

Canadian Election Courts have not at present one law for all, but practically different laws in different localities. It does not yet appear in what direction the Government propose to amend the Act, but in any case some nice questions will arise. Suppose for instance the judgment of the Quebec Courts be sustained, and it be found that the unexpired portion of the Parliamentary Session should be included in the six months' limit. What will be the effect upon the status of those who have been deprived of their seats under the opposite ruling? Will they have no redress for the legal injustice done them? It seems not unlikely that the whole question of the character and workings of the Election Act may come up for vigorous criticism.

THE course of the Opposition in the British Parliament seems to have been thus far marked by an unexpected and singular degree of moderation. It is possible that this unusual policy may have embarrassed the Government almost as much as a series of the most violent assaults could have done. Opinions are no doubt divided as to the motives which have led to this change of tactics on the part of Messrs. Gladstone and Parnell. While some may regard it as proving that these astute leaders have discovered that public sentiment will no longer condone obstructive measures, others suspect, apparently, a deep design, and await developments with more or less of uneasiness and suspicion. It is quite possible that the secret lies no deeper than in the wish of the Opposition to have the arena of conflict transferred as soon as possible from Ireland to the home field. When the Government submits its instalment of home rule for England and Wales, they think, very likely, that their time will have come, and that they will be able to make their attack upon a divided party, instead of the solid one which confronts them at every turn on the Irish question. It is hardly to be expected that the Session can proceed very far without some severer engagements than have yet been had. The ready acceptance by the Opposition of the new procedure rules may have been due simply to the sound common sense and "sweet reasonableness" of the one-o'clock closing and other innovations; or it may have been prompted by the wish to facilitate business that the crucial test of the Municipalities Bill might be the sooner reached. There is also the further possibility before hinted at, that the Radicals, anticipating a future return to power, hail the new weapon as a most effective one, made ready to their hands, for the accomplishment of their own legislative purposes.

A GRATIFYING proof that patriotism may still, upon occasion, rise superior to party feeling was afforded in the course of a discussion of Foreign Affairs in the British Commons last week. Notwithstanding that Mr. Labouchere had a somewhat mischievous and reckless resolution to offer in regard to the foreign policy of the Government, Mr. Gladstone rose and expressed in the most handsome manner his satisfaction with Lord Salisbury's assurances that the Government were not committing the nation by any entangling alliances. The veteran ex-Premier approved generally of Lord Salisbury's foreign policy, and declared his hope and conviction that should England's intervention become necessary it would be made in such a manner as to carry with it all the added weight of unanimity in Parliament. The Leader of the Government in the Commons was of course highly gratified with this action, which he said was worthy of England's ancient reputation, while Mr. Labouchere was glad to be permitted to withdraw his motion.

THE Gladstonian victories in the boroughs of Southwark and Edinburgh West, which caused so much jubilation in the ranks of the Home Rulers, have been already in part offset by the signal triumph of the Unionists in the West Riding of Yorkshire. This defeat was unexpected, and seems to have caused considerable dismay amongst Gladstonians and Parnellites. These alternations are no doubt due rather to some of the local and personal influences so potent in bye-elections than to any marked fluctuation in popular sentiment in the different districts. Two or three other contests are soon to occur which may perhaps afford better means of judging whether Home Rule is making the progress amongst the English democracy which its advocates assert, and the Tories and Liberal-Unionists deny.

THE Reading strike that has been so long in progress has now been "ordered off," and is no doubt virtually at an end. The only advantage that seems to have been directly gained by the strikers is the rather dubious one of a promise by the Company to negotiate in regard to the future rate of wages. Possibly a greater though an indirect benefit may result from the revelations that have been made in regard to the workings of the road,

and the dishonesty in management which has loaded it with its present enormous debt of one hundred and sixty millions. The Congressional investigation has, it is said, done something to confirm the charge that the managers have been trying to pay off this debt by beducting it out of the wages of the miners. The result has illustrated afresh the need of some reliable tribunal for the settlement of such disputes, and the folly of proceeding, as strikers and fighters generally do, upon the converse of what the *Christian Union* terms "the very simple principle, that negotiation should precede, not follow, war." The settlement, in the great majority of cases, is in the nature of a compromise which might have been much better, and ought to have been more easily, effected before than after the exhausting struggle.

THE action of the National Democratic Committee of the United States, in fixing June 5th for the National Convention in St. Louis, instead of the later date at first favoured, argues confidence in the strength of the party and its proposed platform. It was at first proposed to appoint July 5th as the time for the great meeting. In favour of this it was urged that it would give an opportunity to find out the platform and the nominations of the Republican Convention which takes place about the middle of June, and also probably to learn the action of Congress on the tariff issue. But the Democratic leaders seem, after deliberation, to have gathered pluck and resolved to take the lead and lay down their programme boldly, without waiting to watch the course of either their opponents or of Congress. This is no doubt a wise decision. The people admire courage and manliness in their party leaders. By coming to the front with a clear and definite policy and a strong candidate, such as they are pretty certain to agree upon in Mr. Cleveland, the Democrats will get such a start of their opponents that victory will be well nigh assured at the outset. Instead of the action of the Democratic Convention being influenced by that of Congress in regard to the question of Tariff Reform, it now seems quite probable that the converse may take place. The Convention has been fixed at a date which will very likely precede that of final action upon the Bill which may be submitted to Congress by the Committee of Ways and Means. Action upon the recommendations of the President's Message must be initiated by the House of Representatives. As the Democrats are in the majority in this body there seems good reason to suppose that it will approve such a moderate measure of tariff reduction as is likely to be brought before it. The *New York Star* defines as a "just and reasonable measure," one "which will reduce the taxes to the extent of about eighty millions a year, and which will effect the reduction by making free the materials most used in our industries, and by greatly diminishing taxation upon the commodities that are necessary to life." Iron, coal, salt, lumber, and wool will probably be placed upon the free list as being both necessary to life, and the raw material of thousands of industries. It is needless to say that the action of Congress will be watched with interest by Canadians. It so happens that each of those commodities named is one of the staple productions of some parts of the Dominion. While the action of the Congress and people of the United States will no doubt be dictated solely by a regard to the welfare and progress of their own country, it so happens that the course which is undoubtedly best in their interests would also give a great stimulus to the branches of industry represented in Canada. From this somewhat selfish point of view, irrespective of their opinions which will no doubt be divided in regard to the larger questions at issue, Canadians may wish success to the Democrats in their efforts to secure Tariff Reform.

THE *London Mail* publishes a letter written by the editor of *Gatzuk's Gazette* in Moscow, to a subscriber in England who complained of the irregular arrival of the paper. The statements, which may, we presume, be accepted as facts, bring into gloomy relief the tyranny of the press censorship in Russia. The editor, A. Gatzuk, undertakes to explain why it was that after appearing with unfailing regularity for twelve years his paper became irregular of a sudden. Through the influence of Katkoff, who used to praise the freedom of press and speech enjoyed in Russia, M. Gatzuk says the paper underwent such tortures at the hands of the Censor and the Minister of the Home Department, Tolstoy, as "could not be borne by any paper in the whole world, even during one year." These tortures were "the frequent confiscation of single numbers; refusal even of permission to state that the non-appearance of the paper was not the fault of the editor; the forced suspension of the paper in the busiest time for subscriptions; the prohibition of the retail sale for a whole year; and, finally, the closing of our printing office (the oldest private printing house in Russia) and keeping it under seals without being allowed even to sell it." In order to secure the regular appearance of the paper the publishers