

It might well be thought that the large crop of troubles that has been reaped in the States from the craze for foolish and sensational marriages might have so operated on what remains of common sense in that country as to put a stop to the folly, but it seems that the childish persons who play at being citizens of the Great Republic are as idiotic as ever. Two of these idiots, who had never seen each other, are reported to have recently contracted a marriage by telephone, which is declared to be binding, though the marrying magistrate is criminally liable for performing the ceremony without securing the license. The extraordinary statement is made in connection with the affair that the couple have secured a license, and will live together and make the most of it, while, at the same time, proceedings for a divorce are hinted at. In order to further complicate the matter it is reported that the man was to have been married in two months to another woman. Of course it may be a mere sensational story, but, even so, it is typical of the levity and loose state of morality in regard to marriage which prevails, and which Canada may be thankful that her higher standard exempts her from.

The *St. John Globe* has an article on the recent loyalty address of the Dominion Parliament, and a manifesto of the National Club of Montreal, which is rather a curiosity as showing a considerable amount of ingenuity in indirectly insinuating the *Globe's* annexation proclivities. The expression of opinion by the Club, says the *Globe*, that the address "was inopportune" was quite as unnecessary as the address itself. "We do not believe that the American people care whether we do or do not pass loyal addresses to the Queen. It is none of their business, and they are not likely to concern themselves over the subject." This may or may not be. It may be true of the better sort of Americans, but if the tail-twisters manifest indifference it is probably of the same kind as that of the *Globe* whose dislike to it is but thinly veiled. "Nevertheless," the *Globe* continues, "there is some significance to people in Canada over the passage of the resolution of condemnation by the Club National, inasmuch as it was followed by a declaration that the club desires 'to have established an independent nationality in the vast domains of British North America free from all European attachments.' Doubtless the design of the Club National would be to have this new nationality a republic in government, and that at once brings up the question if one republic would suffice both for Canadians and Americans." It is evident enough that the wish is father to the thought, and it is only unfortunate for our contemporary's desire that the awakening patriotism of Canada has shown pretty clearly that one republic will not suffice, for Canadians at all events.

The fear has been expressed by a section of the Press that the Dual Language question is not finally settled. We do not share that apprehension, but think the country is to be congratulated on the fair compromise effected, the nature and extent of the majority which adopted Sir John Thompson's amendment indicating unmistakably that Parliament has brought to its consideration a spirit of sober sense and patriotic judgment. The Jesuit Bill agitation, the meaningless Equal Rights propaganda, and Mr. McCarthy's mischievous urgency of the question under consideration, have called for condemnation as much as did the race and religion cry so shamefully got up on the infamy of Riel. It has fortunately been recognized that diversity of language need be no bar to national unity, which can only be sustained by the mutual toleration and respect for the other race which it is the first duty of every Canadian to cultivate to the utmost of his power. As in other false and partizan issues a complete ventilation clears the air. The Jesuit agitation is defunct; the Equal Rights fad will follow it into oblivion, and the recent debate on the Dual Language will result in a better comprehension of the conditions of the Canadian confederacy, a larger spirit of conciliation and toleration, and, it may be confidently hoped, will be the first step towards the consummation of that friendly appreciation of each other which will lead to Frenchman and Briton dwelling side by side in peace and unity, and continuing to build up the great nationality which nature has pointed out as our destiny, and of which circumstances are rapidly tending to the fulfilment.

A large deputation of citizens of Toronto waited on the Minister of Education for Ontario recently and urged that the Canadian Flag be hoisted at the public schools on days when national events are celebrated. The Minister consented to give effect to the views of the deputation. But the occurrence affords matter to the *Toronto Globe* for some sneering remarks on the flag. Certainly the flag itself, as a flag, is not calculated to excite much admiration, but, until we get an improved design, it stands for the Canadian Nationality and ought to command respect and patriotic feeling accordingly. It is quite time that our youth at the schools were accustomed to attach some sentiment to an "outward and visible sign" of nationality, and we trust the example of Ontario will not be lost on other Provinces. In this connection we notice that the *Montreal Witness* deploras the decadence of "God Save the Queen" in the schools. "Some Ontario schools" it says, "teach music to a small extent, and the National Anthem comes in for a share of attention. Are there not many who do not teach it? Imagine a gentleman starting the National Anthem in a key suitable to all and finding but a half dozen of the guests joining, while the whole assemblage of youthful students held their peace, though pressed to join in the anthem. It was a surprise, in one of the largest British and Protestant schools in Eastern Ontario. Inquiry led to the apologetic announcement by one of the inspectors that there was no music taught in many of the public schools. If the Dominion flag floated over all our schools, if there were more of the National Anthem heard in them, Canadians would find patriotism easier to cultivate and its root deeper than it is at present." We entirely agree with the *Witness*.

Attention has been called from time to time to the advisability of lessening as much as possible the shock and strain which horses usually sustain in setting heavy loads in motion. This desideratum has been provided for by traces having a spiral spring where they join the whiffle-tree. Where it has been used in New York and Paris a marked improvement in the condition of horses has been observed. It is well worth attention.

The *Montreal Daily Witness* remarks that "Gas Meters are not infernal machines invented by gas companies to cheat consumers, as consumers seem to suppose. They are but machines which, when in order—and all consumers can have their gas meters inspected when they suspect them to be out of order—measure with machine-like accuracy the amount of cubic feet of gas which passes through them, and, like grocers' and butchers' scales, they are inspected, tested and stamped by a Government inspector. If consumers find their gas bills moderate one quarter and high the next, without any appreciable change in the habits of the household in using gas, they should investigate for themselves the causes." No doubt these remarks, and some others which follow them as to the reasonable care which should be exercised by consumers as to leaks, etc., are only fair to the gas companies, but a year or so ago we drew attention to an apparently authoritative statement in a New York paper, that meters kept in a hot place registered a consumption in excess of the quantity supposed to be burned. Our scientific knowledge does not enable us to pronounce on the correctness of this statement, but we remarked on it that gas meters, especially in England, were very frequently placed in the kitchen, and that it was within our personal experience that they frequently showed a consumption, during a period when it was well known that comparatively little had been utilized equal to a period in which the consumption had been large. It may be quite worth while for householders, especially as the days grow longer, to give attention to this possibility.

It is a commonly cherished idea with people who do not grasp national and constitutional conditions that freedom of speech is inherent in republican forms of government, and restricted in monarchies. Whenever Canada becomes independent she will doubtless furnish an instance confirmatory of the popular belief, for the reason that her institutions are more directly modelled on British lines. But we need not look far to assure ourselves of its general fallacy. To say nothing of the terrorism of the great French Revolution of 100 years ago, we need only look back as far as the anti-slavery agitation in the United States to remember that an abolitionist in the South, or a pro-slaver man in the North dared not open their mouths. It was only with great personal danger that an Englishman could venture to uphold his own country during the civil war, and at that period no one who expressed toleration of the South was safe, while it was Mr. Seward's boast that a tinkle of his bell would at any moment consign a man to Fort Lafayette. In France the action of the authorities towards the Orleans family instances the nervous intolerance of a republic, and the recent prohibition of any reference to Henri 4, the first and greatest of the Bourbons, caps the climax of timid and suspicious absurdity, while, if accounts are to be at all believed, freedom of speech is a negation in Brazil at the present moment. It is unnecessary to multiply instances, though they are "plenty as blackberries," but the contrast in this respect between liberty of expression in such countries, and its absolute freedom in Great Britain and Canada is well worthy of consideration. What would happen to a man in the United States who should advocate the cession of one of them to the Dominion, or decry their institutions, yet, while we still retain and are content for the present with our British connection, more than one journal loses no opportunity of expressing, directly or indirectly, their intense dislike of everything British, and their preference for the neighboring republic, with no worse consequences than the reprobation of public opinion.

A very hopeful sign for Halifax is the opening of an office of the Grand Trunk Railway in this city, as it indicates a change of policy on the part of that great corporation in regard to the Maritime Provinces. When the Grand Trunk sold to the Intercolonial the road from River du Loup to Levis it was a virtual confession that they did not value the traffic of the Maritime Provinces, and self-interest led them to favor as much as possible their branch to Portland as an outlet for their winter freight. As long as they pursued this policy there was very little hope of Halifax ever becoming the Winter Port of the Dominion, as through freight over the I. C. R. had to pass over the Grand Trunk to and from Montreal and Quebec, and vexatious delays in its delivery soon threw the service into discredit. We do not mean to say that the Grand Trunk deliberately tried to hamper the traffic to Halifax, but as they had the Portland route to provide for, it can be easily understood that their heart was not with the Halifax route. We always considered that the Grand Trunk had underestimated the advantages of Halifax as a winter outlet for their business, and also that they had not enquired into the large coal freights that might be secured in Nova Scotia, and it is a matter for congratulation that an entire change of policy in this respect has now been adopted. The proposed short line over the Termiscouata Railway, to complete which the gap between Edmunston and Moncton has to be constructed, will give the Grand Trunk direct connection with Halifax by a route somewhat shorter than the present C. P. R. Line. The Grand Trunk is backing up the proposed line, and an appropriation will be asked to aid it. We feel certain that the required amount will be voted, as the new road opens up a fine timber country, and its completion is a simple act of justice to Nova Scotia, a fulfilling of promises repeatedly made only to be broken. The new road, when completed, will prove of inestimable value to Halifax, and every effort should be made by our citizens to aid the project, as it will make Halifax beyond question the Winter Port of the Dominion.