

their prominent men they bury him at Spencerwood—not the cemetery, but Government House. Then when they require him, there he is ready to be resurrected.

Canada's Defences.

Mr. Foster's resolution authorizing a loan of \$3,000,000 to be used in the defence of the Dominion came in for a large share of the House's attention on Tuesday and was adopted but not until the Opposition had said a good many severe things in criticism of the expenditure of a large sum of money without consulting Parliament. The Finance Minister in speaking to his resolution explained that between \$1,800,000 and \$1,900,000 worth of material had been already ordered from the War Office in Great Britain and would be delivered by the middle or end of October. This material, he said, comprised 40,000 Lee-Enfield rifles, 2,300 Lee-Enfield magazine carbines, four batteries, each consisting of six twelve-pounder guns, and an adequate supply of ammunition, all the material being the best that can be procured. It had been originally intended to buy fifty Maxim guns, but upon the advice of Lord Wolseley this order was cancelled the money being reserved for the purchase of artillery. Of the remaining \$1,100,000 about a fifth will be spent on equipment. A loan of \$3,000,000 more will be required next year. We congratulate the Government upon this substantial strengthening of the country's defences. In future emergencies there must be no ground for the feeling of helplessness which was ours during the crisis of last winter. Self-confidence alone will enable us to preserve that dignified demeanor that befits us in trying times. Prompt action was required and, therefore, we think that the strictures of the Opposition were uncalled for. As to the disposal of the \$900,000 yet to be spent, we would suggest that it be applied to giving the militia battalions more drill. No matter how excellent may be their weapons, unless they know how to use them they are likely to be more formidable to their comrades than to the enemy.

The Alaskan Boundary.

We rise to enquire how it was the Canadian Commissioner on the Alaskan boundary question came to agree to a surrender wrongfully of three millions of acres of Canadian territory and how it came to be left to the English civil servants whom Canadians are so fond of sneering at for their ignorance of Canada to find it out? There should be the strictest enquiry into this matter. We in Canada are always complaining of how we have lost territory through English bungling. Here we are loosing territory through our own bungling. If this Alaskan boundary business is a specimen of how Canadian interests are looked after it would seem as if we were unfit to handle them. An English Commissioner is to be appointed to correct our mistakes—can this ignominy not be avoided? Surely, we ought to be able to procure men who can do their business properly.

The New Ontario Statutes.

The Statutes of the last session of the Ontario Local House have just been issued as a supplement to the Gazette. They will form, when completely issued, a bulky volume, for they contain the consolidation of the school laws and one or two other long Acts. The most important novelty is Mr. Hardy's County Councils Act. It reduces the number of county councillors. Any movement in the direction of taking people out of the political or municipal arena, and thereby compelling them to mind their own business, will be gladly welcome. A reduction of the number of members of the Local House itself would not be out of order. As might be expected, the matters dealt with by the other

statutes are more or less of a domestic nature. The Municipal and Assessment Acts receive their annual amendment. On such points the Local House is like the Village Blacksmith, always at it, although Longfellow expresses it more poetically. The active and energetic Mayor of Toronto being on the right side of politics has had several useful Acts passed in the interests of the city. Each one, we are happy to say, is in the direction of saving of expense. It shews the advantage of having a friend at court.

The Board of Control.

The principal Act in which we who live in Toronto are interested is that establishing a Board of Control. The Council have chosen good men. Messrs. Lamb, Graham, and McMurich have all business capacity and could be trusted to be directors of a loan company or manage a financial concern. That is the kind of man the citizens wish to see put in charge of the city affairs. The Board has great power confided to it. It will make out the estimates, look after the letting of contracts, and have control of civic officials. Seven hundred dollars is a small salary to pay men who have such a responsibility put on their shoulders. Seven thousand dollars a year would be cheap to get really good work done. Meantime, we may congratulate ourselves on the appointments made. One of the most important points in the new régime is that the school trustees must submit their estimates to the Board of Control. We would suggest that the first thing the Board should insist upon is a comparative return showing the increase of expenditure in the last six years, say, coupled with a statement of the number of pupils attending the schools. The comparison will astonish them. Mayor Fleming has so far justified his triumphant return. He and the Board of Control have now a fair field—let them show no fear, favour, or affection and the citizens will back them up.

The Venezuela Question.

By the latest cable messages we learn that the English people are coming to understand precisely the drift of matters in the Venezuela question. The situation has really never changed since last December. The Americans have said to England: "We intend to look into this matter, and if, in our opinion, you are wrong, we intend to stop you." The English people have patiently submitted to what they thought a bit of bounce. But the report of the American Commissioners will soon be issued. What if it is adverse? England has given in a great deal in pausing at all. If she still pauses in her plans as they were proposed before the announcement of the American determination to investigate her claims, then the Americans may justly cry: "Check to your Queen." The English people now thoroughly understand what they are facing. Stranger things might happen than the despatch of the flying squadron to American waters. The American navy is stronger than the North American squadron, and an immediate reinforcement to that squadron would be necessary if the war cloud came rolling up again. It is not about Venezuela the conflict is. It is—Shall Britain any longer have a foot-hold in America? Shall Canada retain her independent existence or lose it?

England in Africa.

We are no jingoes; but we feel ourselves in deep sympathy with Great Britain in the attitude which she is now taking towards African questions. In the North and in the South alike, it is not only the interests of the Empire, but the interests of humanity at large, which are in question; and there can be no doubt that a bold and decided line of action is the best alike for Great Britain and for the native tribes