

CABINET CHANGES.

The newspapers have announced that the process of Cabinet reorganization is complete by the appointment of Hon. Jno. Haggart to the portfolio of Postmaster-General, the Hon. Edgar Dewdney becoming Minister of the Interior. The latter is an Englishman by birth, and the second man from the Southern portion of Great Britain to find a seat in the present administration, Hon. Mackenzie Bowell being the other. Possibly the Hon. John Carling may be claimed as an Englishman also, as, although born in Canada, he comes from good Yorkshire stock. Opinions differ relative to the wisdom of the appointment of Mr. Dewdney, but as an Englishman he has the ANGLO-SAXON'S heartiest congratulations upon his advancement. A good deal has been said about the way Mr. Dewdney administered the North-West while he was Lieutenant-Governor, but while a score of charges have been preferred against him it is rather singular that nothing has been proven against him. In appointing Mr. Dewdney to a portfolio Sir John Macdonald appears to have broken through the rule which has long been the bane of Canadian politics, viz., sectional representation, and we hope that others of our statesmen will have the courage to eventually give this practice its quietus. We believe the day is not far distant when men will be selected for Cabinet positions, not because they may happen to represent certain bodies or organizations, but on account of true merit they may possess. To invite a man into the government because he happens to be an Irish Roman Catholic and immediately off-set his vote, or any little influence he may be supposed to possess, by appointing a leading Orangeman to a portfolio, makes representative government a farce and a by-word. And, forsooth, what have the Irish Catholics ever done for Canada that they should have a representative in the government and not the Irish Protestants? Why should the Irish have a ministerial representative at all and not the English, the Scotch or the Welsh? And where do the claims of native born Canadians come in? These are questions which must be faced, and if the present practice is continued much longer we opine that some of these days the Sons of England will be asking, and with some justice, to have a representative of theirs in the government. But we feel that the vast body of Englishmen in Canada will agree with us that it would be better to abolish the present system altogether, and to appoint men to portfolios on account of their ability and competency to perform the duties allotted to them. If the Maritime provinces send men to parliament, who stand head and shoulders in ability above their fellows from the other portions of the Dominion, then let the Maritime provinces have a majority of such men in the government. Similarly if Ontario's representatives transcend in ability those from the other provinces, give Ontario the preponderance. But above all things, even if we have to retain provincial representation, let us get rid of these sectional appointments. Mr. Dewdney receives his portfolio, not because he is an Englishman, but because he is the man best qualified, through long experience, to administer the vast territory lying west of Lake Superior, and the least we can do is to bespeak for him from his countrymen, whether they belong to one political party or the other, a fair trial.

MANY THANKS, GROVER.

Like a thunderbolt out of a clear sky the President's message, inviting Congress to pass a measure of retaliation against Canada, has burst on the Republican camp. As Disraeli more than twenty years ago "dished the Whigs"—although we do not stay to argue the question of political ethics involved in the act—so has Cleveland completely "dished" his adversaries. From the standpoint of a United States Democrat it is a splendid coup, but looked at from an independent point of view the proposal is as despicable a piece of political chicanery as history can furnish. When the

record of Cleveland's administration comes to be written, the dark blot upon it will certainly be his retaliation proposals. After years of bickering on the fisheries question, a treaty is at last made, for which President Cleveland has nothing but praise. The Canadian Parliament accepted it as a measure of conciliation, and, forsooth, because the American Senate rejects it contrary to the President's advice, he proposes to punish Canada. A more unjustifiable course of conduct it would be impossible to suggest. But Canadians rightly recognize that Cleveland is simply indulging in a little game of "bluff" and do not let it disturb their equanimity. There is this much, however, in connection with the "message" for which we have to thank the U. S. President. His proposal to strike a blow at Canadian commerce has done more to evoke a national sentiment throughout the Dominion than anything that has happened in many a long day. An American journal discussing the message sapiently remarked that the President had done well to remove the subject of dispute from the sea to land. As Canadians we have nothing to regret upon that score. The Fisheries question was one with regard to which the Maritime Provinces were solely interested. Apart from the newspapers Ontario paid little attention to it, but now the dispute has assumed a different phase, it has become a question of national importance. The result has been, for the time being, to unite all parties in support of the Government's decision to maintain Canada's rights. But if it comes to the worst, and retaliation is enforced, the answer of Canada to the big bully to the south of us will be a short one, "If you can stand it, we can."

It is gratifying to observe so many members of the S. O. E. order taking a prominent part in the Dominion Rifle Association matches, Bro. Staff-Sergt. W. Ashall, of the Queen's Own, Toronto, a member of St. George Lodge, No. 27, took several important prizes. Bro. Sergt. W. Short, of the Governor-General's Foot Guards of Ottawa, a member of Russell lodge, No. 56, was another highly successful competitor. Both of these brethren were members of 1888 Wimbledon team, and greatly distinguished themselves while in England. Bro. Lieut. S. M. Rogers, of the 43rd Battalion, a member of Bowood Lodge, No. 44, Ottawa, and Staff-Sergt. W. T. Mason, of the same lodge and battalion, did well, as also Sergt. W. Dawson, of the Governor-General's Foot Guards, a member of Russell lodge, Ottawa. It is particularly pleasing to note the high positions in the Grand Aggregate won by Lieut. Rogers and Sergt. Short, which entitles them to a Governor-General's badge, and makes them members of next years' Wimbledon team. We congratulate them.

There are men who belong to societies who never attend a business session, and who never make their appearance in the meeting room to pay their quarterly dues. The weather is too disagreeable, it is too warm, or the place of meeting is altogether too far from their residence. Yet they want to know what transpires at each session, and are never satisfied with the proceedings, but "if they had been there, such and such action would never have prevailed." Nothing suits them; they criticise everything and everybody, and if they "did not reside so far from the room they would have been there to have spoken their minds on the subject." Very good. Just let them know that an entertainment is to be given, supplemented with refreshments. The wind may howl, the rain come down in torrents, and the intervening distance between their home and the place of meeting may cover a pretty long space of ground, but they are not in the least fatigued, and they brave the elements to get to that particular entertainment, ingeniously weaving for an excuse that it "has been so long since I attended I concluded to drop in and see you." And yet this class of men expect their society to prosper, to do business, to keep up fraternal feeling, to increase in interest and add to its membership.—*Ex.*