

the further complication of an unrestricted Mongolian influx. Canada contributes her share in the French question. A recent writer to the *Mail* foreshadows important consequences from the rapidity of increase of the French-Canadians. The effects of climate and physical conditions are said to be noticeable in the states of the Pacific Slope, where a new native type is rapidly developing. Whether amid the diversity of nationalities the wonderful vitality of the Anglo-Saxon will ultimately prevail in the native American to-be, or whether a maximum of absorption has already or soon will be reached, are questions which will be definitely settled in the near future. The province of the statesman is to remove all artificial obstructions to the fusion of races, and to allow the great processes of nature to have free play, trusting implicitly to the survival of the fittest.

A community lives by production. Capital and labour are the requisites of production. But it by no means follows that those who chance to hold capital are, or ever have been, producers. Many of the Irish landlords, for example, never produced an ounce of food or a single article of necessity or convenience. They simply inherited capital obtained by spoliation of the real producers. The legality of the spoliation does not affect the morality of the case. There have been times when might was right, and there is more than a tradition of this state of affairs yet existing. The railroad and street car monopolists of the United States and Canada are actual producers in a very limited sense. And even where capitalists are in reality producers, they have too long by dint of this very possession of capital been enabled to take to themselves too large a share of the joint production of capital and labour. They have been able to starve labour into submission. But labour is organizing everywhere. The moral sentiment of the general community is awakening, and demands for a fairer division of products receive the hearty sympathy of the general public. So long as the Knights of Labour abstain from the foolish and unnecessary destruction of property, which formerly characterized strikes, and so long as they exert their influence over their fellows by persuasion and not by intimidation, they will receive the strong moral support of all good citizens. Mayor Howland cannot be too highly commended for his noble action in behalf of the citizens and the locked-out employees of the Street Railway Company. His letter to President Smith is the most vigorous and outspoken protest against tyrannic monopoly ever written by a Mayor of Toronto.

The Canadian snow-shoing or tobogganing costume commends itself not only to the lovers of these sports, but also to our people in general. It is comfortable, inexpensive, pleasing to the eye, and altogether a far more suitable every-day winter dress for men and women of this latitude than the conventional old-world habiliments. We welcome this sign of Canadian individuality, and hope that the blanket suits may come into more general use. There is a point, however, where objection may arise. If the tyrant, fashion, should ever attempt to declare that snow-shoing or tobogganing cannot be respectably done unless one wears such and such a dress, then it will be time to revolt. This is no idle fear as such matters go. The evil is illustrated in the folly of parties to which a socially indispensable requisite is a suit of clothes of a certain pattern and color. In this age and this country such usages seem absurd. There should be the most perfect freedom in these matters. Let us be individuals and not tailors' clothes-horses. It is claimed that this usage of society is based on æsthetic considerations. But variety and individuality are the highest conditions of art. Let those wear the swallow-tail and the immaculate gloves and tie who wish to do so, but they must not require others to do the same, nor must the others feel under any compulsion to conform to the preferences of the aforesaid immaculates. We are told that not a few students stay away from our annual conversaziones because

they think that they cannot dress well enough for such an occasion. If such be the case our friends make a great mistake. What they require most is not white kids, but a spirit of more vigorous and more independent manliness. For what University man judges his fellow by his coat now-a-days! If judgment is ever passed on such a basis, it is rather against than in favour of the wearers of fashion-plate patterns. There is no doubt that in our University a man is judged on character in general, and not on conformity to trivial conventionalities.

Leading Article.

THE PRESENT CRISIS.

"A deputation consisting of Rev. Dr. Caven, Dr. Sheraton, Dr. Castle, the Rev. Father Vincent, and President Wilson, waited on Hon. O. Mowat and Hon. G. W. Ross in respect to University matters yesterday."—*Daily Globe*, March 9.

The above short news item at once arrested the attention of those who are aware of the present critical situation of affairs in our Provincial University. Taken in connection with a recent manifestation of clerical influence, it was immediately felt that this concerted action of Dr. Wilson and the heads of the theological colleges had some especial significance.

The fears of our friends were justified. The facts are more ominous than the conjectures. There can be no doubt that an organized attempt is being made by the above gentlemen to utterly thwart the wishes of the graduates of the University of Toronto and to maintain the control which they themselves have acquired in the affairs of the University and University College. The object of the clerical deputation was to oppose the requisition which was recently made by Convocation of the Minister of Education for the increase of graduate representation on the Senate.

This is but one of many indications of threatening evil to our University. We venture to say that the interests of higher liberal education in this Province were never in more serious peril than at the present moment.

Ours is a national University and College, built and maintained by the people and for the people. The management of these institutions is the greatest of provincial trusts and should be held in the main by our own graduates, whether they be appointed or elected for that purpose. They represent the people in their relations to liberal education more widely and more truly than any other class can possibly do. Attached by the strongest ties to their *Alma Mater* and loyal to the spirit and the institutions of their native country, with no selfish ends to serve and with the highest ideals of an education that shall be truly liberal—surely the welfare of our University could not be in safer hands than theirs!

In so far as graduates have been admitted to the government of this institution, they have nobly discharged this trust. The advances which we have made, and the proud position we now occupy at the head of Canadian Universities, are due to their energy and devotion.

But now what do we see? An entirely foreign element has been introduced into the Senate, and no sooner are they in than they begin to make themselves mischievously active. They are not in unison with the aims and objects of our graduates. They combine to baffle and defeat the plans of the best friends of our university.

It is a matter for very serious regret that Dr. Wilson has joined this movement. He has never shown that degree of sympathy with our own graduates which he should have done. But now he comes out openly and joins their opponents. He virtually declares his positive distrust of our alumni and throws himself into the arms