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Editorial Notes.

ANNEXATION.

A RESTIVE citizen of Winnipeg, feeling disgusted at the North-West policy of the Canadian Government, has written a sensational letter to the St. Paul *Pioneer Press*, in which he gives utterance to loud and bitter complaints, and winds up by enquiring how the United States would be likely to receive a proposition of annexation from the Province of Manitoba. It seems to be more or less doubtful whether the letter is genuine, as some of the writer's comments do not reflect any phase of Canadian, or even of Manitoban opinion. The editor of the *Pioneer Press* indulges in a few comments which most Canadians who read them will probably regard as "feelers." He refers to the repeal movement in Nova Scotia, and to the demand of the farmers of Ontario for full trade reciprocity with the States. He remarks that if reflection and discussion in Canada create a sentiment powerful enough to bring about a dissolution of the tie which now binds the Dominion to the Empire, there could be no doubt that "this sturdy, enterprising and self-reliant people, fitted already by everything but tradition for independence, would be welcomed with open arms by the nation with whom it would command and direct the destinies of North America, and take the leadership of the English-speaking world." The editor admits, however, that the initiative movement in the direction of annexation must come from our side, and that no overtures looking to such an end must be expected on the part of the United States. The people of Manitoba, he says, must have renounced their allegiance to the British Crown before the question "can even be discussed" by the United States. All of which is well enough so far as it goes, but, in the slang phraseology of these latter days, it is altogether too previous. Whether, in the dim vista of the remote future,

Canada will ever desire and sue for annexation to the States is not a practical question, nor is it one which anybody need waste time in considering, inasmuch as there is certainly no sentiment of the kind in the air at present. The Nova Scotia movement was purely one of local politics, and the movement on the part of the Ontario farmers was not in the least in the direction of "looking to Washington." At no time of late years have we felt "the British yoke" to be very galling, and certainly there is no numerically important element in our population which is consumed by a desire to be relieved from its pressure. It is assuring, however, to be thus apprised of the welcome which will await us when we have cast off the "hated thralldom" which allows us to govern ourselves just as we please, and which does not even protest when we impose hostile tariffs against English manufacturers and merchants.

THE SUBSIDY TO THE C.P.R.

THERE is some hope that the sacrifices Canada has made to build the Canadian Pacific road will be fairly recognized by the Home authorities, and that they will grant a mail subsidy sufficient to admit of the establishment of a line of first-class steamers from Vancouver to Hong-Kong. The advantages to be gained by the Imperial government in having an overland route to India wholly through British territory, telegraph lines with both ends under their own control, and a fleet of first-class steamers available for any emergency in the Pacific, are so great that there ought to be little doubt of the subsidy being granted. The days are gone by when English statesmen said or hinted "So loyal is too costly; fare you well." The Government will remember that Canada was the first colony to put down her rebels with domestic troops alone, and we think the time is yet coming when Canadian affairs will be matter of equal concern to the Imperial Government and our own.

THE NANAIMO DISASTER.

THE Nanaimo mine disaster was terrible in the loss of life it occasioned, and, as usual, some are beginning to enquire what can be done about it. Unfortunately, very little can be done. Since Sir Humphrey Davy invented the safety lamp and George Stephenson improved it the men employed in mines seldom suffer but from the recklessness of some one among them. Nothing can prevent the men from stealing a surreptitious smoke when they think there is no danger; but if ever they make a mistake they pay dearly for their folly. The explosion of an atmosphere consisting of mixed air and coal gas is swifter than gunpowder, and even more fatal, for those not near enough to suffer from the explosion are choked by the after-damp.