

When the United States bought Alaska from Russia, the purchase was not regarded as likely to seriously effect the interests of British America, but it is now very generally admitted that the British Colonial Office would have been wide awake had it secured this territory for Canada.

The Behring Sea difficulty is but one of the many complications that may arise in which the interests of Canada and the United States are at variance, but happily these difficulties are in a fair way to be amicably settled, as the claim of the Government at Washington to jurisdiction over an extensive arm of the ocean is practically admitted to be untenable.

There is now every probability that a fast Atlantic Service to Montreal and Halifax will be established next year—(why always next year?)—as it is stated that the Government are now trying to make arrangements to establish a line with a speed of seventeen knots per hour. This is a come down, but anything would be preferable to the present disgraceful service, for which, by-the-bye, the Allans have again secured a subsidy of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. What a patient and long-suffering community!

The *Empire* of the 9th inst. says "Sir Adolphe Caron has once more shown his regard for the militia of Canada by promptly acceding to the request of the deputation of military men who waited on him to ask for free ammunition for the matches of the Canadian Military League." No doubt Sir Adolph Caron did right, and we have a high appreciation of our contemporary, but does not the *Empire* put the matter somewhat grandiloquently? What is Sir Adolphe there for but to show his regard for the militia of Canada?

The people of Massachusetts, more particularly in the Hub, are much excited over the enforcement of the new liquor law, which prohibits the sale of liquor over counters or at bars, but allows the sale of intoxicating drinks when served with food. This has led to the dealers adopting the expedient of lunch tables, at which long prices are charged for crackers and cheese, while the accompanying drink is given gratis. Such legislation is but burking the question. We should either have complete prohibition or an effective high license. Any middle course is unsatisfactory.

We are pleased to see that the philanthropic spirit which has inspired so many benevolent undertakings in Halifax is being evinced in other portions of this fair Province. At Canso, which is now very generally resorted to by bank fishermen, an effort is being made to establish a Seamen's Rest. Mrs. C. H. Whitman is at the head and front of this movement, and that her efforts may be crowned with success will be earnestly desired by persons taking an interest in those that go down to the deep in ships. The lady named will be grateful for any contributions that may be sent to her.

The tariff bill in the United States has passed the house and been sent to the Senate, where it will likely be somewhat amended. It is bitterly opposed by all but the most ultra of protectionists, and by its passage the Democratic party is pretty certain to capture the country at the next Presidential election. Moderate protectionists attack the bill on the ground that it is too sweeping and only in the interest of trusts and combines. They argue—and we think wisely—that over-protection will lead to a complete revulsion of popular feeling and the final introduction of a free trade policy.

Lower California, which during recent years has been a Paradise to English and American speculators, is just now the cause of much excitement among speculators. This section of California is under the Mexican Government, but the speculators, realizing that annexation to the United States would create a boom in the country, have organized a rebellion, avowedly for the purpose of establishing a separate Republic, but really to carry out their annexation project. The immediate outcome of this move has not been satisfactory, but that Southern California will sooner or later form a part of the Union may be regarded as a certainty.

Lieutenant-Col. Wainwright, who for the past two years has filled the position of Associate Editor of THE CRITIC, has removed with his family to Assiniboine, N. W. Territory, where he intends to settle. This gentleman is a remarkably strong writer, and his high sense of honor and courtesy never allowed him to use his journalistic pen in any way derogatory to the profession; and, as our readers well know, he was a writer well calculated to spread the gospel of patriotism, and to instil a strong faith in the country which he had adopted as his home. We are pleased to state that Colonel Wainwright will still continue to write for THE CRITIC, and his many friends in Halifax will be glad to hear that in his new home he is surrounded by relatives and friends where his genial sociability is fully appreciated.

If there is any truth in the report that the Czar of Russia has announced that in case of a Franco-German war Russia will remain neutral, there is every probability that the peace of Europe will remain unbroken. The great powers of Europe have of late years been straining their resources and piling up taxation in their great preparations for war, but it now looks as though wiser counsels have prevailed, and that Emperor William, who it was feared would prove a fire brand and plunge Europe into a bloody war, is in fact a peace-maker, and has turned his attention towards the amelioration of the burdens that bear down his people. It was generally understood that France and Russia had formed an alliance with the ultimate intention of destroying the German Empire, and war seemed inevitable; the recent utterances of the Czar, however, disprove this, and assure the peace of Europe, as France will hardly attack Germany single-handed.

The blare of the political trumpet is hushed, the Government is sustained by a handsome majority, and the Opposition claim increased strength. The struggle for power has been a determined one, but now that the battle is over, let the "dead past bury its dead," and let us have a rest from the never ending jars and jangles about unimportant trifles; and irrespective of party, let bluenoses bend their energies and devote their brain power to searching out new avenues for the employment of our people. The development of our great natural resources, and the building up of Provincial industries, these offer a field for enterprise and for patriotism which our brainy men should grasp. Politics should not be a deterrent to business.

One of the measures before Parliament in which Halifax was deeply interested was the completion of the Short Line, but the supplemental estimates when brought down made no provision for this necessary work. The magnates of the Canada Pacific seem to have adopted a dog-in-the-manger policy, and, while unwilling to complete their own Short Line to Halifax, have determined to resist the claims of the Grand Trunk for a subsidy. They were aided in this by the halting policy of representative bodies in this city, and as a consequence there has been another year's delay. Since the adjournment of Parliament the Directors of the Termiscouata Road have waited on the Government and urged their claims for a subsidy, but a despatch says the influence of the Canada Pacific was paramount, and the Government gave no encouragement to the scheme.

Stanley, who is now being deservedly lionized in England, has given vent to some wholesome indignation, touching the apathy with which the German aggressions in Africa are viewed in England. Portugal was brought up with a round turn the moment it was discovered that one of her officers was interfering with British territory, and a naval squadron was sent to the Tagus to remind the truculent populace of Lisbon that a great power like England was not to be trifled with. Germany, on the other hand, is fast usurping authority over the interior of Africa and over territory that by discovery and prior occupation rightly belongs to England, and yet no decided steps have been taken to check its aggressive and unwarranted course. It is to be hoped that Stanley's utterances will have the effect of rousing the English Government into taking some decided action.

The eight hour movement has become too powerful to be successfully resisted, and in many parts of the world the demands of labor have been conceded, and eight hours have become the admitted limit for a day's work. Without touching on the merits of the question there is one phase of the movement that is interesting, and that is the proof that it affords of the power of organization. The laborers have been thoroughly organized for the struggle, while capital, which is nearly always selfish, has been divided, and as a result labor has won an easy victory. Should the capitalists of the world form as complete an organization as the laborers, there is no doubt on whose banner victory would perch. Labor should remember this, and not push for unwise concessions which, in the end, would result in its discomfiture. In the present instance brains and muscle have gone hand in hand, and capital has been defeated.

The easy victory which the Liberals won in the late Local Elections should furnish food for reflection to their opponents. One thing is certain, and that is that Premier Fielding has secured a hold on the hearts of the people that makes him a hard man to beat, no matter what policy he may adopt. But there were other causes for the defeat of the Conservatives, and not the least of them was the action of the Dominion Parliament in increasing the duty on flour and beef, while giving the Maritime Provinces nothing substantial in return. Nova Scotia was justly entitled to an increase of the coal duty, and failure to get this must have had a great effect on the miners of Cape Breton County, where the leader of the Opposition was beaten by an overwhelming vote. Some of the measures passed at Ottawa this session were very unpopular in Nova Scotia, and as a result the Opposition entered the electoral race heavily handicapped.

We are always ready to receive and make use of ideas which are suggested to us, no matter what the source, so that they be likely to benefit our readers and our country. It is greatly to be desired that a spirit of loyalty and patriotism should be early inculcated in our schools, and that it is being done is becoming daily apparent, as witness the purchase of a flag and staff by the pupils of a Bridgetown school recently. A flag that now waves over them and reminds them every time they see it of what a glorious empire they form a part. The particular suggestion we have in mind at present is the school regiment system in use in the United States, by which the boys are taught to love their country from (at least) the time when they are able to carry guns. The annual parade took place in Boston on May 16th, and was witnessed by thousands of admiring parents, sisters, cousins and aunts. The review took place on the common and was certainly a pretty sight, the weather being perfect, the common in all the beauty of early spring, while bands furnished music and banners floated in the air. Could not something on the same line be instituted in Canada with good results, or is our volunteer militia sufficient to meet the needs of our national life? Our country, which stretches from ocean to ocean, with its splendid resources and glorious climate, is worthy the love of its sons and daughters, and how better could such a feeling be promoted than by making soldiers of our school boys? It gives them an interest in the affairs of the country as well as being an additional incentive to activity in study, the military honors being closely connected with success in school work. The pride taken by the girls in the advancement of their own or other girls' brothers is a sufficient guarantee that they are interested and patriotic. We would like to see the school regiment system introduced into Canada.