

Mr. Edward Farrer, an able but well-known anti-Canadian, anti-British and pro-United States writer, has been airing his views in the "Contemporary Review." He informs us that, the French Canadians are dead against the new imperialism and seventy-five per cent. of the English speaking Canadians will refuse to carry the burden of imperial armaments. He quotes Sir Chas. Tupper and R. L. Borden in support of his view that both political parties in Canada are in the hands of the manufacturers' association. When we Canadians are asked "to carry the burden of imperial armanants" we shall know what to answer without conferring with a journalist who for years has been a professional antagonist of this Dominion. Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Borden have never stated that, "both political parties in Canada are in the hands of the manufacturers' association." The assertion that that have done so is a mere slander, "made out of whole cloth." Another wonderful remark of this writer is, Imperialism will "degrade Canada," and that, "her destiny is independence."

\* \* \* \*

Readers of the "Contemporary Review" would discount Mr. Farrer's article at nearly cent. per cent. if they knew the character of the newspaper he is now, or for many years was engaged upon as an editorial writer. It is notoriously the persistent maligner of everything British. A writer, however "smart" who is in the pay of Canada's commercial rival and foe, is no authority respecting Canadians.

\* \* \* \*

The growing frequency of boiler explosions reveals there being something lacking in the inspection of them. The number of boiler explosions on this continent last year was over 4,000. By these so-called accidents more than 300 persons were killed, and about 550 injured. This is outrageously in excess of what would occur were ordinary care taken, were inspection thoroughly made by competent engineers, and were their instructions properly carried out. How does Montreal stand in this matter? Have we any steam boilers placed where an explosion would inevitably cause a number of deaths and serious injuries? Are there any steam boilers under sidewalks in this city? "The World" says that, "in Toronto there are boilers as thin as a newspaper sheet in active use beneath city sidewalks." Our sidewalks deserve no mercy, but, as an explosion under them would kill or maim innocent citizens the risk, if it exists to any extent, ought to be removed.

\* \* \* \*

Talking of boilers being inspected, are there not elevators needing inspection? Two recent accidents in this city point to some action being required for protection of the public, especially women and children. Last week a child broke both its legs and was otherwise injured by dropping down an

elevator well, in sight of its mother. Earlier in the month an elevator platform dropped suddenly and injured a passenger by the shock. In a distant city general similar accidents have occurred this year. An elevator well is practically a public highway, and the machine itself is a public vehicle. After some accident of a sensational nature there will be an outcry for some steps being taken to have these most convenient, and most necessary lifts periodically inspected and kept up to the highest standard of safety.

\* \* \* \*

The lease under which by the grace of Providence "Britannia rules the waves" is threatened to be broken by the mighty will of Commander Hobson, U.S. Navy, of osculatory fame. He has prepared a Bill for Congress, for the purpose, as he says, of making during the next 18 years the United States the first naval power of the world. The bill makes a total appropriation of \$2,750,000,000, a portion of which is to be used each year for new ships. Fifty millions are made available for the present fiscal year, sixty million for the next and so on, increasing by ten millions each year up to 1915, when a lump sum of \$1,500,000,000 is made to carry on the programme to 1925. It might have occurred to a real sailor, that "men" are as essential to a navy as dollars. It is a good topic to talk about over "the walnuts and the wine," while indulging also in what, in its result, so well symbolizes and foreshadows the above proposition, for it will end in smoke.

\* \* \* \*

The non-payment of the deposit of \$5,000,000 in accordance with the requirement of the Grand Trunk Pacific Bill passed some weeks ago, is giving rise to rumours of material changes in that project which will require ratification by the Federal Parliament. That the amount of this deposit could not be raised is not credible. The financiers at the back of the Grand Trunk Pacific are not the kind of men to ask Parliament to endorse and support their scheme, one condition of which was their depositing 5 millions of dollars in a month after the Bill was passed, and then, when deposit time came, to find themselves without the money to fulfil this primary condition. That some changes are being considered in the G. T. P. project is highly probable, inability to pay the deposit is incredible.

\* \* \* \*

A wood-pulp mill is about being erected on the Coast of British Columbia. An extensive mill at Chicoutimi, P.Q., is being equipped with very costly machinery. The American supplies of pulp-wood are running low. Mills are being closed down for lack of wood. Canada has a great future before her in this relation, if her rulers have sense enough to discern what present conditions point out. If we part with our raw material for the sake of im-