

the community instead of for the profit of corporations. Recently, the Pittsburg "Post" in discussing the franchise question said:—

"The Milwaukee Street Railway Company appreciates the tendency of the times, and has made to the city a proposition which it would have scoffed at ten years ago. The company agrees to gradually reduce its fares from five cents to four cents by means of commutation tickets upon condition that the city will extend its franchise ten years. In consideration for a ten years' extension, with the right to extend its lines at certain points, the company agrees not only to a gradual reduction of fares, but also to permanency of transfers, and also that the city shall have the right to purchase the tracks and other tangible property of the company at any time, upon an agreement as to the price to be paid, and also agrees to sell its tracks and other tangible property to the city at any time at a price to be fixed by arbitration. The Milwaukee Company's franchises are limited as to time, but will not expire until 1924. Yet even an extension of ten years is considered so valuable as to justify a reduction of fares as a concession to the people who own the franchises, and the agreement by the company that the city may purchase at its option."

#### Criminal Statistics.

From the report of criminal statistics for the year ended September 30th, 1898, it appears that the number of charges for indictable offences during the year was 8,153, against 8,027 in 1897, an increase of 126. Out of the above number of charges there were, in 1898, 2,247 acquittals, 29 detained for lunacy, and 90 cases in which no sentence was given, against 2,172 acquittals, 13 detained for lunacy, and 121 cases receiving no sentence in 1897. The number of convictions is thereby reduced for 1898 to 5,787, and to 5,721 for 1897, in the following proportions, by provinces:

INDICTABLE OFFENCES.

Provinces.	Number of Convictions.		Number of Convictions, per. 10,000 inhabitants.	
	1897	1898	1897	1898
New Brunswick.....	95	104	2.95	3.23
Prince Edward Island...	42	37	3.84	3.38
Nova Scotia.....	255	240	5.18	5.24
Manitoba.....	245	200	12.07	9.40
Quebec.....	1,737	1,603	11.05	10.10
Ontario.....	2,855	2,900	12.77	12.85
The Territories.....	170	190	13.58	14.56
British Columbia.....	322	513	21.73	32.33
Canada.....	5,721	5,787	11.06	11.06

This table shows that, although the number of convictions is about the same for both years, the increase during the year has been considerable in the Province of British Columbia, while a noticeable decrease is found in Quebec, all the other provinces showing very slight changes.

**The Coming New Province.** The object, aim and purpose of this journal being to express honest, independent public opinion, and to avoid giving utterance to any views colored by political consideration or warped by party prejudice, we hasten to disclaim any "inspiration" from St. John's or Ottawa for our recent articles upon Newfoundland, in which we have advocated the union of that Island with the Dominion of Canada. Although the "Evening Telegram" of St. John's, Newfoundland, is pleased to characterize the reference to Mr. Reid as "mere rubbish and nonsense," we are not to be deterred from thinking that the changed condition of affairs in Newfoundland is largely owing to the energy of the great contractor, and the assistance rendered to the colony by the Canadian banks opening branches in St. John's and elsewhere. The angry critic of our comments upon the coming new province of Canada says: "It is unfair to the taxpayers of Newfoundland to give Mr. Reid credit for any of the improvements which have been made here during the past ten years. Before then, or until 1889, his name was not known in the colony."

We have no desire to discuss the political affairs of the Island, especially with a correspondent who can thus belittle the works of Mr. Reid and claim everything for party purposes.

The "Telegram" says: "The policy of progress adopted and put into operation by the late Liberal Government has led to the 'prosperity' to which Mr. Reid refers; and, if that Government had remained in power, Newfoundland would now be the most prosperous colony in the British Empire. It is true that our 'financial resources are fully equal to our needs.' Nay, if properly used, they would be sufficient, under clean and competent government, to develop all our great natural resources."

We must content ourselves with reiterating the growing belief of those who are not blinded by prejudice and passion, that to the Island standing at our gates, rich in natural resources, union with Canada would mean deliverance from restrictions political and mercantile and financial, which in the past have hampered its progress and retarded its development.

We honestly believe and stoutly maintain that Confederation would give new life, new powers, new hopes, new energies to the Islanders, and the Dominion in welcoming Newfoundland as a new province would have its national pride and strength expanded by the consciousness that Canada comprised all the North American Colonies of the British Empire. We entertain sanguine anticipations that the Island, which became a British Colony in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, will continue to adorn the British Crown when re-set as one of the jewels of the diadem made up of the Provinces of this Dominion.

Despite the acrimony displayed by our St. John's correspondent in his review of our former articles, we still believe in the desirability of the union of Canada with Newfoundland, not, as he claims, for the selfish purpose of benefiting the Dominion, but for the sake of adding to the happiness and prosperity of both countries by the development of the great natural resources which the Island possesses as well as for other obvious reasons.