

opinion and receives into its composition all the virtues and vices of the people of the day; it is a true representation of the nation—noble, sordid; liberal, bigoted; honourable, knavish; prudent, reckless; generous, selfish; take the whole series of qualities, place them in antithesis and you will find the elements of a House of Commons, but where the people are honest, straightforward, thoughtful if not learned, we are sure to have a majority of representatives whose character will indicate the *manhood* of the nation. And this brings us to the choice of members of the House of Commons; throughout the Dominion certain districts are defined for the choice of one person to be a parliamentary representative; each Province has a certain number of representatives varied by proportion in population to the province of Quebec which has always 65 members; the men who elect these members are both naturally and necessarily men who have shown the power or fitness to perform their duties to the state, or rather we should say who by their action have proved their interest in the state. In any case a man's right to choose a representative in parliament should be limited by his capacity to help himself and help the community; so we in our constitution provide that no man with less than a certain value of property, or of holding shall vote for a representative to parliament. In this we are wise for reasons; a moving population might elect representatives whose legislation would cause them a temporary benefit; a permanently indolent population might, if in the majority, elect members whose legislation would wither the industry on which the community lived; a rich oligarchy might by bribes draw to the polls men whose votes would confirm a despotic rule over the really productive members of the people; and as the sole reason why government is organized is that it should protect life, honour and property, surely an estimate based on this last is reasonable in calculating a man's qualifications as a voter. In former times when the manhood of the nation paid personally in battle the tribute due by each, then every man fit to bear arms had or should have a voice in the councils of the tribe; the business then was to acquire by valour and to protect likewise all that could be taken from the stranger; now in a peaceful community we seek to produce from the valley and the mountain a wealth dependent often for its value on a state of peace, and therefore guarded as fully by the industry as by the courage of the inhabitants. So it is considered that every voter shall have a certain qualifica-

tion indicating generally industry or the result of industry. These voters electing members of the House of Commons are swayed by sympathy or absolutely submit to the public opinion above mentioned as party feeling, and when the national sentiment is honourable the result must be the election of a worthy representative house. Newspapers largely assist in linking public opinions and in forming parties. Their power in some crises is very great, and if it were not that a perfect freedom exists they might often do as much harm as good, but the opposition of other journals is always of value to correct the egotism which would try to convert a personal into a public opinion.

A question with many young Canadians, who study our government from a national point of view, is: what, if independence is forced on us by circumstances which we cannot control? how will we find our executive? how will we replace the sovereign's authority now granted to us from the English Privy Council?

This question of *devising* an authority to replace our present sovereign's delegate has been often laid aside by thoughtful men and yet it is one of the gravest questions that concern the colonies as off-shoots of the great British Empire. We look to a change some time in our relations with Great Britain and Ireland, and at present a frequent but not a general sentiment prevails that we must abandon our *approved* system of government, simply because in its natural growth the sovereign has a hereditary instead of a popular or judicial title. Now, to bring the patriotic young Canadian to a critical action, imagine a grand cataclysm, which would leave us to govern ourselves of necessity and to find our own sovereign; would it be wise to go to work wire-pulling every few years as in neighbouring states for the power to choose a more absolute sovereign than we ever suffered before? No. Therefore we should use the common sense which had hitherto guided the British people and in the selection of a possible sovereign take the most judicial person in the country; the Chief Justice of Supreme Court would therefore always be the successor to the throne, and his grave position would in every case have qualified him for the high seat of arbiter between popular parties.

In a later chapter we will consider the relative merits of federation and legislative union as applied to countries of large extent or diverse interests, for the present we wish our readers to fully appreciate the fact that in its actual value and in its facility of development our constitution has all the qualities needed for progress in civilization.

SPURIOUS WINES AND SPIRITS.

[ARTICLE 2.]

The adulterations of wines and liquors in Canada are eclipsed by those of the United States; there the rectifier at the cost of a license of \$200 and the small charge for a rectifier's stamp on each package marketed, is permitted to compound and sell as much as he can of untaxed falsified spirits. The Revised Internal Revenue Laws, Section 59, Act June 6, 1872, provide that:—"Every person who, without rectifying, purifying, or refining distilled spirits, wine or other liquors, with any materials, manufactures any spurious imitation or compounds liquors for sale under the name of whiskey, brandy, gin, rum, wine, spirits, cordials, or wine bitters, or any other name, shall be regarded as a rectifier, and as being engaged in the business of rectifying." Thus instead of condemning the poisoner's trade the United States laws actually favour the nefarious traffic, and any of the above mentioned liquors may be counterfeited or imitated by compounds of deleterious drugs and sold wholesale and retail to indiscriminating consumers. As we said in our last article the use of the poisonous substances employed in these spurious liquors cumulates the destructive influence of the alcohol used as a base. The rectifier produces from 2,000 barrels of tax-paid proof spirits a quantity of 10,000 barrels of the deadly compound, which are sold at prices more remunerative under the names of brandy, rum, gin, wines, &c. Thus the manufacturers avoid payment of four-fifths of an excise on substances which, as an injurious indulgence, were meant to pay a large sum to the revenues. It is calculated that in 1875, 44,217,000 gallons of rectified spirits were made and sold; of this 35,345,000 gallons were untaxed liquor, so that if the rectifier had been compelled to pay excise on his actual production a revenue of over \$50,000.00 would have accrued to the Treasury!

Our compounders of spurious wines, sham gins and other samples of blue ruin would, if we improved the opportunity, be compelled to pay an amount proportionately large into the Dominion excise fund, and if it is impossible to enforce any clause in punishment of falsification or adulteration, it might be well at least to collect a revenue by rectifier's stamps until experience should teach us the best means of crushing out the whole traffic. The practice has not been confined to men of the class whose natural occupation it would be; in some few cases houses of undoubted respectability have been pandering to the demand for inferior and spurious liquors. They should leave the