

disaster, as seen from the point of observation of a loyal Newfoundlander, familiar with the past and present of the colony. Such a defender the colony has in Mr. R. Winton, whose letter, in the *Empire* of Saturday last, should be read by all who wish to get an all-round view of the situation. Mr. Winton holds, and pleads with ability and vigor in support of his contention, that the present general bankruptcy of the Island has been directly and inevitably brought about by the policy which has been steadily pursued by the British Government in regard to the claims of the French, for many years past. The story, so far as the general facts are concerned, is an old one. On the one hand we have the naval officials of the British Government steadily refusing to sustain the Island fishermen in their demand for the concurrent rights to fishing privileges which, it is claimed not only by colonial officials but even by expert officers of British Government, were provided for in the Treaty of Utrecht, while every facility was afforded to the French fishermen to carry on their work, drive the colonial fishermen from their own ports, and erect fishing establishments upon the land in places where the colonists themselves were not permitted to do so. The result of this partial treatment, aided as it has been by the high bounties paid by the French Government on all fish exported by their own subjects, has been to place the Newfoundland fishermen under conditions so glaringly and oppressively unequal that the unhappy colonists, unable to prosecute on profitable terms their chief industry, have been at length compelled to give up the hopeless contest.

**The Meaning of the French Treaty.**

The fundamental question, in connection with the foregoing statement and claims is, of course, that of the real meaning and obligation of the French treaty. If Mr. Winton's is the accepted interpretation of that treaty, it follows that the British Government, for reasons of its own, has deemed it better policy to permit the French to have, in a large degree, their own way, even at the sacrifice of the interests and means of livelihood of a few colonists, than to insist rigidly upon its territorial rights. This granted, the claim which Mr. Winton and others set up on behalf of the islanders, to compensation for past losses and the present ruin, from the Mother Country in whose interests they have been sacrificed, is morally valid. A somewhat similar claim, it may be added, is that presented, or at least hinted at, by a correspondent, in the last number of this paper, in respect to the abortive commercial treaty with the United States which was prevented from taking effect by the intervention of the Canadian Government. Apart altogether from the question of the wisdom or unwisdom of that treaty so far as the interests of Newfoundland were concerned, we must confess that the interference of Canada always seemed to us a somewhat ungenerous, dog-in-the-manger piece of business. If it can be shown to have contributed materially to hasten the present disaster to the colony, the responsibility for it becomes serious. In any case, our correspondent's suggestion that the occasion is a fitting one for a substantial manifestation of the sympathy of Canadians with their distressed fellow-colonists, is worthy of every consideration.

**Municipal Politics.** The question of improving and elevating the tone of municipal politics is occupying a good deal of attention in England as well as in the United States and Canada. A course of instruction or discussion on the duties and responsibilities of citizenship is being carried on in the evening schools, or, rather, perhaps, in a large number of them. Text-books dealing with the subject have been produced. It has also received a large amount of attention in sermons and public addresses by clergymen and other influential public speakers. Amongst

others, Cardinal Vaughan's address to the Roman Catholics of England contains some excellent advice, which is just as suitable for other self-governing municipalities and for other religionists, as for those to whom it is specially addressed. The following words, in particular, may be commended to all good citizens of Toronto and other Canadian cities and towns in view of the coming municipal elections:

"When you vote in a Parliamentary election," he says, "you will properly be largely guided by considerations of party politics. The question then before you will be the kind of policy you desire to see carried into law. But when it is a matter of the administration of laws already passed, other considerations present themselves. You should then inquire, not what are the party politics of the candidate, but what are his qualifications for dealing with questions of practical administration. Is he honest and disinterested? Is he intelligent, prudent, painstaking, in sympathy with the ends to be attained, and trust-worthy? It is political fanaticism to determine elections that concern religion, education, the guardianship of the sick, the aged, the poor, and the health and comfort of the community by mere party politics."

**The Mayoralty.** Contrary, we believe, to general expectation, there seems likely to be a pretty close contest for the Mayor's chair. Though four candidates were in the field, two have withdrawn, and the struggle will be between the present Mayor and his predecessor. If there should be found to be much difficulty in balancing their respective claims so as to determine the preponderance, the elector may have the satisfaction of knowing that the interests of the city will be safe from gross betrayal in the hands of either. Both have served, to say the least, without special discredit, though their personal characteristics and qualifications are of very different orders. In fact, many citizens may, we dare say, be conscious of wishing that the two could be so compounded as to produce a third with the merits and without the defects of each. Either Mr. Kennedy, with a considerable infusion of the decision, energy, and courage of Mr. Fleming, or Mr. Fleming, with the courtesy, urbanity, and other pleasing social traits of Mr. Kennedy, and also his knowledge of business affairs, would make an admirable mayor. Most of us will, probably, admit that Mayor Kennedy might have served the city more effectually had he displayed more personal force and strength of will in his dealings with the railway authorities in regard to the Esplanade affair, in pushing forward the tunnel project so as to raise the city permanently above the dread of a polluted water supply which still hangs over it, and so forth. Nevertheless, the probabilities seem to us to be in favour of his receiving a renewal of the people's confidence, rather than the somewhat severe rebuke which would be implied in their departure from the course which has almost become a custom, of giving a second term to every mayor who has not conspicuously failed in duty.

**The Civic Elections.**

The startling revelations before the Investigating Court have evidently failed to deter ambitious or patriotic citizens from volunteering to face the temptations and dangers which beset the pathway of the civic rulers of Toronto. It is pleasing to find so large a number whose consciousness of personal virtue and business ability makes them willing to brave all perils if they may but have opportunity to restore the fair fame of the city, and at the same time write their names on the honour roll of those who shall hereafter be declared by the voice of a grateful people to have deserved well of their fellow-citizens. Among so many competitors it can scarcely be assumed that all are equally worthy. It becomes, therefore, the duty of every elector to make himself as fully acquainted as possible with the character and record of every candidate, and to vote only for those who he is per-