

year. The imports for January and February were two and a half times greater than the previous January and February. Since the opening of the year the import of oxen has increased by £20,000; wheat and flour, £45,000; bacon, £13,000; hams, £6,000; cheese, £11,000; and wood, £43,000. The exports to Canada increased 21 per cent. in February. These figures are very encouraging, and show what great possibilities there are in this direction for the development of our trade and commerce.

Mr. Longley's
Letter.

In another column we publish a letter from the Honourable J. W. Longley, Attorney-General of Nova Scotia, who has been kind enough to favour us with a few statements respecting the action of the Nova Scotia Legislature on the subject of the observance of Dominion Day. Mr. Longley takes exception to the remarks we made in a recent number on the matter, and says that we have gone out of our way to convey an entirely erroneous and unjust impression as to the attitude of the Nova Scotia Government. If we gave an erroneous and unjust impression, we did not go out of our way to do so, nor at the time did we think our remarks uncalled for or unjustified. But Mr. Longley's letter puts the whole question in a very different light, so far as his own sentiments are concerned. There can be no doubt, however, that his action and that of his confrères was generally regarded throughout the Dominion as inspired by that spirit of secession which was so manifest in certain members of the Liberal party in Nova Scotia during the last Provincial elections. We are very glad to know that this impression was wholly erroneous, and that Mr. Longley and Mr. Fielding, as well as Mr. Black, were animated only by a sincere desire to promote the best interests of Confederation in taking the stand they did with respect to Mr. Tanner's bill.

A
Blight.

The amount of energy, care, and thought wasted over this intolerable Separate School nuisance would, if directed into some profitable channel, be of no small advantage to the country. Religion is an excellent thing to practise, but the worst possible thing to fight about. Nothing smacks more of hell and the devil than a religious war. The Prince of Darkness is finding Canada very much to his taste just now, we imagine. Be that as it may, it is daily becoming more clear that the country at large sympathizes with Manitoba's determined opposition to Separate Schools. Mr. Greenway and his cabinet are admired for the firm stand they have taken even by those who do not agree with them. We believe that many of those who profess to be in favour of Separate Schools are secretly hoping that Manitoba will never consent to have them. If there is to be a conference between Mr. Greenway and the Ottawa Government, it should take place before the second reading of the Remedial Bill, not after it. If the bill is read a second time, we should not be surprised to learn that Mr. Greenway's backbone had considerably enlarged—and it is quite big enough now.

Cruelty to Children
at Ottawa.

The sentence on the man Bell, found guilty at Ottawa of cruelty to children, seems inadequate. If it was the limit allowed by the Code, the limit should be changed. If it was not the limit, the sentence is a miscarriage of justice. The evidence disclosed treatment so horrible that it can scarcely be realized. The remarks of the judge showed that he considered the culprit quite as guilty as the woman who has still to be tried. It is stated also that the man had been for some time the president of the Ottawa branch of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The world presents many

curious contrasts. This case seems to be one of them. If the cathode rays could be used to examine the inside of a man's head who could posture as a humanitarian, while he was at the same time torturing children, they would teach a psychological lesson of some value. As to the case of the woman, being still *sub judice*, we say nothing. We can think as we please. Periodically, shocking incidents come to the light of day which demonstrate the necessity for the existence of societies specially to protect children. That work in Ontario is being well and systematically done. In one aspect it may be looked at as a return by the cities to the country of the surplus population drifted from the country to the city. The parents leave the fields for the street. Their children or grandchildren are returned by the State from the street to the field. Here can be found one solution of the problem of how to get rid of the crowds which are blocking up the cities. Before they grow too old, send the street arabs to the green fields, where they may grow up into farmers and farmers' wives, instead of into thieves and prostitutes.

The Dirty
Bakers.

The suggestions made by THE WEEK with respect to official inspection of all bakeries, small or large, has been promptly acted upon by the Ontario Government. Mr. Dryden has introduced a bill which provides that:

All bakeries to which the Act applies shall be constructed as to lighting, heating, ventilating and draining in such a manner as not to be detrimental or injurious to the health of any person working therein, and shall also be kept, at all times, in a clean and sanitary condition, so as to secure the production and preservation of all the food products thereof in a good, wholesome condition. It is further provided that all bakeries shall have proper conveniences, to be entirely separate from and not in direct communication with the bakery, and to be kept in a sanitary condition. The sleeping places of employees are to be entirely separate from the bakery, and no person is to be allowed to sleep in such shop. Fire escapes are to be provided. No employer shall require, permit, or suffer any employee in any bakery to work more than sixty hours in any one week, except by permission of the inspector, given in writing to the employer. The inspectors appointed under the Ontario Factories Act are to be inspectors under this Act. The penalty for violation of the Act is \$20 to \$40 for the first offence, \$50 to \$100, or imprisonment up to thirty days, for the second offence, and for third and subsequent offences imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months.

It is to be hoped that the inspectors will soon be enabled to act, and that they will do their work thoroughly. In the meantime we advise the dirty bakers to set their shops in order, and begin the task of renovation. From all accounts, it will be a laborious undertaking.

Italy and
Abyssinia.

The Italians are struggling with their African incubus. They never intended to go anywhere near Abyssinia in the first instance. They intended to appropriate Tunis, just as the French had appropriated Algiers. But the French anticipated them, and just when the Italians thought the pear was ripe the French plucked it. Then the Italians had to look elsewhere for foreign expansion, and the only country they could find available was Abyssinia. From the day they landed they had nothing but trouble. If all that is alleged against General Baratieri is true, namely, that he led the stampede, even his being a Parliamentarian will not save him from being shot. The Italians have proved themselves good soldiers on many battlefields, and they will feel their defeat keenly. Why the Italian Ministry should have resigned because the army was defeated in one engagement is not to be easily explained. They apparently