

a necessity which is not always admitted. The assumption that we shall have the option of remaining in our present condition as long as it suits our convenience is made with as much assurance as if it were beyond all reasonable doubt. But surely this condition will, in the future, have its anomalies and its perils. What right have we to expect that we can always depend upon being defended by the army and the navy of Great Britain, without cost to ourselves; and that nothing will ever occur to prevent England being able to accord us that protection on which there are people who tell us we can confidently rely for an indefinite period of time?

MEMBERS of the British Association would scarcely consider themselves entitled to speak for the politicians, or to seek distinction by advocating a reconstruction of the British Empire. But in the tentative stage of the question of Imperial Federation, any one of them might throw out a feeler, by which some vital part of the scheme might be brought under the test of public discussion. The Governor General, at the inaugural meeting, had led up to the point by assuming that all good citizens of the empire are determined to promote a closer intimacy between the Mother Country and her offspring. Nothing can be more natural than such a desire, so far as it has its source in the sympathy which may become a strong bond between English-speaking people, in whatever quarter of the globe they may be. But Lord Landsdowne had special reference to the political aspect of the proposed new form of union, and if he commended a sympathy which reaches beyond the bounds of allegiance, he only assigned it a secondary place. The way being opened, Mr. Stephen Bourne entered upon it with a confidence which, it is not difficult to see, experience had not inspired. It has from the first been evident to all who have given the subject any consideration, that Imperial Federation implies a common tariff and a common fund for external defence. At the recent meeting in London, intended to place the project prominently before the public, care was taken not to state what, in the most essential particulars, its realization would imply. Mr. Bourne had no such squeamishness. He rushed boldly into the advocacy of a common tariff, for a reconstructed British Empire, and the proceeds of the tariff he still more boldly proposed to throw into a common fund for defence. Mr. Bourne deserves the thanks of every Canadian for thus frankly stating, at the very outset of the discussion, the real exigencies of Imperial Federation. But his frankness was fatal to the object which he undertook to advance. He has effectually killed Imperial Federation. Everywhere, from one end of Canada to the other, he will be met by an adverse response. Even Sir Francis Hincks, the most imperial of imperialists, in sentiment had anticipated the objection and admitted its force. Canada cannot be induced to give up the regulation of her tariff; and if she could be induced to do so, the proposed surrender of the customs revenue would leave her without the means of meeting her engagements. The matter is not one of sentiment, but of necessity.

A MOVEMENT has been started in Montreal which is intended to end in a grand banquet to Sir John Macdonald to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the chieftain's entrance into political life. Sir John's public career, long when measured by an individual life, short when compared with the life of a nation, has outlasted one form of Government which, forty years ago, was thought to contain elements of permanency. On his first appearance in the Legislature of Upper Canada, the legislative union was in its infancy; he witnessed, in succession, the full vigour of its manhood, its decline, decrepitude and death. Dreams of a Federal Union of all the Provinces had before been indulged in; but that they would ever be more than dreams no one seriously believed in the year 1844. Responsible Government was in its tentative stage; and there was much friction in the working of the new machinery. Only ten years elapsed before Sir John Macdonald could be said to have matured sufficiently to have become, if not the peer of any one in the Legislature, a conspicuous second, in debating power and knowledge of public business. The time was to come when his supremacy would be so complete as to command general consent. But more than to his power as a debater, or his knowledge of public business, Sir John owes his success to his skill in the management of men. In the natural course of things, the days of his decline cannot be far off, if signs of their coming have not already shown themselves. But in that art of the politicians' arts, the management of men, he still retains pre-eminence. During his official career, he has often been able to repair the waste of party strength by attracting aid from the ranks of former opponents; and to this extraordinary resource his unusually long command of a parliamentary majority is in a large measure due. To sudden surprises in legislation he has been opposed; but he has not attempted a vain resistance to a well-matured conviction shared by a large majority of the population. His

economic theories are not likely to pass with posterity as sound; but there is no doubt that he entertained them long before he attempted to put them into practice, with the sincerity with which a lightly-read economist accepts fallacies which he has not acquired force to reject. The ovation to Sir John will be a party ovation, which may serve as a set-off to that which awaits Mr. Mowat, on his return from a *politico-forensic* mission to England.

DR. HINGSTON, of Montreal, at the recent meeting of the British Association, claimed for the French Canadians the distinction of being the most prolific race in America. Without stopping to consider whether the claim be well founded, the contrast between the French Canadians and the people from whom they sprung is about as great as can well be conceived. Early marriages among this young people are far from accounting for the difference; nor can the reason be found in dissimilarity of food, clothing and the general condition of well-being. The population of New England are in the enjoyment of at least as great comfort as the French Canadians, and their ratio of increase is far less than that of the French Canadians. The French in France and the Americans in New England increase slowly from choice more than necessity. In France, where population presses on the means of subsistence, a larger birth-rate would be compensated by an increase in the death-rate of the young; but the extra mortality is prevented by a voluntary restriction of the birth-rate. And the operation of the same motive restricts the birth-rate in New England, though the restriction is not enforced by the same stern necessity. But the increase of the French Canadians, great as it is, was vastly overrated by the speaker. The number of them in the United States is very far short of the million that was put to their credit. That the descendants of the French, on the banks of the St. Lawrence, exceed in strength the Frenchmen of to-day, may be due to the desolating effect of the Napoleonic wars; but the difference in fecundity is only slightly, if at all, attributable to that cause. That some modification of race-characteristics is being produced by the difference of climate and a change in the general conditions of existence is not surprising; on the physical side, the modification may be an advantage, whatever may be the intellectual effect of an admixture of Indian blood.

EIGHT hundred intelligent and educated Englishmen, even if they had no special knowledge of science, could not travel thousands of miles through Canada with their eyes open without learning much about the country of which no misrepresentations can in future deprive them. It will be their own fault if they do not carry away with them a considerable stock of positive knowledge regarding the country and its resources. The papers read before the British Association, not alone by Canadians but also by specialists among themselves, would greatly aid the enquiries of those who desired to make the trip to the Rocky Mountains something more than a holiday excursion. As a result, Canada must become better known in England than ever before. The special knowledge obtained by each individual visitor will have a tendency to spread and be absorbed among his intimates. The visitors must become convinced that there exists in the North-West a vast field for immigrants. Hitherto Australia has attracted the better class of emigrants, and though the tide may continue to flow in that direction, it may flow with feebler force. The claims of Canada cannot fail to find among our visitors on their return some volunteer advocates whose personal convictions will be their sole motive to speak. If they recommend persons in search of land to cultivate to seek it in Canada they will do so chiefly because they believe such advice will be for the benefit of the emigrants. Scarcely any event which could have happened would have done so much to make Canada known in England as the meeting of the British Association in this country; the knowledge of possibilities is even more important than of actualities—of the future than the present. The desert prairie over which so many of them will pass is nothing as a possession; as a possibility it is full of promise which may give rational life to hope.

THE Lawn Tennis Tournament held in Toronto since our last issue to decide the championship of the Dominion of Canada has shown that during the past year a great improvement in play has taken place. The judgment and skill displayed in the third round of the open singles in the match between Mr. Hellmuth, of London, and Mr. Hynes, of New York, were specially noticeable, but the chief interest of the tournament centered in the final contest between Mr. Hellmuth and Mr. Hyman, also of London. As our readers are aware, the best English players now recognize the fact that the most successful plan of action is, *ceteris paribus*, that newer one by which the player endeavours as often as possible to make his returns by volleying from the service line, instead of as formerly, standing