

all, it surely must have some prerogatives, some measure of supremacy. The idea of a Confederation of colonies, each individual member of which shall continue to bear the same individual relation to the Mother Country which is borne by the Union as a whole, is very like a contradiction in ideas. It would at least be a step downward and backward from the national conception, which is the corner stone of the Confederation, for the Provinces to approach the foot of the Throne and beg that the power of veto over their local legislation, which was at their own request handed over to their own central government, should be re-transferred and resumed by England. It is true of course that the absolute power of veto over Dominion Legislation, and therefore over that of the Provinces in their united capacity, now rests with the British Privy Council, and must rest there so long as the Colonial relation is continued. But surely much more of the Downing Street rule which was formerly so obnoxious is involved, and in a much more objectionable form, in its supervision of all the Acts of all the Provincial Legislatures, and those of the Dominion Parliament as well, than in the present arrangement. It is to be presumed that the plan of a Judicial Court, like the Supreme Court of the United States, to pronounce upon questions of jurisdiction must have been discussed at the Conference and found unsatisfactory. But what is needed is simply an impartial tribunal. Most Canadians will prefer that it should still be a Canadian tribunal. If we are forced to admit that this desideratum is impossible of attainment in Canada, the sooner we give up all national aspirations, dissolve the Union, and return to the status of a disconnected group of petty colonies, the better.

THERE is certainly one kind of reciprocity which honest people in both Canada and the United States would be glad to have made more nearly unrestricted between the two countries, viz., reciprocity in the rendition of each other's criminal refugees. The American Security Company, of New York, has petitioned the Senate in favour of the adoption of the Phelps Extradition Treaty, on which no action was taken last session. The vice-president of the company, in addressing the Senate, read a formidable catalogue of the defaulters who have escaped from New York and other American cities to Canada within the last year or two, together with the amounts of their respective defalcations. The list is a formidable one. No doubt it could be offset with one proportionally large of those who have, for similar reasons, fled from Canada and found refuge across the border. It is undoubtedly true that the ease with which the criminal can escape with his dishonest gains from either country to the other, and the immunity such escape brings, offers a premium to weak men in positions of trust to be dishonest. The present state of affairs is a disgrace and a moral injury to both countries. The remedy is in the hands of the United States Senate.

THE tariff reform campaign is now fairly opened in the United States. The war-note sounded in the President's address, and re-echoed by the rattling fire of the press skirmishers, has now been followed up by the firing of the first guns in Congress. As the two parties fall into line of battle and begin to come to close quarters, the field is more clearly outlined. The high-tariff men, led by the *Tribune* and Senator Sherman, both taking their cue evidently from Mr. Blaine's Paris deliverance, have chosen their position. That position in its main features is singularly significant of the great influence of the new force that is making itself felt more and more in American politics—the labour vote. The Republican leaders are posing, not mainly as the friends of the manufacturers, or the advocates of abstract Protectionist theories, or even as the guardians of industries struggling in perpetual infancy, but as the champions of labour. They set themselves for the defence of the American workingman against the cheap labour of Europe, which, it is contended, would, under a reduced tariff, flood the country with its products, and compel the American manufacturers either to reduce wages or to close their factories. If the Protectionist leaders can but succeed in convincing the labour organizations that every reduction of the rate of taxation upon imported goods means a corresponding reduction of the income of American wage-earners, farewell to all hope of tariff reform. But the manœuvre will not prove an easy one in the face of skilful opponents. Some proof will probably be required in the first place that the prices now paid by manufacturers are determined by actual cost of production, rather than by the law of supply and demand. Awkward questions will be asked concerning the relative prices of the necessities of life in Europe and in the United States, and the causes of the difference. The general effect of high tariffs upon the cost of living will be canvassed. In fact, it seems not improbable that the whole wide issue between Free Trade and Protection will be discussed more fully than ever

before on this side of the Atlantic. Popular fallacies die hard, and it is scarcely to be hoped that sound economic views can win the day against all the forces of monopoly without a prolonged and determined struggle.

SOME of the inconvenient, troublesome, and seemingly absurd customs which survive in the learned professions, are perpetual mysteries to the ordinary lay mind. In the medical profession, for instance, the prevalence of what seem to outsiders meaningless formalities, but are to the fraternity jealously guarded rules of professional etiquette, are particularly noteworthy. An American Medical Board recently took upon itself to cancel the diploma of a physician because he persisted in the "unprofessional" practice of advertising. The disciplined doctor appealed to a court of justice which promptly and emphatically decreed that the action of the Board was illegal and unconstitutional, and that a medical practitioner has the same right as any other man to advertise his business if he pleases. It is gratifying to learn that, according to the English Medical journals, the proposal that physicians should for the future write their prescriptions in English rather than in Latin is gaining favour. It is hard to see how the dignity of the profession could be lowered by this simple reform, while it would save the public from danger of the repetition of such calamitous blunders, as that of the young chemist who nearly poisoned a patient by guessing at the ingredient described as *tinctura ejusdem*, or that of the sick farmer who was frightened to death by seeing at the foot of his prescription *bis in die*, which he interpreted, "He bee's goin' to die."

IT is perhaps useless at this distance to speculate on the probable causes and consequences of the seemingly sudden resolve of the Irish Land Commissioners to order a general reduction of rents, amounting on the average to fourteen per cent. As a matter of principle, if the Commissioners became convinced that such a reduction was necessary and right as a matter of justice between man and man, they were of course in honour bound to effect it, without regard to party consequences. As a matter of expediency, if we may judge from the tenor of the despatches that have so far reached us, it is generally regarded as a mistake, the concession being too small to propitiate the tenants and yet large enough to irritate and perhaps alienate the landlords. We fancy, however, that the latter are in a more reasonable and tolerant mood than that ascribed to them in the press telegrams. They must appreciate too highly the difficulties that beset the Government in its efforts to restore order in Ireland, to embarrass it by factious opposition to such measures as it may deem both just and necessary, in view of all the facts, which its members alone have before them. These remarks assume that Mr. Gladstone is right in regarding the reduction as substantially an Administrative Act. It is highly improbable, certainly, that under existing circumstances, the Commissioners would issue so sweeping an edict without the concurrence of the Executive. Fuller information may modify in important respects the telegraphic reports.

IT is pleasing to see that the modern educational expedient of manual training for the young is likely to be more effectively tried in Ireland. In no country in the world, probably, is it more needed. Some mathematical or statistical genius has calculated that £50,000,000 sterling are annually lost to that unhappy island by the non-employment or waste of the physical and mental energies of the people. A proposal was made early in the Jubilee year for the establishment of some experimental schools for industrial education. The idea has now developed into a larger one, that of the establishment of a Royal Industrial Society for all Ireland. The prospectus of the new Society states that "it is a well-ascertained fact that more than half of the physical energy of the Irish people is a dead waste of human life that ought to be employed in the improvement of our manufactures and agriculture. The State has provided for the manual as well as for the literary education of the masses, yet it is not practically given to or beneficially accepted by the poorest of the people. A large proportion of the children are never entered as scholars, and out of a million, whose names are on the register, the average attendance is not one-half." The plan of the new enterprise is to establish work-schools, and give a free education in manual and agricultural and domestic industries on the most improved methods experience has devised, and with the most competent teachers that can be obtained. The primary objects will be, 1st, to train the poorest from five to thirteen years of age in the most necessary and useful manual industries; 2nd, to secure for them remunerative employment; 3rd, to provide for them means for self-improvement. The headquarters of the Society will probably be in Dublin, with an auxiliary association in London. An appeal is made to the benevolent to come to the aid of the State with their wisdom and their contributions.