

son's attitude: this will be Mr. Pugsley's attitude. The master was the late Hon. Andrew G. Blair who cancelled the contract whereby the Canadian Pacific had certain rights in I. C. R. territory, who extended the I. C. R. to Montreal, and who would have made the I. C. R. and the National Transcontinental two parts of the one system. Mr. Blair declared that the I. C. R. should be kept, managed and controlled for the people of Canada, and Mr. Pugsley maintains that such will be his policy when he enters Dominion politics. This is the policy which suits the people of the Maritime Provinces, without doubt.

Mr. Pugsley failed to say what he thought of the idea of placing the Intercolonial in the hands of an independent commission. Perhaps there would have been a chill among the supporters of the honourable member-elect for St. John, if he had pledged himself to such a reform.

**A** TABLE in the cafe of the King Edward Hotel of Toronto around which sat six young French-speaking Canadians the other day was a sign of the times. They were all in the Queen City bent on securing business and if we may judge by their conversation they were getting it. The Ontario English-speaking Canadian has been accustomed to complacently regard his Quebec countrymen of the French tongue as his inferior in point of business ability. The younger generation of French-speaking Canadians is not willing to accept a position of inferiority in business and is demanding the respect of the manufacturing and commercial interests of all Canada. Factories and warehouses which, under the management of fathers, were content with provincial connections, are, under the management of sons, looking abroad for Dominion and world wide markets. The barriers are breaking down. What Sir Wilfrid Laurier has done in politics hundreds of his compatriots can do in business. If we must have rivalry between French and English-speaking Canadians, let it be that of honest, healthy business competition, a fair field, no favours and the best men win.

**A** FEW days ago a Baptist minister of England proposed that the Osler chloroform doctrine should be applied to the ministers of his church, reasoning that a quick easy death is preferable to a long drawn out struggle against starvation. The suggestion serves to remind us of the pitifully small salaries paid the Protestant ministers. Probably these salaries are no smaller than they were ten years ago, but they certainly purchase less. The wages of labourers and artisans of every class—mainly through the influence of trade unions—have been increased in recent years to meet the cost of living. The minister has no trade union to protect him, his income is dependent upon the spirit which moves his congregation and in the matter of increasing salaries the spirits have not been working overtime. Preaching the gospel is undoubtedly a divine-called mission, but when the salary attached to the mission is barely sufficient to keep body and soul together and leaves nothing for books, travel or the proper education of children the likelihood is that young men who are worth while will be hard of hearing when the call comes. As a matter of fact the pulpits of our churches are being replenished with men who in learning and culture are

scarcely the equals of the members of their congregations. The influence of the church is diminishing in proportion to the deterioration of the clergy. There is many a collection taken up to proselytise the Buddhist of far-off India which would not come amiss in the parsonage at home. All speed to the movement for church union which it is hoped will give us fewer ministers, better supported and of higher calibre.

**A** PARENTLY some strange fate has cast upon Mr. Birrell, a literary man of peculiar moderation, the task of framing the most highly controversial measures of the present English Government. If he sowed the wind of party strife when he brought down the Education Bill, with his proposals for an Irish Council, he will reap the whirlwind. Nor is he any more certain of success in his present effort. The Nationalists who have never believed greatly in the half-loaf theory, will probably demand changes. The Unionists urge already that if the Irish are allowed to settle their own affairs at home, they should not deal in the House of Commons with exactly similar matters affecting England and Scotland. And the Lords, with their strong anti-Home-Rule traditions, will probably send the measure the way of the Education Bill. If they are doomed, they may as well be hanged for a sheep. Yet out of the controversy arises the suggestion of a real solution through Home Rule all round. When England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales manage each their local affairs in separate Houses or Councils, and combine to deliberate upon common interests in the Parliament of the United Kingdom, then Ireland will have control over her own executive, and will be indissolubly knit to the Empire.

**I** MAGINATION is staggered by the statement just handed out from Ottawa regarding the area of arable land available for settlement in the West. Up to the end of this summer there will have been surveyed 120,000,000 acres, and north and east of Edmonton alone there is at least as much.

**A** GOODLY HERITAGE Evidently "The Last West," as American newspaper and magazine writers have dubbed our Canadian heritage, is a misnomer. There seems to be several last Wests, and we do not seem to be within sight of the penultimate one. It will be decades before what is now known as the last West shall have been filled up. Then will come to be exploited the Hudson Bay basin, the great territory north of the Saskatchewan, the northern foothills of the Rockies and, perhaps finally, the Peace River district.

And agriculture will by no means claim all of these. The Peace River district alone seems to be self-contained, with its vast store of precious minerals, petroleum and coal. Its long days and comparatively mild temperature are well known in the prairie land. A man from four hundred miles north of Edmonton was talking in Winnipeg the other day. "I would not live in Manitoba," said he. "The winters are too cold. If you want a decent winter climate, come to Northern Alberta. The meteorological reports will bear me out."

And, when those reports were consulted, they did bear him out. Even in the Old West, the Last West is not nearly as well known as is Ontario or Quebec.

## Peanut Politics and Politicians

**A** CERTAIN cabinet minister in a certain province decided upon a clever Young Canadian, now resident in the United States, to preside over a scientific institution under his charge. He made a Recommendation to his Colleagues of the Cabinet accordingly.

Said they of the Cabinet "Is his father a Grit or a Tory?"

The Certain Cabinet Minister bowed his head in sorrow and through his rough moustache he whispered the fatal word.

Whereupon all the other Cabinet Ministers picked up their Blue Pencils and stabbed that Recommendation to death. And the Editor declares this to be a true story.