying themselves against the system do not stay its progress. General McCook, the present U.S. commanding officer in Utah, has evidently given careful study to the question, and he reports that he believes kindness and calculation are lost on the Mormons. His suggestion is to apply the heroic treatment of martial law with a firm hand. The chances are that the time serving politicians in control of affairs at Washington will not attempt anything of that kind. The evil, like the slavery system, will probably continue until some desperate remedy will have to be applied as a measure of national safety.

The Free Trade party in the United States are now making capital for themselves over the condition of the wheat export trade. It is well known that the demand for American wheat in the English market has greatly fallen off of late, the supply being largely drawn from India. One of the leading papers publishes the views of a Chicago grain dealer recently returned from England, who claims to have taken great pains to study the grain question while abroad. He says that the reason why England now

draws from India instead of America is because it is to her advantage to buy wheat of a country that will take her manufactured products in return for payment. This is given as a great reason why the farmers on this side of the Atlantic must give up the idea of the old-time English demand for wheat, with the old-time prices, or else have a different trade policy brought about in regard to the admission of English manufactures. The argument, if it is worth anything, applies with equal force to Canada. TRUTH does not pretend to wrestle with the question, but merely gives it in this form to its many readers for just what it may be worth.

Panama has the terrible reputation of being one of the deadliest localities to which a man can go. The death rate in that locality is something terrible. It seems most unfortunate that it should be so, in view of the fact of the gigantic and important undertaking of the great Panama canal. The climate has been blamed for it all, but according to the statements of Dr. Wolfrod Nelson, a former resident of Montreal, much of the evil may be attributed to the disregard of the people for sanitary laws. The burial places about the city are reported to be in a terrible condition. A principal one of them is so small that it has been long since filled, and is now being used over and over again until the whole ground must be contaminated and polluted with disease producing matter. Another is represented as a series of immense vaults where the bodies are not placed under ground at all for a considerable time, and then the remains are cast into heaps without much, if any, adequate earth covering. If such statements are correct no wonder the locality is so plague-stricken. Now that the place is assuming so much commercial importance, no doubt the evils will be removed, so far as they well can be, by men of more enlightened ideas than the inhabitants appear to be. But the climate there is a bad one, anyway.

Boston appears to be a good deal exercised about its milk supply. Adulteration is the great trouble. The State Board of Agriculture has taken the matter in hand and thorough investigations have been made in regard to the question of the purity of the milk sold. The published report is anything but pleasant reading for those who may be counted as the victims. According to it very little of the milk retailed in the city is the honest genuine article, such as every purchaser should have. The report says that "it is, for the most part, skimmed, extended with water, recolored with caramel, and it is often treated with boracic acid, that it may be kept in the dealer's possession longer than it would be possible if it was in a natural condition." The sin of all this is laid principally at the small retailers who distribute it from house to house. The honest farmer has not cheated to any considerable extent, and the honest eater never even suspected of cheating. How things may be at home about this most necessary and most desirable of all articles of human food TRUTH does not know.

The bad report from Boston makes one feel a little suspicious, anyway. Too great vigilance cannot be used. The head of the family ought to be fairly alive to the fact of how much the health and happiness of the household depends on a bountiful supply of pure milk every day. Of course "no well regulated family should be without it." It would be a very prudent thing to always keep an eye on the milk man, and an occasional look out, if possible, where the cows are kept, what kind of water they drink, and whether swill slops or such slush is supplied as a part of their food. Many fevers and many deaths have occurred from the use of milk made impure because of the impure water the cows have drunk, and many children have been made sick and possibly delicate for life because of the impure milk from swill-slop fed cows. The family man may always have his hands pretty full, but the character of the milk supply ought never to be overlooked.

It has been too much the custom in many of the small municipalities and country places in this Province to send their poor and their needy sick to the large cities, to be cared for in some way. The city hospitals are frequently considerably occupied by patients belonging to distant municipalities making no contribution whatever to assist in the maintenance of such humane institutions. The truth is that too many of the country municipalities are too much afraid of taxation to be either generous or just in regard to the proper care of their poor and sick. The most of these localities are taxed much more lightly than the cities to which their needy ones are sent. The Kingston Hospital has, for years, been in the habit of receiving and caring for a large number of unfortunates from the surrounding country for a long distance. Recently these surrounding municipalities have been all asked to contribute something each year towards its maintenance. Some may have responded generously enough, but some have certainly done so in a niggardly manner and some not at all. It is now resolved not to admit, except at a special rate of pay, any patients from localities not contributing to the maintenance of the institution. The resolution may appear like a harsh one, but some such step will be necessary in regard to all the city hospitals.

One of the best possible evidences that the climate of Canada is a healthy one lies in the fact that our last census report shows that there were, at the time the enumeration was taken, one hundred and six residents in Ontario above one hundred years old or over. There were nearly a hundred more centenarians living in other parts of the Dominion. It is much to be doubted if any other country can boast of so large a number of centenarians in proportion to the population. Canada is no doubt, a country well adapted to health, and consequently to long life. Our climate is good, our sky is nearly always bright and clear, the water is excellent, nearly everywhere, and our fruits and vegetables are splendidly matured. There is a remarkable immunity in our country from epidemics or from almost any disease—producing or overrating cause. People

born and spending all their days here hardly realize to the full extent these glorious advantages. They cannot be too highly valued, however, and they ought to have their due weight in the minds of those emigrants from the old world who desire to better their condition by finding new homes this side of the Atlantic.

It is encouraging to know that many of the most enterprising citizens of Toronto are showing commendable zeal in regard to the success of the coming semi-centennial demonstration. That zeal should become general. A demonstration week having been decided upon everything in connection with it should be creditable to the city and to the occasion. Fortunately Toronto has earned for itself a popular reputation among strangers as a good city to visit, and it would be a most serious misfortune to its interests to allow that reputation to be lost or even diminished. Some little apprehension exists in certain quarters lest the houses of entertainment shall be tempted to give way to the temptation of overcharging at that time. It is sincerely to be hoped that all such prophets of evil may turn out to be false prophets.

The hotels are the homes of the strangers and from the treatment received there much of the impression of the character of the whole city is formed. Whatever precaution can be taken against anything like advantage or extortion should be taken with great care. Strangers don't enjoy being fleeced and are not much given to returning to localities where they have once had an unpleasant experience. Niagara Falls is a horrid example in this line, and it is said that Montreal has a very unsavory reputation after the manner in which some purveyors in that city laid on the charges during last winter's carnival. Quebec is often shunned because of the unpleasant suspicion in that line. The interests at stake are too important to be lightly esteemed.

In England the question about the proper disposal of dead bodies is being earnestly considered. It is a question of more interest than mere sentimentalism. It is said that within a comparatively small radius of the city of London there are now no less than two million bodies buried not yet fully decomposed. Around all the other great cities in that old and densely populated country the number of burials within the last few years must have been also very great. The effect of all these on the public health, in one way or another, is probably much more serious than many would suppose who have not given careful consideration to the whole subject. It is little wonder, therefore that the question of cremating—burning—in plainer English—dead bodies is receiving a great deal of consideration, and its advocates are on the increase. Many are almost horror stricken with the bare suggestion at first, but no doubt, much of that sentimental feeling will die away if ever any such practice of disposing of the dead should become general.

An enterprising business man in Georgia, Col. Fort, has just struck on a cheap and effective means of draining a