

# EVENTS

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## *The Tariff Issue Gone.*

**I**T is manifest that what has been known as the tariff question in Canada, that is the issue between a moderately high tariff and a low one, between free trade and protection, or even between tariff for revenue only and moderate protection, has almost disappeared from the political arena. The Montreal Witness commenting on a cabled statement from Canada to England that no paper, except the Witness has any objection to the protectionist policy of the Laurier government, states that although the correspondent's investigation was not exhaustive by any means still the statement was, broadly speaking true, so far as the Canada east of Lake Superior is concerned. The attempt of the Witness to explain this is not very successful. The real explanation is not an insinuation against the integrity of the Canadian press but the open fact that the issue has disappeared from the minds of the people and the daily and weekly press print what the people are doing and what the people are saying, and if the people are not objecting to the tariff policy of the

Laurier government it would be a waste of time for the newspaper, which are printed for the people, to attempt to force a discussion in which the people are apparently not interested. Somehow or other the general public have accepted a tariff whose maximum duty is 35 per cent, and whose average on dutiable goods runs between 20 and 25 per cent.

The activity of a very strong and ably led Opposition for the 15 years preceding 1896 stirred the people up over the tariff question and to cap the campaign Canada endured a period of severe depression in the first half of the nineties, and so the tariff came to be a pretty live issue. But that can't be done over again in our generation, and particularly with the present Opposition pledged to increase rather than decrease the duties.

The present government has enormously increased the internal taxes collected by the Department of Inland Revenue, but no person seems to object very loudly and the Montreal Witness itself is no doubt rather in favor of the increased taxes.

## The Latest Failure.

THE following article is taken from the editorial columns of the *Manitoba Free Press*:-

"Among the various legislative experiments that have been resorted to in various lands to solve the liquor traffic problem, the dispensary system of South Carolina has held a conspicuous place. It has been in force for thirteen years. It is a system which abolishes the license and all similar systems commonly in use and substitutes state monopoly. Licenses are privilege to have entire prohibition of the traffic if they choose, but a decision against prohibition involves the introduction of state saloons or dispensaries. These are in charge of salaried officials having no interest in extending the traffic. Drinking on the premises is not allowed. Sales must be made in spirits of not less than half a pint, and in malt liquors of not less than a pint. The dispensaries are open only in the daytime and on week days. Sales to minors and intemperate persons are prohibited. A State Dispensary Board buys all liquors and distributes the same to the dispensaries—thus making it possible to maintain strict accounting.

It was the hope of the promoters of the South Carolina dispensary system that it would drive liquor selling out of politics, reduce the evils of intemperance to a minimum and free the traffic generally of political scandal and social demoralization. But a legislative investigation now going on reveals the fact that the system is honeycombed with graft, that illicit selling is quite general and that widespread dissatisfaction with the system exists. These disclosures afford one more proof of the

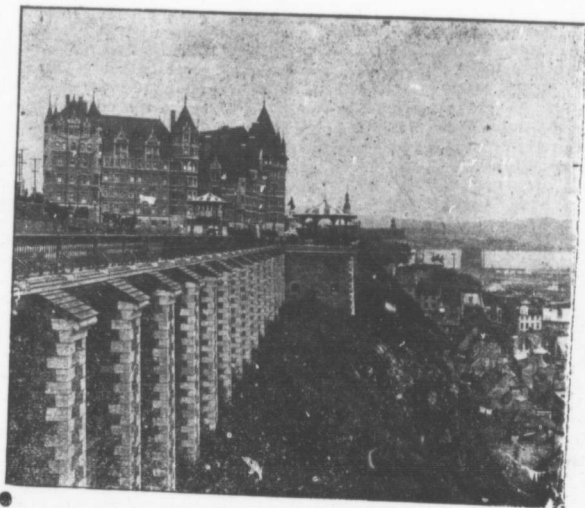
wisdom of the statesman who declared that it is impossible to say how any legislative experiment will work out. So much depends upon the human factors working it out. The South Carolina system may be described as being akin in principle to public ownership in the elimination of private profit. But to make such a system thorough and consistent, South Carolina would have to go into the manufacture as well as the sale of liquors, and prohibit purchases from outside the state. The latter is beyond the power of any of the commonwealths which make up the United States. As a matter of fact the chief source of the corruption which is now being investigated is the sharp competition of distillers and brewers within and without South Carolina, to gain the patronage of the State Dispensary Board. One member of the Board has testified that the representative of a Baltimore concern proposed to make it worth his while to the extent of \$30,000 to use his influence on the Board in favor of the Baltimore concern's goods. The competing dealers appear to have exerted a demoralizing influence upon state officials from the Dispensary Board down through the whole system, the officials in charge of the dispensaries, the latter being bribed to push the sales of certain brands of liquors and requisition the Board for those brands. The failure of the system is set forth by ex Senator McLaurin of South Carolina, in language which certainly is not lacking in vigor. He declares that the people of that state "have at last been aroused to recognition of the fact that the sale of liquor by the state is inimical to the spirit and genius of our political institutions sub-

versive of the order and peace of society, demoralizing in its effects, and ins, reeding a generation of politicalcowar's rom"suckers, drunkards and criminal." He says that the state dispensaries have become "a huge political machine," and proceeds:

"Those who have watched the politics of this state for the last ten years are blind indeed who deny its existence. During this period no man could aspire to office with any hope of success and oppose the dispensary system. During this period no legislation which seemed inimical to the officers of the dispensary system could be secured. It is only by breaking down the dispensary system that this political machine can be destroyed, and I hope

that the sober and thinking people of the state will rise in their might and destroy both."

It was to break down the dominaton of its state politics by a liquor ring that South Carolina abolished the license system, and now the abolition of the dispensary system is declared to be necessary for the same purpose. The advocates of the dispensary system contend that the dishonesty of officials entrusted with its administration does not furnish just ground for condemnation of the system as a system. Its opponents take the ground that it must be judged according to its workings under the test of actual operation.



Terreac at Quebec from which the view charms all tourists

## EVENTS.

*Published Weekly*

ARNOTT J. MAGURN, Editor.

VOL. 8

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No. 11

THE demand for the new edition of Magurn's Parliamentary Guide and Work of General Reference, just issued, has been so large that the remainder of the edition will only go a certain distance. All orders should be accompanied by a remittance of \$2.00 and each order will be filled in its turn so long as the edition lasts. Revised and enlarged, 365 pages. Address A. J. Magurn, P. O. Box 1050, Ottawa.

SOME criticism is heard in private as to the remarks of the Governor-General addressed to the two lacrosse teams when they lined up to play a match before a large crowd of spectators which included some sailors from the British fleet, and there was either expressed or implied the idea that because of the presence of the sailors the players should be on their good behavior and play a clean game. So much namby pamby comment has appeared in the press on this incident, that it will do no harm for one paper at least to voice the resentment of Canadian athletes and their admirers that it is necessary for any person in high place to prefer such a request or to give so called advice. When you put 24 men with sticks in their hands on a small field and ask them to go up against each other with swiftness and with force, to play a game to win, it is altogether likely that some person's stick will sometimes light on some person's head and that a man will use the strength of his body to try and overcome the strength of his opponent. No person expects that before a player rushes to check another player he will stop and ask the other fellow's pardon for trying to take the ball rudely away from him. Even in England football players are sometimes so seriously injured on the field as to have to be conveyed to a hospital. Probably no where else in the world could 24 young men striving together to win a coveted victory play with sticks in their hands for two hours in an atmosphere of keen excitement and

emerge such good friends and with so few injuries as in Canada, and it must be borne in mind that most of the injuries are of a trivial character. It is the referee that punishes rough play and it was scarcely necessary for a public utterance to reflect as it certainly did reflect on the capacity and the custom of Canadian athletes to play lacrosse, the national game, in a clean and fair manner.

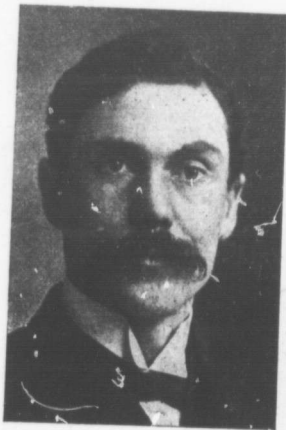
THE visit to Toronto of Prince Louis and some of the officers and men of the naval squadron was marred by the only unfortunate incident of their months sojourn with us. Believing themselves to be the guests of the Toronto Exhibition Association the officers were taken by surprise when presented by the King Edward hotel with their board bills. Their baggage was detained for the debt until a gentleman from Ottawa, hearing of the affair, put up the money in the hands of the hotel people. A mistake of this kind should not have been allowed to occur.

LORD GREY, the Governor-General, is to be congratulated on the speech he made in opening the summer carnival in Sydney in the province of Nova Scotia. He expressed his dislike at sending letters to Great Britain by way of New York, and added an expression of some surprise that this should be necessary when Nature had endowed our own country with such magnificent harbors situated much closer to Great Britain than is New York. A really fast service can be established between the United Kingdom and a harbor in Nova Scotia if that harbor was chosen not for political but for economic reasons. We are glad to see that the daily press throughout the country reported His Excellency's remarks on this subject as they cannot fail to bend public sentiment in the right direction.

THE Treaty of Portsmouth establishing peace between Japan and Russia was signed by the envoys of each country on Tuesday, September 5. The terms of the treaty are said to be unpopular in Japan, which probably means that the waiving of indemnity is resented by the people

who have to pay the shot for the cost of the war and who have to take care of their wounded and maimed. At the same, the world's verdict is that Japan acted wisely in taking all that she went to war about and considerably more, and resting on her laurels at a time when her prestige had grown so great in the eyes of all civilized mankind. There is not much doubt that when the treaty of alliance between Great Britain and Japan comes up for renewal a year and a half from now, it will be renewed and perhaps extended in its scope.

**T**HE first premier of the new province of Saskatchewan turns out to be, as anticipated, Mr. Walter Scott, the member in the House of Commons for West Assiniboia. He is a young man whose rapid rise



Hon. Walter Scott

in public life and territorial affairs stamps him as possessing capacity and the several qualifications which go to make for success. He has built up a publishing busi-

ness in two Northwest towns and is undoubtedly now the foremost man in the West in the public eye. He has a wide acquaintance with the people of Ontario, Manitoba, and the new provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta and may be said to have an intimate acquaintance with the conditions under which the people of these new provinces subsist and thrive. In politics he is a Liberal and will form his government on Liberal lines and appeal to the electors to return Liberal candidates in support of the new administration. At the time of writing, his colleagues have not been announced and even the number which will compose the new cabinet is not known. After Mr. Scott has formed his government he will have the balance of the year in which to prepare for and hold elections for the first legislature, which is to consist of 30 members.

**B**Y a computation the census bureau of Canada makes out the present population of the Dominion to be a little over 6,000,000. These guesses are not of much value judging by the records of the past.

**K**ING EDWARD congratulated President Roosevelt on the prominent part he had taken in bringing about negotiations which resulted in peace between Russia and Japan. Next time that King Edward assists in bringing about the close of a war, as he did in the case of South Africa, it will be up to the President of the United States to cable congratulations. There is nothing like a good example, and there is no crowned head in Europe who does the right thing at the right moment just so well as King Edward. His cablegram to the Canadian people congratulating them on the birth of two new members of Confederation was a fine example of this. Possibly he was reminded and advised of this, but it is only a monarch who desires to be reminded of occasions where he can render a useful service that is well served by his advisers.

**I**N its issue of the 7th inst. the Ottawa Citizen editorially states that the report of the isolation hospital in Ottawa shows that there are at present only six cases there, and these six are only mild cases of scarletina. Some person should tell the Citizen that scarletina is merely the Latin word for scarlet fever, and that mild cases of scarlet fever are just as highly contagious and as full of after effects as severe cases. The Citizen might also ask for a report as to the number of deaths in the isolation hospital this year, whether some of these are not officially attributed to scarletina, and also how many deaths occurred within the past couple of months from diphtheria? Ottawa is certainly a beautiful residential city especially free from unhealthy conditions but, in as much as the isolation hospital has had at one time 25 cases of scarlet fever and as the demands on the institution rapidly vary, would it not be as well to have a weekly report submitted to the Board of Health and published in the daily press? The Citizen is

not at all blameable for not knowing the facts, as they are very efficiently concealed by the management of the isolation hospital. And where there is concealment there is mismanagement and cause of complaint. The people and press know more of the Samoan Islands than of this hospital which, whatever improvement it has effected, should be burned down and the cottage system adopted instead. Then there would be isolation.

**I**T would look as if the last "Great Scot" has been discovered, he is the first premier of the new province of Saskatchewan.

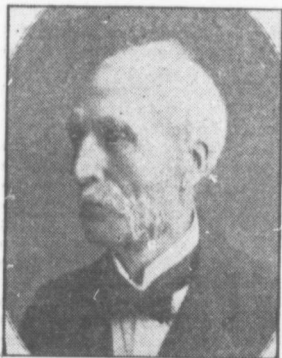
**T**HE Post Office Department of Ottawa should circulate at once a list of post offices in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan respectively, as Saskatchewan is now named a province and the organized territories are divided between the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.



A charge of Jap cavalry.

## The Evening of Dr. Goldwin Smith's Life

**D**R. GOLDWIN SMITH of Toronto completed his 83rd year a few days ago. This distinguished English scholar and publicist



Dr. Goldwin Smith

told a newspaper reporter that he had no secret of longevity and that he had never been abstemious in his habits, but always

moderate. The late Senator Wark who died recently at the age of over 100 was always abstemious in his habits and nothing can therefore be deduced with reference to long life from the fact of a man drinking wine in moderation or abstaining altogether from it. Dr. Smith is one of those described by Mr. Justin McCarthy in one of his last books entitled "Portraits of the Sixties" forty years ago, therefore, he was even then a prominent figure in the estimation of prominent writers. His political opinions have not always been popular in Canada, but that does not prevent us from recognizing the consistency of his course and the persistency and ability with which he has always advocated his views. Personally he has the high regard not only of those who enjoy his acquaintance but also of all those who enjoy reading his trenchant criticisms of men and affairs the world over. His memoirs if prepared in time would show that Dr. Goldwin Smith has been in personal contact or in correspondence with many of the most conspicuous figures in the world's public life during the last forty years.

## A Wrong Principle.

AT a recent convention of the League of Municipalities held in Toronto a resolution emanating from Ottawa was carried recommending the Legislature to make the election of aldermen in cities for a term of two years instead of one as at present, and have it so arranged that the two year term would expire with one half of the council one year and the other half the following year. The union of Canadian municipalities may aggregate considerable wisdom but in this case the desire for change and the extreme liking of individuals composing a body of men to propose resolutions have led to a recommendation which is distinctly opposed to the public interest. The system is in vogue in the city of Winnipeg where they not only made the mistake of adopting it, but made the other mistake of reducing the number of aldermen to 12. The way the two year term worked in Winnipeg was such as to make it morally impossible to reform any maladministration of the city's affairs. At the annual municipal elections if the electors desired to punish the council for errors committed during the year to

the detriment of the city, only one half of the council were up for sentence and of these six personal popularity or manipulating skill would return two or three, and what was called the "new" council would consist of the six who had not to offer for re-election for another year and the other two or three who had to offer and managed to get back. There would thus be a so-called new council of twelve consisting of eight or nine of the old council and only, say, three or four new men. These three or four men would represent the public protest against the acts of the council during the year just closed.

It is obviously impossible under such a system to dispense with a gang that has mismanaged affairs. These remarks would apply to the Ottawa city council of 24 members. A more sensible resolution for the municipal union would have been one that was introduced into the city council of the capital, to consider the placing of the city under a government commission. But to elect a city council and then to proceed to protect them from punishment at the polls would be the height of folly.

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## That Embargo

**I**MPERIALISTS who are fond of talking of a united British Empire and who sometimes think that the colonies, as the great States of Canada and Australia are still called, should endorse everything done by a political Administration in London, whether that Administration is deplorably deficient in brains, in talent, or prestige, are always annoyed at the publication of the fact that the British Government, Administration after Administration, refuse to give any preference or favor to Canadian cattle landed in the United Kingdom over cattle from foreign countries. For many years the privilege of landing "stockers" in England or Scotland and fattening them on the congenial herbage of English soil was esteemed a great favor in as much as United States cattle had to be slaughtered at the port of landing. By and by the British government determined to withdraw any special privilege to Canadian cattle and placed them on the same schedule as United States cattle. From that day to this an agitation has gone on to restore the privilege and to remove the embargo from Canadian cattle. So far from complying with this request the British government embalmed their regula-

tions against Canadian cattle in an act of parliament so today nothing short of an amending act of parliament could restore the privilege to Canadian cattle. Those who try to convince themselves that any reflection on the Administration of the day in Great Britain is a reflection on the British Empire, assert that the privilege which was withdrawn is of little or no value, but the records of the House of Commons of Canada do not bear this out, and in Great Britain there is at the present moment some of the Liberal candidates who have made the removal of the embargo on Canadian cattle a plank on their platform. The Laurier Administration, through the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Sydney Fisher, obtained some years ago a change in the quarantine regulations of the United States whereby the market that was by means of the embargo lost in Great Britain was largely made up in the United States. We all revere the flag and are ready to defend it if it is ever endangered, but traders require a market for what they have to sell and in this case it would look as if the United States money was considered just as good as British guineas.



## A Notable Tribute to Balzac.

THE Lesson of Balzac' by Mr. Henry James, now makes its first complete appearance in print. What Mr. James talks about is the general subject of the novelists art, an art of which he proclaims Balzac the greatest master. After bright characterizations of George Sand, Jane Austen, and the Brontes, Mr. James proceeds: "These are but glimmering lanterns, however, you will say, to hang in the great dusky and deserted avenue that leads up to the seated statue of Balzac, and you are so far right, I am bound to admit as that I placed them there no doubt in a great measure, just to render the darkness visible. We do, with all our dimness of view arrive at rough discriminations, and by one of the roughest of these the author of the 'Comedie Humaine' has in a manner profited; and we have for many a year taken in the graceless and nerveless fashion of those who edge away from a classic or a bore. 'Oh, yes, he is as great as you like—so let us not talk of him!' . . . I see no better proof that the great interesting art of which Balzac remains the greatest master is practically, round about us, and a discredited art, discredited, of course, I mean for any directed and noticed attention, than this very fact that we are so ready to beg off from knowing anything about him. Perfunctory rites, even at present, are seldom rendered themselves a pretext in the newspapers, the name of the man who is the father of us all, as we stand, is scarcely more mentioned than if he were not of the family."

The following passages are remarkable examples of suggestive and imaginative criticism:

"The lyrical element is not great, is in

fact not present at all, in Balzac, in Scott (the Scott of the voluminous prose), nor in Thackeray nor in Dickens — which is precisely why they are so essentially novelists, so almost exclusively lovers of the image of life. It is great or it is at all events largely present, in such a writer as George Sand—which is doubtless why we take her for a novelist in a much looser sense than the others we have named. It is considerable in that bright particular genius of our own day, George Meredith, who so strikes us as hitching winged horses to the chariot of his prose—steeds who prance and dance and caracole, who strain the traces, attempt to quit the ground, and yearn for the upper air. Balzac, with huge feet fairly plowing the sand of our desert is, on the other hand, the very type and model of the projector and creator; so that I think either with envy with terror, of the nature and the effort of the novelist, I think of something that reaches its highest expression in him. That is why those of us who, as craftsmen, have once caught a glimpse of this value in him, can never quite rest from hanging about him; that is why he seems to have all that the others have to tell us, with more, besides, that is all his own. He lived and breathed in his medium, and the fact that he was able to achieve in it, as man and as artist, so crowded a career, remains for us one of the most puzzling problems—I scarce know whether to say of literature or of life. He is himself a figure more extraordinary than any he drew, and the fascination may still be endless of all the questions he put to us and of the answers for which we feel ourselves helpless.

"He died, as we sufficiently remember, at fifty—worn out with work and thought and passion; the passion, I mean, that he had put into his mighty plan and that he had ridden him like an infliction of the gods. He began, a friendless and penniless young provincial, to write early, and to write very badly, and it was not till well toward his thirtieth year, with the conception of the 'Comedie Humaine' as we all again remember, that he found his right ground, found his feet and his voice. This huge, distributed, divided, and subdivided picture of the life of France in his time, a picture bristling with imagination and information, with fancies and facts and figures, a world of special and general insight, a rank tropical forest of detail and specification, but with the strong breath of genius forever circulating through it and shaking the tree-tops to a mighty murmur, got itself hung before us in the space of twenty short years. The achievement remains one of the most inscrutable, one of the unfathomable, final acts in the history of art, and if, as I have said, the author himself has his own surpassing objectivity, it is just because of this challenge his figure constitutes for any other painter of life, flamed with ingenuity, who should feel the temptation to represent or explain him."

"Out of what means, by what innumerable tortuous channels, is what endless winding procession of laden chariots and tugging teams and marching elephants," asks Mr. James, "did the immense commitments required for his work reach him?"

The lessons of Balzac, he goes on to say, are extremely various. Having to choose among them, he selects "the three or four that more or less include the others." To quote in part:

"In reading him over, in opening him almost anywhere today, what immediately strikes us is the part assigned by him, in any picture, to the conditions of the creatures with whom he is concerned. Contrasted with him other prose painters of life scarce seem to see the conditions at

all. He clearly held pretended portrayals as nothing, as less than nothing, as a most vain thing, unless it should be in spirit and intention, the art of complete representation.

"There is no such thing in the world as an adventure, pure and simple; there is only one mine and yours and his or hers—it being the greatest adventure of all, I verily think, just to be yourself, just to be he or she. To Balzac's imagination that was indeed in itself an immense adventure—and nothing appealed to him more than to show how we all are, and how we are placed and built in for being so. What befalls us is but another name for the way our circumstances press upon us—so that an account of what befalls us is an account of our circumstances.

"Add to this then, that the fusion of all the elements of the picture, under his hand, is complete—of what people are with what they do, what they do with what they are, of the action with the agents, of the medium with the action, of all the parts of the drama with each other. Such a production as 'Le Pere Goriot,' for example, or as 'Eugenie Grandet,' or as 'Le Cure de Village,' has, in respect to this fusion, a kind of inscrutable perfection.

"Many of us stray, but he always remains—he is fixed by virtue of his weight. So far as we do move, we move round him; every road comes back to him; he sits there in spite of us, so massively, for orientation. Heavy therefore if we like, but heavy because weighted with his fortune, the extraordinary fortune that has survived all the extravagance of his career, his twenty years of royal intellectual spending, and that has done so by reason of the rare value of the original property—the high prime genius so tied up from him that was safe. And that, through all that has come and gone, has steadily, has enormously appreciated. Let us then also, if we see him in the sacred grove, as our towering idol, see him as gilded thick, with so much gold-plated and burnished and bright, in the manner of towering idols.

## The "Renaissance of Wonder"

**M**ARCELLIN BERTHELOT the distinguished French chemist, declares in a recent work his conviction that "science will end by destroying all pretensions to mysterious beliefs and every form of superstition." On this the San Francisco Argonaut comments:

"It may be so. But, as M. Berthelot is doubtless well aware, adherence to 'mysterious beliefs' is more, rather than less common today than during the last decades of the nineteenth century. Thirty years ago, on the skirmish line of civilization, stood your materialistic scientist. He was the 'advanced thinker.' Today, your 'advanced thinker' the 'same type of man, has been carried by the current towards mysticism. It is the inevitable reaction. The pendulum is swinging back. Thirty years ago it was the fashion to believe nothing not susceptible of proof. Today it is almost the fashion to be transcendently credulous. Among the mystically inclined are some of our greatest names—men like Maurice Maeterlinck and Rudyard Kipling. Thinkers like Andrew Lang, Sir William Crookes, and Alfred Russell Wallace are touched with the spirit of mysticism. Only a few weeks ago James Hervey Hyslop, Professor of Logic and Ethics in Columbia University affirmed his belief in the instantaneous transmission of a message between mind and mind, by spirit agency, across the Atlantic Ocean. The significant thing is that while such a statement made thirty years ago by a man holding such a posi-

tion, would have caused him to lose caste with his colleagues, now it does not, appreciably. There is less dogmatism among scientists than ever there was. A few weeks ago Sir Oliver Lodge, in an address to a Birmingham (England), audience, affirmed a belief that a trace of individuality might cling even to inanimate objects. 'Thus,' he said, 'I would not hold that even a doll, on which so much affection was lavished, was inert in the inorganic sense.' Astounding statement! It is true that many of these semi-mystics like Lodge would repudiate the assertion that their attitude toward such matters was anything but scientific. The fact is, however, that the primary impulse is not in the least so. The impulse of the movement comes from the dreamers—the poets. The Rev. R. Heber Newton, formerly pastor of the Memorial Chapel at Stanford is the latest to align himself with the modern mystics. If he is correctly quoted by the press, he told the American Institute for Scientific Research of New York that he had concluded after allowing for illusion, fraud, and every possible hypothesis of interpretation, that there still remained facts unexplainable except upon the ground of the communication of 'the spirits of those whom we call dead with the living.' The most significant thing about his statement is not that he makes it, but that it is received by press and public, not with ridicule, but with considerable respect. Among all the intellectual movements of the time, this 'renaissance of wonder' is certainly the most interesting."

## Norway's Quandary.

NORWAY'S unsettled condition, undetermined whether to be a republic or a monarchy, unrecognized by the nations of the earth and not free from fear of foreign aggression, gives interest to an article in the Politiken (Copenhagen) by Fridtjof Nansen, the Norwegian explorer and political leader. He says with regard to the sharp letter sent by the Swedish Riksdag to Norway's declaration of independence, that while Norway will always entertain any just and reasonable demand of Sweden she will not consider anything that ignores her independence and distinct existence as a nation. Should Sweden persist in her treatment of Norway it may even happen that Norway will ask for the recognition of Europe without waiting for the consent of Sweden. To quote:

"The unsettled political condition in which Norway at present is must be looked upon as a misfortune, not only by this country, but also by the foreign Powers. But if for this reason it is thought in Sweden that a new Storting will reverse the decree of independence passed by its predecessor, never was a greater mistake made. Every day the Norwegian population become more fixed in the step they have taken. All talk about divided councils and hard feeling against the government in Norway originates in Sweden. All the rumors that Norway would never wish to

make a confederation with any nation of kindred blood, but would only seize forlorn Finland, or some possession of the East Sea, are mere echoes of talk in the Swedish Riksdag, or of articles published by the jingo press."

He next considers the question of the form of government Norway is to adopt, and comes to the conclusion that it will necessarily be determined by circumstances. In his own words:

"The majority in Norway are fixed in their decision for a monarchy. In theory a republic would meet with the joyful acceptance of many; but when it comes to an issue the Norwegians are sure to demand a monarchy."

He adds, however, that "it stands to reason that the Norwegians are not going to run around Europe hunting and begging for a king, so that if it should prove hard to fill the throne, it is possible that the form of government they adopt will be republican. He concludes:

"The fact that Kaiser Wilhelm has this year visited Norway is of no political significance to Norwegians. King Oscar, through the Crown Prince, asked for the distinguished visit. . . We are assured by the German press that the German emperor has a strong sympathy with Norway."

EVENTS.



HON. RAYMOND PREFONTAINE  
The French Canadian minister who is the first to establish an aid to the British  
navy in Canada.

## The Future of the Novel.

THE perusal of a 'first novel' from the pen of a young American writer, in conjunction with some recent derogatory remarks by a prominent New York editor on the subject of fine writing" is drawn from Mr. James Lanus Allen's expression of his views regarding certain tendencies of American fiction. The novel in question is "Hecla Sandwich," by Mr. Uffington Valentine. Mr. Allen states that its significance rests upon four grounds, namely: "Its choice of a great American theme; its reliance upon the dramatic presentation of human character as the novelist's true business; its insistence in giving human life its true place in nature; and its adherence, for all this, to the lofty standards of English style." These four things, then, we may infer, Mr. Allen regards as desiderata, if not as essentials, of American fiction. On the subject of fine writing he says in the Saturday Review supplement of the New York Times:

"There seems to be need to bring this familiar matter up anew, because of late, voices (that ought to be better employed), have been raised among us in depreciation of the value of fine writing, in contempt of a mere 'drapery of words.' As though words were ever a drapery. As though style were some cheap trick, some unworthy artifice by which nothing, having been well written, is made to acquire the value of something. As though any deficiency or merit, any loss or lack, or credulity of perversion, or flattery or failure in our recent or in our current fiction, could in anywise be traceable to whatsoever respect, whatsoever reverence, whatsoever cultivation, whatsoever practice may exist among us, as a reading and a writing people of the always manly and bold and fearless and noble and ennobling fine art of literature. . . .

"Thus the fine art of literature as regards fiction is simply a test and a revelation of the story. The richer the story is, the more it can reveal. If any good story has ever been hurt or ruined in the telling, not the art of literature is at fault but the incompetent workman who misused the art. But never since the world began has the whole art of fiction, most sagaciously and prodigally exercised, ever been able to make a success of a false story.

"Therefore, if there is anything the matter with American fiction at present—and all seem agreed that something is the matter—then the trouble does not lie in the fact that the novelists of the land may be trying to write their stories in good English. It is not because they may be clinging to the old notion that fiction is literature and literature essentially an art."

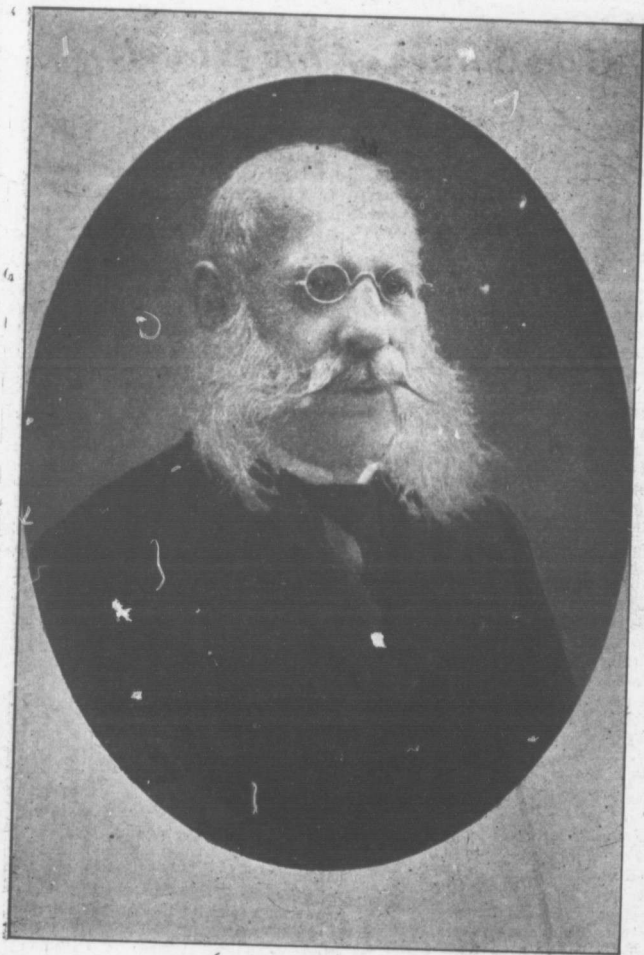
Our national fiction, continues Mr. Allen, is not suffering from an excess of fine writing, or is it suffering from a national lack of material for stories.

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### CENTRAL CANADA EXHIBITION.

The annual exhibition of the Central Canada Exhibition Association will be held at Ottawa beginning on Monday Sept. 11th and lasting during the week. This has grown to be one of Canada's important exhibitions; and in particular is known for a splendid display of live stock. It is probably, outside of Toronto, the most attractive and best attended of Canadian exhibitions.

**EVENTS.**



**RT. HON. SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.**  
He is Canada's oldest living parliamentarian 69 years of age and a member of  
the new Tariff Commission.