

ceed to a foreign throne. That contingency having come to pass, and the Prince now occupying a foreign throne, a position which might some day compel him to declare war upon Great Britain, the Radicals contend that the power of revocation should be exercised. Sir William Harcourt, on behalf of the Government, and Mr. Balfour, on behalf of the Conservatives and Liberal-Unionists, opposed the motion, with the result that it was defeated, after a warm debate, by a vote of 198 to 72. It must be admitted, and would be, we believe, by many of those who voted against the motion, that the strength of the majority lies less in their logic than in their sentiments of respect and of what they regard as loyalty to the Queen. Probably there is scarcely one of those who help from year to year to defeat the Radical motion who would not really be much better pleased with the Duke if he would put an end to the discussion by voluntarily relinquishing the £10,000, as he has already done his former personal allowance of \$15,000. They feel that the continued acceptance of this sum from British tax-payers, while engaged in the service of a foreign state, can hardly be satisfactorily defended on such grounds as that it was part of a marriage settlement, and should not, therefore, be disturbed; or that the honour of the House is, in some mysterious way, concerned in continuing the grant; or even that the question is one between Parliament and the Queen, with whom there should be no huckstering; or that the amount is so small that it is not felt by the tax-payers.

The Armenian Atrocities.

Every reader of the cable despatches which cross the Atlantic from day to day, if his sympathies have been at all stirred by the reports of fiendish cruelties perpetrated by Turkish soldiers upon defenceless Armenians of both sexes and all ages, must have been at times sadly perplexed by the flat contradictions with which these reports have been perpetually met by statesmen and other men of standing. Should the late reports to the effect that the Commissioners have investigated on the spot the horrible tales of the pit, in which the bodies of the wretched victims are said to have been thrown by hundreds, and have found unmistakable evidence of the existence of not merely one, but two such pits, into which attempts had in vain been made to destroy the shocking evidences of the crime by cremation, the question of fact will be forever settled. If, again, reports may be relied on, and Great Britain, France and Russia have finally agreed on the form and tenor of a joint note to be sent, calling on the Sultan to perform his treaty covenant in the matter, and to redress the wrongs from which the Armenians are now suffering, they will show that they have been thoroughly convinced of the genuineness of their information. But in so doing, there is some danger that they may but increase the difficulties of the situation. The Sultan will be as ready as hitherto with his promises of reform, and probably equally sure to neglect to carry out those promises. It would seem that the convenanting powers should exact some pledge for the fulfilment of the obligations thus entered into. But, even so, the exacting fulfilment of those pledges will be a very troublesome affair, in the case of so wily and unscrupulous an enemy, entrenched in a position so difficult to reach effectively.

The Chicago Drainage Canal

What will be the effect of the great drainage canal which is now being constructed by Chicago, upon the water level of the great lakes and so upon the cities on their shores? At first the project seems to have caused a good deal of natural solicitude in the towns below the great city, past which its liquid filth was to be sent. This matter was compromised by

an agreement under which the canal-builders bind themselves to send 25,000 cubic feet of water per minute through the canal, for every 100,000 people in the drainage district. But what of the lakes themselves whose source of supply is to be tapped by a new river two hundred feet wide and twenty-five feet deep? True, a writer who claims an expert knowledge of such matters had a lengthy article in some of the papers the other day, in which he entered into computations to show that a canal of the dimensions in question could have no appreciable effect in reducing the level of the lakes, or at least none which their sources of supply would not easily overcome. Granting the correctness of the calculation, and the reliability of the supply from the constant excess of rainfall over evaporation, both of which are open to question, who is to guarantee that the capacity of the new river may not increase indefinitely from year to year, by the process of erosion? It is not unreasonable to suppose that a swift current, of the dimensions above given, sweeping along 250,000 cubic feet of water per minute, will rapidly enlarge its own channel. Why, should the conditions of the soil or strata through which it flows prove favourable, might not this new river eventually rival the old outlet in carrying capacity? It is comforting to know that the United States is even more interested in preventing such a calamity than Canada, and that Congress will look into the matter. Else it is quite conceivable that the question might eventually give rise to serious international complications, involving the right of the people of one nation to divert from their course a part of the waters of an intervening boundary lake or river.

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Our Educational System.

WE hear much of the grand educational system of Ontario. It is one of our institutions of which we are especially proud and which we take delight in exhibiting to others. Many of its admirers, from the Minister of Education downwards, in their moments of enthusiasm, do not hesitate to speak of it as one of the best, if not the very best in the world, though, we are glad to note, they are still striving diligently to improve it. We do not profess to be sufficiently well acquainted with the workings of all other national systems to be qualified either to affirm or to deny in regard to the question of comparative merit. We are glad to believe that our public schools, both elementary and intermediate, especially many of the latter, have marked excellencies. But the question has often occurred to us, both in listening to the praises of our system and in observing its outcome, whether that which is especially lauded as its strength may not really, from the practical point of view, or having regard to the greatest good of the greatest number, constitute its chief weakness. May not its effective working be hampered by the very perfection and rigidity of the machinery? Is it not possible to have *too much system*? For example, the Minister of Education constantly prides himself on the exactness with which the different grades of schools are adjusted to each other. The public school is dovetailed into the high school, the high school into the university. This means that the courses of study in the public school are so arranged as to prepare the pupil for the high school; those of the high school to prepare him for the university. Now, it is, of course, desirable and necessary that pupils should be able to step from the lower of these grades into the higher without difficulty. If the course of the high school were adapted to that of the public school, and that of the university to that of the high school, the best possible results might be attained. But it will be ob-