

The State of Iowa has just fallen into the trap of granting the full right of suffrage to women. A Bill to that effect has just passed and will soon become law. In Massachusetts, on the other hand, a Bill before the State Legislature granting municipal suffrage to women, was defeated one day last week. Women are more scarce in the West than in the East, and, judging by the status of the suffrage question, they are more appreciated.

The electric light is being introduced in churches. In Montreal three of the Presbyterian churches have now the necessary apparatus, and others will probably soon follow suit. Several Canadian steamers will also be lighted in the same way soon. The railway cars ought to have their turn next. As it is, our cars are all badly lighted, and the principal excuse is that coal oil is such a dangerous explosive, it must be sparingly used. Let us have some liberal things in the way of electric light, and night passengers will be a good deal more content than they now are.

The probabilities are that the Grand Trunk will get through its Bill at Ottawa which it claims is necessary in order to raise the necessary funds to build the double track from this city to Montreal. A good many business men who have no very kindly feeling, generally, towards the Grand Trunk, do not care to see any opposition to a Bill for its benefit as long as the second track is likely to come out of it. It is a relief to know that no demand for a Government loan is to be made as a condition of its speedy completion. The business interests of the country have suffered greatly for years for want of the double track and even the passenger traffic has been seriously incommoded. So long as the road had a practical monopoly of all the railway traffic between our two great commercial centres, nothing was done. Now, however, things are different. The opening of the new road between this and Ottawa in a few weeks will give a second route to Montreal and the Grand Trunk cannot therefore afford to ignore the public demand any longer. The double track has been so many times promised that few will now really expect it until the work is well under way. The chances are that a good deal of work will be done this year. It will be cheerful news both to the laboring classes and the commercial men.

Another of the dynamite scares at Ottawa has just been exploded. Last year there was a scare, and special detectives were sent down from Toronto to assist the local authorities in ferreting out the case. The rumour was that Fenians were plotting against the life or liberty of Lord Lorne, and that shots had been fired at police in the vicinity of the Governor-General's residence. On enquiry it turned out that some hunters had been shooting muskrats along the river bank near the grounds, and all the rest of the excitement was built up on that slender foundation. A few days ago there were wild rumours of a dynamite plot to blow up the Parliament buildings, or something about as wicked and desperate as that, and it was asserted that the speaker

of the House and his family left their quarters in the building, so as to be out of danger's way. Extra guards were reported to have been put on in order to avert any such calamity. It is now stated that some sneak thieves were suspected of having dishonest intentions in regard to the caps and canes of the members in the corridors, and some detectives were on the watch for them. If "scares" can be got up so easily as all this, there is no wonder that sensational mongers—men who turn many a penny out of the business—do not fail to keep the rumours in free circulation. The wonder is if many of the other dynamite plots we read about have no greater foundation in fact. Possibly the "enterprise" and the imagination of the newspaper reporters have a good deal to do with these silly attempts at exciting news. Hereafter, Ottawa news of that kind had better be taken with a grain of salt.

The respective party leaders and their organs are now using all their energies and ingenuity in connection with the "Conspiracy case." The Grits are evidently making all the political capital possible out of the business, and little wonder, for had the conspiracy succeeded the Grit party would have been driven at once from place and power in Ontario. The leading Tories, on the other hand, are doing their best to show that the basest and meanest of all men in this base transaction are the men who got the present victims in the trap. The *Mail* actually goes so far as to try and convince the public that they are the only blameworthy men in the whole business. TRUTH has been looking pretty carefully through the editorial columns of the great organ and it cannot discover any blame imputed to any one else. The *Telegram* very wisely remarks: "It does not seem to trouble either party very much what amount of disgrace is brought upon the country by this cross firing and mud throwing. No such blow has been struck at the public life of our country since the days of the Pacific Scandal. The truth is that party politics have fallen to a very low ebb, both in provincial affairs and in Dominion. What between the governments bribing constituencies, candidates bribing electors, and electors bribing representatives, there is not much inducement for clean handed people to adopt politics as a pursuit."

The Orange Incorporation Bill is dead again. The majority against the Bill at Ottawa on the second reading was a very decisive one—so much so as to dispel any hope there may have been of obtaining any such measure from the present Parliament. The Reformers of Ontario and the Roman Catholics of Quebec, and the few from the other provinces were united in voting against the Bill. The Orangemen need not have expected much else. They cannot expect much, if any, support from the men they never, or "hardly ever," support themselves. The Orange association is now well understood to have a political and religious character. Politically, in Ontario, at least, the influence of the Organization, as a whole, is in opposition to the Reform party, and they are repaid by opposition. Religiously the

Orangemen are opposed to the Roman Catholics, and they get back opposition from that quarter. "Vote for vote" is the prevailing motto in political life, and the Orangemen are in a position to see how this works as few others are. However, these Incorporation Bill defeats are not a death blow to the Order any way. It has lived and thrived many years in Canada without any special Act of its own, and it can, no doubt, survive a good many similar defeats. Some of the members may wisely consider the whole situation, however, and just how the present state of things has been brought about.

Ontario still appears to be considered very favorably by emigrants. According to the Provincial returns, just published, there were between four and five thousand more emigrants settled in this Province last year than during the year previous. The exact number reported by the various local immigration agencies last year was 27,119, and besides this 13,378 more men reported by the customs authorities, swelling the total number up to forty thousand. It is not at all probable that all of these continued to remain in Ontario, but the actual increase to our population from that source was considerable. In regard to the nationality of the new comers 11,951 were English, 8,993 Irish, and only 2,658 were Scotch, while the Germans counted at 1,384. It is evident that Canada is not getting anything like its share of Germans; they appear to flow towards the Western States. Either Scotland is sending out but few emigrants or the most of them are not wise in overlooking the advantages of Ontario. The Scotch immigrants of other days are now among the most successful and contented of our population. One great reason why the Scotch are not coming so freely as formerly undoubtedly is that the rate of wages for agricultural laborers is about as good in Scotland as here, and the available ones are largely of that class.

The Free Trade party are beginning to make their influence strongly felt in the United States, but whether they will yet succeed or not, is very problematical. The Democrats are supposed to be free traders, though many of its leading spirits take pains to deny their adhesion, and the success of that party would bring about many sweeping changes in the present tariff system. The Democrat party is now strong, and it need not excite much surprise if it carries the Presidential election this year. It is well known that the election of Mr. Carlisle as Speaker of the House of Representatives at Washington this year was a defeat for the Protection party. That gentleman is a shrewd and able politician, however, and in view of the many trade interests at stake in connection with the protective tariff, he deems it best to "make haste slowly" in the defection of free trade. He attended the annual dinner of the New York Free Trade Club a few days, and in his speech he spoke strongly of the advantages of the ultimate removal from trade of all restrictions. He remarked, however, quite significantly, that "it might not be wise to change suddenly from a bad policy to a good one." His argument is that import-

ant trade interests have grown up under the present protective system and it would be disastrous to some of them at least, to change suddenly. He would therefore go for "reformation, not revolution." Of course this was a carefully considered utterance in view of the pending elections, and it may mean very much or very little.

A reciprocity treaty is being now completed between the United States and Mexico, which it is supposed will be of advantage to both countries. It includes a large number of manufactured articles as well as the national products of the soil. In view of the willingness to go into such a treaty as that, the *New York Herald* again urges a Canadian reciprocity treaty. On all hands it appears freely admitted that some such treaty would be very desirable, but just how far it should go, is the great difficulty. Very few are agreed, as things now stand, to go in for unlimited free trade between the two countries. That would seem almost impossible unless duties were thrown off on imports from England, too, and indeed from all countries. Reciprocity in regard to agricultural products only would meet with general approval here, but might not meet the views of our neighbors as well. It now looks as though coal, salt, and lumber will soon be placed on the free list, and that will be much to our advantage.

It may soon come that people who have special regard for their health and the purity of the food they eat will have to leave the large cities and go to the country. Adulterations in food are becoming so general, and men are becoming so expert at the business, that no one knows what he is consuming unless it happens to have been produced before his own eyes. A Committee of the New York State Senate have been making some pretty extensive enquiries in regard to food adulterations, and the facts brought to light will tend to seriously disturb the peace of mind—or peace of stomach—of many people. Bogus butter, in the form of butterine, or oleomargarine, is being so skillfully made, that even experts are puzzled. Some of it appears to have been manufactured from rancid grease, at one time offensive to the smell, but Dr. Love, a skilled chemist, testified that it was possible to so deodorize such material and so manipulate it, that he could not swear to the difference between it and honest butter. Cheese is also being manufactured, it seems, almost entirely of lard, and the article is none of the best at that. Evidence was given that some of the lard was prepared for "cheese" purposes at such a low heat as not to destroy any unhealthy germs or other substances it might at the time contain.

The newest and worst revelation, however, is in regard to beef. It appears that much of the good healthy beef forwarded from Chicago was temporarily preserved, not by honest salt, but by the rubbing on of some prepared chemicals not at all wholesome in themselves, and these are said to be very injurious to the health. What uncomfortable revelations are to come next? It would be better for the peace of mind of a good many if such com-