

police, is operating among us with the happiest effect. The facts, with regard to this as well as all the other aspects of the question are, exceedingly well marshalled in the pamphlet entitled "Ought I to Vote for the Scott Act?" which we commend, if it has not already commended itself, to the consideration of open-minded men. It is anonymous; but we believe we are warranted in saying that its author is unconnected with the Liquor Trade.

THE political moral deducible from the history of the Scott Act is not confined to the case of that Act: it is far-reaching as well as of great importance. A new source of peril in the working of our institutions has been disclosed. The questions which party takes up and on which it exacts the allegiance of its adherents are limited in number, and not always of first-rate magnitude. Other questions, especially social questions, though of the most vital importance to the community, are sometimes left open so far as party is concerned. With regard to the first class of questions, those on which party puts its stamp we are at all events governed by a majority, by whatever means that majority may be obtained. With regard to the other class we have not that assurance. A minority, may, by threatening each legislator and both parties collectively with its vengeance at the next election if they refuse to bow to its command, be enabled, especially when parties are nearly balanced, to force its hobby on the Legislature and the nation. To the existence of this fell power crocheteers are becoming daily more alive, and a vista of cliquish legislation opens before us.

FOR the difference between the conduct of Australia and that of Canada, with regard to the question of sending military assistance to the Mother Country, the reason assigned is that Australia must be beholden to the power of England for protection against German and French encroachment in her hemisphere. But is not Canada beholden to the power of England for the protection of her rights in the Fisheries Question, and in any other question that may arise on this side of the Atlantic? There is, perhaps, a deeper reason than this, or the interest of Australia in the Suez Canal, which probably has not been much present to the mind of any Australian upon this occasion. The Australian Colonies are entirely British. Canada, though always ranked as the premier colony of Great Britain, is very far from being entirely British. She includes a great French population with a marked nationality of its own and a very powerful Irish element, not to mention Americans. The French, though not hostile to British interests, are indifferent; and if France were Great Britain's antagonist, they would become hostile. The Irish are hostile already, and would certainly oppose any grant of money for the equipment of troops to be employed, as the Canadian contingent virtually and perhaps actually would be employed, in relieving the British garrison of Ireland. The resolution of sympathy with Irish Home Rule, that is to say with Disunion, almost unanimously voted by both Houses of the Canadian Parliament ought to have sufficiently warned England of the political influences which prevail in that assembly, and of the vanity of expecting from it effectual aid. It happens at the same time that our financial state and prospects afford only too good an excuse for confining our loyalty to demonstrations which make no demand on the public purse. Colonel Williams has offered to raise a regiment, which he may do, by the ordinary process of recruiting, if he is furnished with British funds, for nothing more than this is in his power. An ebullition of individual loyalty is the term truly applied by the *Mail* to his proposal. It is open to other Anglo-Canadians to make offers of the same kind, or, if they please, to show their affection for the Mother Country in a more substantial way by subscribing for the equipment of a small contingent of some sort. But Canada has made no offer, nor is she likely to make any. If we can do nothing else to help the Mother Country amidst the dangers which are gathering round her, at least we may tell her the truth. She has unfortunately not had it from Governors-General, High Commissioners, or anybody in high places. The day may come when she will see that those who have neither worn nor sought her titles have not been the least loyal to her at heart.

THE two members of the Royal Commission appointed to enquire into the effects of Chinese immigration upon the Pacific Province, M. Chapleau and Mr. Justice Gray, deserve credit for having dealt honestly and courageously with the subject. The Commission originated in a petition of the Legislature of British Columbia in which the question appears to have been pre-judged in the absence of sufficient evidence on which to base a reliable conclusion. The returns of convictions do not make good the complaint that the Chinese are exceptionally burthensome in connection with the administration of justice; neither do the facts disclosed by

the Commission prove that they are in the habit of evading taxation, or that they leave their sick and destitute to perish, all of which was charged against them. Last year they paid twenty-five per cent. of the whole import duties, and of the excise duties they paid more than two thirds; in Victoria and Esquimaux districts in each of the last two years they paid over three dollars per head of Provincial taxes, while in Victoria, in 1883, they paid into the municipal treasury nearly eight thousand five hundred dollars (\$8,414). Of the expense of the administration of police justice in Victoria, more than twice as much is due to whites, in proportion to the population, as to Chinese; and the disproportionately small number of Chinese sent to the penitentiary seems to prove that they are not exceptionally addicted to more serious crimes. They are remarkable for probity in all their business transactions, as bankers and others with whom they have financial dealings bear witness. The labouring class rigidly carry out the terms of any contract they may make; but where they have not personally been parties to a contract, as in a demand for taxes, they will avoid payment if they can. But the indisposition to pay taxes is not confined to the Chinese; some of the richest men in New York, the owners of many millions of bonds, have been known to swear that they do not own any personal property. The yearly business done by the Chinese is valued at over a million and a quarter of dollars (\$1,320,000). If the Chinese take or send their savings to China, each labourer spends in the country nearly the whole of his annual earnings, three hundred dollars a year, and transmits only thirty. But in his desire to withdraw his savings from the country he does not differ from the traders of other races in the Province. "Half the merchants in Victoria," says Commissioner Gray, "look forward to take their earnings, as soon as they deem they have realized sufficient to live on, to the Old Country." In China British traders do exactly what the British Columbians complain of in this respect. Provincial legislation makes the Chinese perpetual aliens, and then complaint is made that the disfranchised immigrants are not attached to the country. Rich Chinamen, if protected by local laws, would go to British Columbia, build houses, and become settled residents. At present, the most that any of those immigrants can do is to hope to return to their native country with the proceeds of their industry and thrift.

IN California, where Chinese are more numerous than in British Columbia, they have shown on a large scale what they are capable of doing. At San Francisco the Canadian Commissioners collected a large and valuable body of information on the subject. Witnesses who spoke from personal experience bore testimony to the faithfulness and patient industry of the Chinese immigrants. By the labour of Celestials four-fifths of the grading of the Central Pacific Railway was done. It was impossible to get white labour to do the work in a reasonable time. The powers of endurance displayed by the Chinese labourers were found to be equal to those of the white labourers; and at tunnelling in granite rock they were an overmatch for Cornish miners. Of all the hands that could be got they were the best for getting out railway ties. Sharing with the negro comparative immunity from the effects of malaria so destructive to the more delicate organization of the white man, they have been extensively employed in reclaiming lands subject to overflow. This labour white men could not have been got to do, and if they had attempted to do it their health would have succumbed to the influence of malaria. There are many other lines in which Chinese labour is non-competitive. Low-grade ores will pay for mining by Chinese, but not with white labour. Without Chinese labour the vineyards of California could not be cultivated anything like as extensively as they are; and this is true of other kinds of fruit-growing and hop-raising. As domestic servants the Chinese are good, without being free from objection. The rule is that they do not come into competition with skilled labour. Both in California and British Columbia they fill many a niche for which white labour could not be got. The Chinese immigrants are addicted to the use of opium, but the instances are rare where they deal in it contrary to the law, and they do not attempt to induce white people to acquire the fatal habit in which they themselves indulge. They are a scrupulously sober people. The women who accompany them from China are unfortunately nearly all of dissolute character, and the men as a rule are unmarried. But, as Commissioner Gray remarks, we must enquire whether the evil that surrounds the immigrants is normal or exceptional. Certainly they exist on the Pacific coast in an artificial state, well suited to engender the vices in which they indulge. Mr. Gray seems to have reason on his side when he expresses concurrence in the views of what he believes to be the majority of British Columbians who favour the immigration under "moderate restriction, based upon police, financial and sanitary principles, sustained and enforced by stringent regulations for cleanliness and the preservation of health." But the British Columbia Legislature is