

Canada's Natal Day.

law, the advantage is largely on the side of capital. "The quantity of land, the quantity of capital, the quantity of employing or business talent, is limited; while the quantity of labour, particularly of the lower grades of labour is, comparatively speaking, unlimited." In thus putting the matter we may not have accurately presented the line of thought underlying Mr. Salter's article. In fact we have hardly attempted to do so. We have rather hinted at some considerations suggested by his remarks, and, as we venture to think, in harmony with them. He and we are surely safe in assuming that there are many among the capitalists and employers of labour who would shrink from taking advantage of what is euphemistically called economic law, but is really the iron rule of a law of necessity utterly destitute of moral quality, in order to force his employees to work for him at a rate of wage too low to satisfy the demands of the higher moral law which should govern the relations between man and man. It may hasten the coming of a better day if such men can be induced to look at the problem as one which can be solved righteously only as it is solved in accordance with moral rather than economic law.

The Trusts a Failure.

A few years ago not only the independent business concerns but the trading and consuming classes generally were almost terror-stricken by the prodigious expansion and insatiate greed of the great trusts which were being organized on every hand, and which threatened to swallow up all smaller enterprises and destroy competition. Events in the United States, the birthplace and home of these gigantic monopolies, are now believed by many to indicate that, as a business experiment, the trust is a failure. Left to themselves, without special aid from partial laws, or natural monopolies, the competition which is sure to be provoked by their enormous profits is said to become, after a longer or shorter period, irresistible. Two of the most formidable of these institutions, the Whiskey Trust and the Cordage Trust, are now in the hands of receivers. The same fate would, it is thought, have befallen the Sugar and Oil trusts, but that they have been bolstered up, the former by the United States Senate, and the latter by the Pennsylvania Legislature. Left to themselves, the indications are that the trusts will inevitably collapse under the influence of competition which keeps bringing perpetually into the field rival establishments, formed for the express purpose of compelling the great trusts to buy them out. This process soon becomes ruinous. Says the *Philadelphia Ledger*: "There cannot be a true monopoly in any article which all men are free to make or sell. The trusts aim to get control of the market for one article or another by associating together all manufacturers or dealers, but the moment they get well started on a profitable business, based on their so-called monopoly, some one else enters into competition. He must be undersold or bought off, and no sooner has he been put out of the way than another arises, and the process must be repeated. The time always comes when the trust has been so far inflated that it collapses, unless it has been sustained in some way by Government grants or favours." Before it reaches the point of collapse, it may, however, "have done great injury to the buying public, and to honest competitors." Surely the time must soon come when these will refuse to tolerate legislation, of any and every kind, which enables favoured trusts to perpetuate their monopolies.

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BRAVE men were they who dared, thirty-five or forty years ago, to dream of a Confederated Canada, reaching from Cape Breton in the East, to the shores of Lake Superior, or some other more or less indefinite locality in the West. Yet a few such bold dreamers had existed and predicted it at an even earlier date. It was somewhere near the end of the fifties that an imaginative student, in an eastern college, ventured in a class-room essay to predict a union of the then existing British American Provinces, and to paint a glowing picture of their future prosperity and greatness, only to draw from the cool-headed professor a gentle sarcasm in regard to the exuberance of his powers of imagination. But the most romantic youthful patriotism had at that time probably never dreamed of a Confederation stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Great Lakes and the forty-ninth parallel to the pole.

We have now, after twenty-eight years experience of the advantages and disadvantages of federal union, reached another of those anniversaries which invite the thoughtful to look backward and forward. As we glance back over the history of the past twenty-eight years, there are, no doubt, widely varying degrees in the confidence and enthusiasm with which we, as individuals, proclaim the Union a great success, but very few, indeed, are the Canadians who will be pessimistic enough to pronounce it, in any important respect, a failure. Very serious mistakes were made at the outset, first and greatest of which was, we have always thought, the bringing of Nova Scotia into the compact, not only without the consent, but against the will of the majority of its citizens. The injurious effects of this inconsistent act, albeit Nova Scotia's own leaders were the responsible doers of it, are still manifest in Dominion politics. The first and second Reil Rebellions are other grave examples of the fruits of inexperience in nation-building. But we have so far survived and out-grown the consequences of these and other blunders that it cannot be said that they any longer menace the stability of our Confederation. We have always thought and still think that a less serious but still important mistake was made in naming the Confederation after its most populous and powerful member. This gave to the whole original process, so far as the smaller members of the Union were concerned, too much the appearance of an annexation or absorption. Sentiment counts for a good deal in inter-provincial as well as in international affairs, and we have little doubt that the sentiment awakened by this choice of a name, which had, nevertheless, its undoubted advantages, has done not a little to retard the process of unification upon which the ultimate success of the movement depends.

On the other hand the progress of the Confederation has in many, indeed, in most respects, been remarkable. The incorporation of the Great West, with its unsuspected and vast resources of wealth and prosperity, was accomplished with a facility that was, under the circumstances, truly wonderful. Though the slow increase of population has been disappointing, and we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that we are even now but five millions, while just across our southern boarder is a great nation with twelve or thirteen times our population, yet we have abundant ground for encouragement and hope. Taking man for man and woman for woman, it cannot, we believe, be seriously doubted that in physical and intellectual energy, capacity for hard work, power of endurance, in short, in the qualities of body and mind which betoken the most vigorous races, our people, like other northern peoples, are distinctly superior. If any doubt this they have but to turn their eyes towards the