

toba School question is the *bite noir* of Liberal and Conservative alike, and yet they are both unwilling to go back to first principles either for the cause or a remedy.

A nation without a national system of schools is no nation, nor ever can be a nation, and the sooner we Canadians come to recognize this ethical principle, the sooner will there be born among us a true national spirit. "Let me write the ballads of a people, and I will soon make a nation of them," says some one of our so called Canadian statesmen repeating from the statement of another. But the prophet has yet to come into sight who will say in our hearing "Introduce some function in our political administration that will lead to the consolidating and assimilating of our school systems and educational interests, and before long it will not be difficult to see a new force at work, weaving the threads of a permanent sentiment that will bring all the Canadas together as one Canada, working for her legitimate national aggrandizement. To discuss such a broad question as the above will require

time, and yet in its enunciation, there is to be caught a glimpse of what every Canadian desires, if only the means were at hand to bring it about. It will be the policy of the CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY to keep this ultimate point constantly in view, and to work for its realization. Far be it from us to advocate any change in the constitution of the country which would tend to undermine our so-called provincial autonomy. Each province must be in charge of its own school system. All that may be urged in this connection is that the central government of our country, in whose direct keeping is our national pride, should not be kept at arm's length in regard to our schools and school systems, only to find itself in hot-water now and again when party spirit and denominational strife sets the political pot a-boiling. In other words, the time has come when the Dominion Government must have official cognizance of what is going on in the various parts of the country, and it is our intention to see that this is done, either in connection with some of the present departments, or in connection with a regularly organized Canadian Bureau of Education.

CURRENT EVENTS AND COMMENTS.

A PROPOS of the agitation which Monseigneur Langevin feels bound of necessity to keep up in Canada, the following anecdote may be put on record. It is told by one who had it from the master of a Board School in England.

"The head master of a Board school told me an amusing story this week. We were sitting in the room in which he transacted the business of the school, and wherein he constantly received the parents of the children—he declines to take a child, I may say, until he has seen the

parent. The room was hung with pictures and photographs, and looked uncommonly comfortable. 'Do you see that?' said the master, pointing out to me a photograph of Cardinal Newman. 'Yes.' 'Well, a parent came here the other day, and his eyes at once fell upon the Cardinal.' 'Oh!' says he, 'I'm sorry you are a Roman Catholic'—and his face fell very low, for he was going to place his child under my charge. 'A Roman Catholic!' I laughed. 'I'm not a Roman Catholic. Why, what makes you think that?' 'Well,' says he, 'that