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A good deal of Cardinal Gibbons' recently published book, "Our Christian Heritage," is devoted to the labour question. After setting forth the principles that should actuate both employer and employed, he exhorts the workingman to cultivate a spirit of patient industry and to take an active, conscientious interest in the business in which he is engaged, as the more he contributes to its success the more likely is he to be compensated for his services. At the same time His Eminence reminds employers of what they owe to labour, many of them having begun life in the service of others. To both classes he recommends the avoidance of that feverish ambition which is incompatible with peace of mind. It is said that Pope Leo will shortly issue an important encyclical on the same subject, which will comprise the result of two years' research and reflection.

Rumour has been busy with Mr. Blaine's Pan-American Congress. According to one story, the delegates from the Tropics and beyond them have been using their opportunities to a purpose somewhat different from that which the Secretary had in view. If it would benefit them to have certain restrictions between their own States and the northern Republic abolished, they seem to think that it would profit them still more if all customs barriers were removed and the nations, north and south, and east and west, were to enjoy the freest interchange of each others' commodities. This is just what Mr. Blaine doesn't want. The United States, in his opinion, must remain protectionist, and it was mainly to help North American manufacturers that he wished to have subsidized lines of steamers established between his own country and those of the centre and south. It is whispered that some of the United States delegates share the heresies of the open-minded southern visitors.

The 5th of November will henceforth have a new significance for the people of Canada, for it was on that date of twofold association with the house of Stuart that Mr. Mercier chose to consummate the settlement of the Jesuits' Estates. Nothing was omitted that would give eclat to the occasion and invest it with the prestige of a great historical event. The venerable head in Canada of the Company of Jesus was present in person, while Cardinal Taschereau was represented by Monsignor Dru; Archbishop Fabre, by the Rev. M. Racicot; Laval University, by the Rev. Mr. Gagnon, and the Government, by the Premier, the Hon. Col. Rhodes and the Hon. Mr. Gagnon. The sums paid were as follows: \$160,000 to the Jesuit Order; \$100,000 to Laval University, Quebec; \$50,000 to Laval University, Montreal; \$20,000 to the Apostolic

Prefecture of the Gulf of St. Lawrence; \$10,000 each, to the archdiocese of Quebec, and the seven other sees of the province, and \$5,260, interest due to the Jesuit Fathers. After the disbursement the Hon. Mr. Mercier delivered an address, in which he defended and explained his policy both as an act of justice and the solution of a long vexed problem. Father Turgeon, S.J., then addressed those present, expressing his gratitude to the Premier, and insisting, with evident pride, on the loyalty of his order to the British Crown.

In no respect is the humanity of British law and usage in the present day in more marked contrast with the reign of terror that Sir S. Romilly so earnestly denounced in the beginning of the century than in the discipline of the army and navy. The improved conditions of the service do not, however, prevent desertion, which is still a pretty frequent offence. Some time ago the chaplain of a London prison questioned 616 men then in confinement for this cause as to the motives that had led them to abandon the colours. The reason alleged by 161 was simply disgust with barrack life. Of the rest, 114 ascribed their defection to drink; 100 to the desire to better themselves; 72 blamed bad company, and 51 had overstayed their leave and were afraid to return; 48 found the tyranny of the non-commissioned officers intolerable; 41 disclaimed any intention of deserting, and alleged that they had been kept away unavoidably and through no fault of their own; debt had forced 14 to take to flight; 12 had gone because they were refused furlough, and one man had got married without the authority of his superiors. A considerable proportion of the soldiers who desert regret the step sooner or later, and some of them give themselves up. A case of this kind occurred lately in this city, when a deserter from the Battery at Quebec, after four years' wandering all over the world, surrendered himself to the authorities and was sent back to his old quarters. He must have been a popular fellow for he received a hearty welcome from his old comrades.

An effort has been made of late by the Washington authorities to revive an industry which, though it has not in our day attained any marked success, is one of the oldest on this continent—that of silk culture. Readers of Prescott will recall that as early as the year 1531 Cortez had silk worms imported from the Old World for the purpose of naturalizing sericulture in Mexico. He had the satisfaction of seeing his experiment succeed, and, under the domination of subsequent governors, the silk of New Spain was woven and the fabrics made from it sent to Europe. In the early years of the British colonial period, King James the First, who, as our readers know, was the sworn enemy of the "weed," set up silk production as the rival of tobacco-growing in Virginia. It was an unequal contest, however. The silk industry waned and disappeared, while its competitor thrived apace and endures to this day. The French Huguenots, who established the silk loom in Ireland, also tried to make it at home in the Carolinas. John Law, the father of many enterprises, included silk culture in his scheme for the development of Louisiana. Pennsylvania had a trial of it later, and New England silk was worn by lords and ladies in the middle of last century. Franklin's versatile mind was drawn to the subject and he wrote a treatise on it. After the Revolution the industry was gradually resumed, and in the first quarter of this century it made good progress. Paterson, N.J.,

was called the Lyons of America. In 1854 it was started on the Pacific Coast, and for a time was popular. But, though silk production was never entirely given up, and sometimes received an impulse that seemed to promise great things, the yield was trifling, compared to the demand for manufacturing. In 1880 the importation of raw silk was 2,562,236 lbs; the value of silk goods of native manufacture, \$34,519,723—a figure which has largely increased of late. The Agricultural Department of the Government has been trying to revive the industry, and in this task, it has the co-operation of several societies.

In a communication on the relations between Canada and Australia, Mr. Douglas Sladen, after expressing his preference for Melbourne to Sydney as the representative Australian city, points out that Australia, having no soft wood, imports all her deal articles, and that her consumption of boards, doors, sashes, etc., is gigantic, since, outside the large towns, nearly all the buildings are of wood. Her consumption of canned salmon is also gigantic. Australia has no salmon, and Australians are inordinately fond of it. She imports all her dried fish, and lately imported a vast quantity of wheat from the United States to make up for a bad season. Australia has the most perfect appliances for the reduction of precious metals, and a ship, short of cargo at this end, might fill up with valuable ores. On the other hand Canada uses an enormous number of wooden bridges and wooden quays, exposed to the sea-worm, in addition to ordinary rotting from damp. Australia produces a timber, the jarrah, on which even the sea-worm—the limnaria and teredo—can make no impression, and a variety of hardwoods of rich dark colours, exactly suitable for the great furniture-making industry of Canada. Australia, continues Mr. Sladen, imports a great quantity of machinery and iron and wooden utensils from the States, which Canada produces equally well. Canada every year demands more and more the inimitable fine wools of Australia. Canada imports opossum and native bear skins, to make cheap fur coats in the place of the exhausted buffalo. She requires kangaroo-hide for her boot manufactories. The wool and hardwood from Australia to Canada, and the canned and dried fish and softwood from Canada to Australia, would ensure cargoes, apart from small items and the occasional large shipments of wheat to Australia. It must not be forgotten that Australia is one of the world's greatest consumers of softwood and canned fish, and that Canada only supplies her with a fraction of what she consumes; whereas if there were direct steamers, she would probably supply the whole.

Mr. Thomas A. Edison, than whom there is no higher authority on the subject, protests with characteristic vigour against the present disaster-inviting high-pressure wires employed by the electric light companies. His denunciation of the system in vogue is all the more emphatic because he deems it unnecessary, ascribing it to mere greed, the object being solely to save outlay for ground and wire. He is convinced (and he ought to know) that a perfectly safe system in which only low tension currents would be employed can be made remunerative. The safeguard that he recommends is not the putting of the wires under ground, which, he is assured for reasons that he gives, would aggravate the danger in many ways, but the exercise of authority by state or civic governments in the regulation of the pressure. If such