

to choose when appointments are to be made, the fact being that there are not more than about 600 of such candidates now available as the result of nine years' examinations. The Board is, however, troubled with a plethora of applicants and is looking about for some plan to diminish the number.

The Report on Canadian Archives, by Mr. Douglas Brymner, archivist, is voluminous, and to students of Canadian history, full of interest. The work of making careful and accurate transcripts of the State Papers deposited in the Public Record Office, in London, is being continued. Some idea of the quantity and value of the historical material which has been added to the archives during the year may be gathered from the mere statement that it includes three documents relating to the Administration of Justice in Old Canada; ten relating to the Constitutional Act of 1791; eighteen to North-Western Exploration; eighteen to Internal Communication in Canada; thirty-eight to Relations with the United States after the Peace of 1783, and seventy-five or eighty State Papers, composed of correspondence of distinguished officials and others, historical documents, Minutes of Council, Petitions, etc., covering the period between 1761 and 1800. All these documents are printed in this very valuable Report.

A Report by Mr. William Smith, Deputy Minister of Marine, contains in full the evidence on the export cattle trade of Canada, taken a few months since at the investigation held under Government Instruction by that officer at Montreal, Quebec and Three Rivers. Much of this evidence was given in the newspapers at the time, but the official record will be of great service to those wishing to study the question.

From the Twenty-Third Annual Report of the Department of Marine, which is the report for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1890, it appears that the expenditure of the Department of Marine during the year, in all branches, including ocean and river, lighthouse and coast service, also scientific institutions, marine hospitals, steamboat inspection, surveys, salaries, etc., reached the handsome total of \$807,417.53, while the revenue from various sources amounted to \$115,507.26. Besides the reports of the Minister and Deputy Minister, the volume contains in appendices numerous supplementary reports on Georgian Bay survey (on which by the way nearly \$150,000 have been expended) lifeboat stations, messenger pigeons, meteorological service, signal service, tidal observations, etc., etc.

The Tables of the Trade and Navigation of the Dominion is a formidable volume, but its salient features are so well kept before the public in various discussions that they must be already familiar to those who are impelled by taste, business necessity, or patriotic considerations to give attention to such matters. The total exports for the fiscal year were \$96,749,149 and the total imports \$121,858,241, an increase in the former of about seven and a-half, and in the latter of about six and a-half millions over the figures of the preceding year. The aggregate of trade, export and import, with Great Britain was \$91,748,935; with the United States \$92,814,783. The West Indies come next, our dealings with them amounting to \$5,808,189; Germany, with \$4,286,136, coming fourth in order.

Somewhat suggestive, if not ominous, is the fact that the thickest of all the blue books that have come to hand is the Report of the Auditor-General on Appropriation Accounts. One of the best features of our administrative system is that which gives us this independent and able officer, whose duty and prerogative it is to look after all appropriation accounts and details of expenditure. This large volume constitutes a rich mine for the exploration of all who wish to know how and where the money of the Dominion goes, and of members of the Opposition in search of evidences of inequality and favoritism. The table for "Advertising and Printing" may be mentioned as one of those which reveal some of the beauties of the party system of government, but this and other fields have been so fully exploited by the Opposition press that we forbear to particularize. The evil of favoritism where only the strictest business principles should be applied is, unhappily, the outcome of the system rather than the fault of a particular administration, though one Government may carry it to greater lengths than another.

MODIFICATION, not abolition, is, if late Washington despatches may be relied on, to be the policy of the Treasury Department at Washington in regard to the bonding and sealing privileges of Canadian railways entering the United States. It is now denied, with probable truth, that the intention of discontinuing the privilege *in toto* was never seriously entertained. If the aim of the Department from the first has been, as now alleged, merely to modify the practice in such a manner as to afford better protection to the United States' revenue; if the Department has before it evidence that better protection is needed to guard against the results of carelessness or fraud, and if the new regulations now awaiting the approval of the Attorney-General should, when promulgated, prove to be as little troublesome as is compatible with the attainment of their object, the Canadian railways will really have little cause for complaint. If any of them have, in any way, connived at fraudulent practices to defraud the customs, such would have little to complain of even were the privilege wholly withdrawn. That such frauds have been perpetrated we should be loath to believe, although there is always more or less liability that here and there an officer among the many employes of a great corporation may succumb to temptation. It is to be noted, moreover, that if frauds have really been perpetrated, the United States officials must, almost surely, have been accomplices if not the chief offenders. But it does not appear that the managers of the Canadian Pacific, the road chiefly affected, have ever felt very greatly alarmed in regard to the matter. Their confidence that no unnecessarily hostile measures would be taken rested probably on two grounds. In the first place, the advantages derived from the sealing system accrue mainly, no doubt, to citizens of the United States rather than to Canadians. In the second place, so large a portion of the stock of this great railway is now held by capitalists in the States that any injury to the financial prospects of the road would cause greater damage to them than to Canadians. Taking these points into consideration we are led to the satisfactory conclusion that there is very little reason to fear the adoption of any needlessly harsh measures against the road by the Washington Administration. It has too many friends at court.

THE Commonwealth of Australia, though not yet a fact accomplished, may now be regarded as a fact assured. The Bill adopted on the 9th inst. by the Federal Convention at Sydney embraces the outlines of a Federal Constitution, which in its main principles will, there is little doubt, be adopted. It is needless to say that in most of its essential features the proposed Constitution closely resembles that of the Dominion. Its Governor-General is to be appointed by the Crown. The united colonies are to be called "States," a more appropriate term, perhaps, than our "Provinces." Each State is, of course, to have its own Legislature. The Federal Parliament is to consist of a House of Representatives and a Senate. The members of the former are, of course, to be elected directly by the people, but those of the latter are to be chosen by the State Legislatures, after the United States plan. Many thoughtful Canadians will be disposed to admit that this method may be preferable to our own. Few will claim that the Canadian Senate has been a success, or that it plays so influential and independent a part in legislation as to establish clearly its right to be, or, at any rate, the wisdom of the method by which it was created and is continued in existence. Certainly the way in which its vacancies are used by the Government for the consolation of defeated candidates, the reward of political supporters, and as a convenience in certain party exigencies, is not adapted to increase its dignity or influence. Whether the proposed Australian method will produce better results remains to be seen. Like the British House of Lords and the Canadian Senate, the Australian Upper House may "affirm or reject, but not amend" money and tax Bills. The Government is to be composed of seven ministers, only about half the number deemed necessary for the Dominion. Probably the council has shown itself wise in recommending the establishment of a Supreme Court, which, except in questions "involving public interests," whatever that phrase may mean, is to supersede the jurisdiction of the Privy Council. Many questions of great difficulty and delicacy will have to be settled by the first Parliament of the Australian Commonwealth, that is if the report of the delegates is approved by the several colonies. Two of the most formidable of these questions will be the choice of the capital and the arrangement of a common tariff policy,

but the unexpected facility with which an agreement was reached in regard to the main principles of union proves that the desire for such union is strong, and gives reason to hope that it may be strong enough to overcome all difficulties of detail.

THE announcement made or implied in Mr. Goschen's Budget Speech that the British Government have decided to appropriate their two millions of surplus, derived mainly from the increased consumption of liquors, to the abolition of fees in the lower and the reduction of fees in the higher standards of the public schools, is a most important one. The measure is no doubt well adapted to strengthen the Government with the labouring and poorer classes generally in town and country, and so may, from a tactical point of view, be regarded as an excellent movement on the eve of a general election. As the Liberals have long been advocates of a free school system, it is evident that they cannot oppose the general principle of the Bill, however they may object to details or protest against having their policy once more borrowed by the Conservatives. But apart from the partisan aspects of the measure it is evident that the Government's course in constructing and defending their Bill will not be bordered with roses. Difficulties will meet them at every point. Many in both Houses will no doubt object to the principle of free education in any form, save as an act of charity to those willing to accept it *in forma pauperum*. Many who heartily approve the principle of free schools will object to having the fees of children attending the Church or denominational schools, which will no doubt be included in the Government scheme, paid from the public chest. The Non-Conformist representatives and probably many others of various classes will strenuously oppose this feature of the Bill. But the most serious difficulty will almost certainly arise in connection with the constitution of the Boards of Control. All Radicals, if not Liberals of all grades, will contend earnestly for the sound political principle that representation must accompany taxation. This as applied in this case will mean that if increased grants are to be made from the public funds to the Church schools, which, in violation of the principle in question, already receive more than half-a-million from the Exchequer, the public must have a voice in the expenditure of their money, that is, in the management of the denominational schools. In other words they will demand that the public be represented in the School Boards. To this the Church will no doubt refuse to assent, and the Government will scarcely either care or dare to impose such a condition against its will. The Radicals may be relied on to make a most determined struggle on behalf of the principle referred to, and it is not easy to see how the Liberal-Unionists can avoid protesting against so unsound a policy as that of Government grants for educational purposes, without any provision for either Government inspection or popular control. It is said that the Government will go so far as to give the parents of children attending the Church schools, which will be the only schools in more than 10,000 parishes, power to elect a part of the Board. It is by no means likely that the Liberals will accept such a compromise. Probably they may be able to give good reasons for refusing to accept it. But whatever may be the difficulties in regard to such points, or whatever the fate of the Government measure, the adoption of this policy by the Conservatives presages the advent of national free schools, at an early day, throughout the kingdom. What the English determine to do they do systematically and thoroughly, going forward and not backward, and once the Rubicon is crossed, the forward march will not slacken until the nation shall have taken front rank amongst the best educated in the world.

LORD DUFFERIN is undoubtedly, as Mr. Smalley says in the *New York Tribune*, "a man with many titles to regard," but if he has gravely said, as Mr. Smalley reports, "I cannot conceive the meaning of the term education, if either Greek or Latin is to be excluded," he has, we fear, shown himself to be as much under the dominion of educational prejudice in this particular as is the most ordinary of those minds to whom he would thus class as uneducated, in regard to any other hobby. For our own part, we are incredulous. There must be some misreporting. We cannot conceive of a man with Lord Dufferin's breadth of view and mental acumen uttering so sweeping and, begging somebody's pardon, so shallow an opinion. We hope we do not fail to appreciate to a reasonable extent all the educational benefits, in the shape