

ciations of the word are not at all pleasing and the choice seems unfortunate. Still these are but minor questions and may be amended as experience shall dictate. On the whole, much good may be hoped for from the new legislation, based as it is on the wise maxim that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

It is a common remark in political discussions that the tendency of communities at the present day is altogether in the direction of consolidation. This is probably true as a rule, but it is not without exceptions. The present relations of Norway and Sweden present a case in which the tendency is decidedly towards separation, or, at the least, towards a looser form of political union. Whether it shall be the one or the other will, it is not unlikely, depend upon the answer which King Oscar may give to the proposal to refer the matters in dispute to the arbitration of a commission to be nominated by the Presidents of the United States, France and Switzerland. He is now governing by means of a minority Cabinet simply because there is no provision for an appeal to the people till the Storting shall complete its term, a year or two hence. Then the end will come, if not before. The truth is, no doubt, that the question whether the tendency of distinct peoples shall be in the one direction or the other depends mainly upon the prior question of affinities. Where both sympathies and interests draw toward union, or indeed when either does so very strongly, as is often the case in these days, the saying holds true. But in the case of the two states above named the affinity seems to be in a large measure wanting. They are in many respects unequally yoked. The Norwegians are an energetic, enterprising, trading people, whose merchant fleet is one of the first in Europe, and whose flag floats on every sea. The Swedes are deficient in enterprise, and their merchant marine is comparatively small. The former are free-traders; the latter protectionists. Hence the tendency to commercial jealousy and the demand of Norway for a consular service of her own. It is probably the consciousness of this disparity that explains the reluctance of King Oscar and the Swedes to grant the demand of Norway for a separate consular service. They regard the concession as but the entering of the wedge which would foretoken complete separation, an ultimate end which some of the Norwegian Radicals do not hesitate to avow. They are but small states and under a looser bond of union might be mutually helpful. That, and separation, are evidently the alternatives.

The struggle over the question of the Sunday-opening of the World's Fair at Chicago still goes on. The issue was, indeed, supposed to have been virtually settled by the decision of the Board of Directors about two weeks since to open the grounds, the

State and foreign buildings, and in fact all parts of the Exhibition except the buildings containing exhibits. This decision was reached in accordance with the opinion of the lawyer who presides over the legal branch of the management. The main question now is, it should be observed, not that of Sabbath-keeping, or of giving employees a day of rest, but of what is required by the condition attached to the vote of two-and-a-half millions of dollars by Congress. Some, probably many, who were not prepared to take a very decided stand against Sunday-opening on religious or other grounds, now maintain that the Managers, having accepted the Congressional appropriation with the condition of Sunday-closing attached, would be guilty of a dishonourable act and a gross violation of faith should they now either open the grounds unreservedly, or seek to evade the spirit of the tacit compact by adopting the legal subterfuge above referred to. Moreover the Commissioners, who are the National, as the Directors are the local, managers, are understood to deny the right of the latter to override or evade what they regard as the clearly expressed will of the nation. They may, therefore, take legal measures to prevent the carrying out of the purpose of the Directors. The latter are, on the other hand, threatened with legal proceedings by a Chicago citizen, who denies that either the Commissioners or the Directors have power to close a public park. For some reason the Directors failed to carry out their purpose of opening the grounds last Sunday, but it is said that they will do so next Sunday. It is not unlikely that the matter may give rise to some very complicated litigation. The Directors are between, not merely two, but several fires. Their main object is no doubt to get the largest possible amount of gate-money. But whether the Sunday half-fares would bring in more than might be lost through the staying away of conscientious citizens all over the Union, who feel strongly on the subject, must be another cause of perplexity.

A despatch from Port Huron, Mich., says that trade in that town has been seriously affected of late as a consequence of the exceptional vigilance of Canadian customs officers and detectives, who have been successful in exposing numerous smuggling operations on a small scale by citizens of Sarnia, and mulcting the offenders in heavy fines. The reports may be exaggerated, but they serve to call attention to a phase of the working of a high protective tariff which is not usually sufficiently considered. We refer to its effect in fostering dissimulation and blunting the edge of that nice sense of honour which cannot be too assiduously cultivated. No one who knows anything about the matter doubts that in spite of all the vigilance of officers a large amount of smuggling is done, not only by unprincipled hucksters who make a business of it, but by

respectable, and in all other matters, honest citizens. Indeed, it is no uncommon thing to meet with people esteemed by themselves and others exceptionally "good," who have persuaded themselves that there is no moral wrong whatever in evading the duty on small purchases for their own use or for that of their neighbours. When they are opposed to protection on principle, their arguments are somewhat after this fashion. "This article is mine. I have purchased it and paid for it its full value. Hence not even the Government has any right to step in and compel me to pay an additional sum for the privilege of taking it home and using it." But we are far from insinuating that the smugglers of this class are all enemies of the N. P. On the contrary, there is good reason to believe that the proportion of those who evade the payment of duty whenever possible is just as large amongst those who vote for protection as a policy as amongst those who do not, though how the former can defend their evasion, save on the principle that they believe in high taxation for all but themselves, we are unable to conjecture. Readers who pride themselves on taking thoroughly "practical" views of all questions may sneer at the ethical view of the case, but the morally thoughtful cannot fail to perceive that whatever tends to lower the moral tone of a large class of citizens, or to impair in any degree the delicacy of their sense of honour, tends to degrade the national character.

We hear strange reports from time to time concerning the alleged strength and purpose of the secret society known as the "Protestant Protective Association," which is said to have extensive ramifications on both sides of the international boundary line. It is not unlikely that the current notions with regard to the numbers and influence of this society may be a good deal exaggerated, in accordance with the tendency to mistake *omne ignotum pro magnifico*. Yet there can be no doubt that such a society exists; that its membership is not insignificant, and, if we may believe statements which we have seen over the signature of a respectable member, that its object is sinister. That object, as generally understood, and as openly declared by credible persons who claim to be members, is neither more nor less than to keep Roman Catholics out of office, and to depose those who already occupy public and official positions. A more unfair purpose could hardly be avowed, especially in a country like Canada, in which the citizens who are thus marked out for proscription at the polls not only constitute a very considerable part of the population, but are very largely in the majority in one of its provinces, and have special rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution. There can be no better test of the character of a given policy than a calm consideration of the state of things which would result should that policy completely