

and Sir Richard Cartwright have admitted that such a policy would be beneficial to the Dominion, and if they reasoned soundly, they must have assumed, we venture to say, that prices would be increased in Britain. But that would mean, as Lord Salisbury has told us, a state of things scarcely distinguishable from civil war. Otherwise "the advantage of ten or twelve per cent. in the British market," of which Mr. Hopkins speaks, must mean simply that foreigners are to get ten or twelve per cent. less for their products, not colonists ten or twelve per cent. more. Or it must mean that the British people would have to pay the colonists ten or twelve per cent. more for their products than they would have to pay but for the tariff, an idea which would be abhorrent to the British soul. Hence, we are still in the dark, and in the dark we fear we must remain.

WE are glad to learn that, as we anticipated, the Minister of Education is to introduce an Act for the prevention of truancy and the securing of universal elementary education, by compulsory measures when necessary. That such compulsion is necessary is sufficiently proved by the fact we have quoted in a former number, that more than 86,000 children in Ontario, between the ages of seven and thirteen, attended school in 1889 less than 100 days in the year. Eighty-six thousand children, out of a total population of perhaps two hundred and fifty or three hundred thousand between the ages named, is an appallingly large percentage to be permitted to grow up in almost total illiteracy. We are sure that every intelligent member of the House will be interested in making the proposed legislation as thorough and effective as possible. The principle of free elementary education once admitted—and the Canadian legislator who should now refuse to admit that principle would be a curiosity—there is absolutely no logical stopping-place short of enforced attendance at schools, and free text-books and apparatus. On what ground can universal taxation for the support of free schools be defended? Evidently only on the ground of the necessity of these schools for the safety and well-being of the State. The State has not only an inherent right, but it is its bounden duty to protect itself against the dangers arising from the ignorance of its citizens. But it is manifestly unjust as well as futile to compel intelligent citizens to pay taxes for this purpose without taking the measures necessary to ensure that those taxes shall be so applied as to effect the purpose for which they are imposed and paid. Here is the whole argument in a nutshell, and it is simply a marvel, when we come to think of it, that we have been so long content with such a state of things as that disclosed in the statistics referred to. Need we go on to show that, as it would be useless to crowd these sixty thousand odd children into the schools without the necessary books and other appliances for doing the work of the schools; as, moreover, it is reasonable to infer that most of them are children of indigent parents, if not actual orphans or waifs, it would be useless to expect them to come supplied with these appliances, it logically follows that provision should be made for supplying these essentials without charge? We suppose all that can be done at present is to clothe the school boards with the necessary powers, and leave to them the option of furnishing free school supplies, but we are sure that a trial of the plan in Ontario will result, as it has in many parts of the United States, in so demonstrating its utility that it will soon become popular. Another point should not be lost sight of by the Minister and the Legislature in this connection. This compulsory education, in order to produce the best results, should be in a large measure manual or industrial. This suggests a still larger and more difficult problem, but it is one to the solution of which statesmen and educators cannot too soon apply themselves in all seriousness. The idea of universal, free, compulsory education, as essential to the safety and well-being of the State, will have found its full logical development only when it has been provided, not only that no child shall grow up in illiteracy, but that none shall grow up without having been so far given the mastery of his bodily organs and perceptive faculties as to have within his reach the means of earning an honest livelihood by manual industry.

THE citizens of Montreal are to be congratulated on the enterprise and public spirit of Mr. Lovell, in having supplied them with a reliable census of the city's population, as well as with many other statistical facts relating to the property and progress of their city, which must be of great interest and importance to all concerned in its welfare. The very respectable number of 211,302

citizens gives the city, we believe, the tenth place in point of size among the great cities of the continent. The fact that over twenty millions, or nearly one-sixth of the whole one hundred and twenty-five millions' worth of property in the city is exempt from taxation, and so bears no share of the burden of civic expenses, is one which should give the thoughtful pause, though possibly Montreal is not much worse off than her sister cities in this respect. The number of hands employed in factories of various kinds speaks well for the industrial activity of the city, while the fact that during navigation 624 ocean steamships arrived, to say nothing of the 252 gulf, lake and river steamboats and the very large number of vessels of other descriptions, shows the position which the city has reached as a centre of commerce, and suggests the still larger possibilities of the future. We shall probably have to wait for the Dominion census in order to learn how closely Toronto is pushing her flourishing rival in the matter of trade and population. Happily each is pretty sure to profit by whatever adds to the real prosperity of the other.

THE announcement that the Dominion Government has decided not to veto the Manitoba School Bill, but to await the decision of the Supreme Court as to its validity, would be reassuring, were it not coupled with the intimation that, in case of the constitutionality of the Act being established, the Government will proceed to deal with it, as a Court of Appeal, in response to the petition of the Roman Catholic prelates, and by virtue of the authority vested in it by that clause of the Manitoba Act which provides that "an appeal shall be to the Governor in council from any Act of the Legislature affecting any right or privilege of the minority in relation to education." Referring to the ground on which such an appeal may be based we find it in the preceding clause of the Act which declares that "no provincial legislation shall prejudicially affect any right or privilege which any class have by law or practice in the Province at the union." The announcement in question has, it must be confessed, an ominous look. Should the Supreme Court pronounce the Act *intra vires* of the Manitoba Legislature, and the Dominion Government proceed, as intimated, to take up the question on the petition of the prelates, the situation will surely be a curious one. If the question which the Government would thus undertake to decide would not be precisely the same question upon which the Supreme Court would just have pronounced, the distinction would be exceedingly fine. In the Ottawa despatch we are told that the question now before the courts is: "Do they (the Manitoba Acts), as a matter of fact, prejudicially affect any right or privilege in regard to education which Roman Catholics had by law or practice when Manitoba became part of the union?" That being decided in the negative by the highest judicial authority in the Dominion, the Governor in council is then, we are told, to entertain an appeal from the Acts, the basis of appeal being the question whether the Acts affect any right or privilege of the minority in relation to education. That is to say, the Dominion Government is to sit in judgment on an appeal from the decision of the Supreme Court. At least that is how the thing presents itself to the lay mind. Of one thing we may be sure. Should the Dominion Government attempt to interfere with the working of the Act, after it had been pronounced constitutional by the courts, the cry of Provincial Rights would be raised with greater vehemence than ever before. Would it not be raised with stronger provocation, not to say justification?

NOTWITHSTANDING the contradictions and conflicts of party politics in Canada there remain, happily, a few facts and a few lines of policy upon which all must agree. Among the most important of these is the fact that the country affords ample scope and inducement for agricultural settlers, and that, seeing that a large increase in the number of such settlers is one of its most obvious and pressing needs, no reasonable expense or effort should be spared in making known its advantages in these respects abroad, and especially in the agricultural districts of the Mother Country. One of the most sensible plans that has yet been adopted for the furtherance of this object was the Government's action in inviting a number of gentlemen connected with the agricultural industry in the different parts of the United Kingdom, to visit in order the Provinces of the Dominion, and report freely and fully the results of their personal observations. The visits were, as we all know, duly made; every reasonable facility for

gaining correct information and reaching just conclusions was afforded, and the result has now been for a little time before the British public in the shape of four comprehensive Reports, prepared respectively by the representatives of different localities in the United Kingdom. Needless to say, these reports furnish to all interested in the Mother Country a mass of information of the most practical and reliable character, doubly valuable because prepared as the result of personal study on the spot, by men who know the condition and needs of those for whose benefit the information is intended and who have no personal or provincial ends to serve by any colouring of the simple facts. As a leading English newspaper observes, "they afford the reliable means of obtaining information concerning Canada which is free from the slightest suspicion of exaggeration such as might attach in the minds of many desiring emigrants to reports emanating from those who are avowedly anxious to draw population into the Dominion." After saying so much it is unnecessary to dwell, for Canadian readers, who need no information on the subject, upon the generally favourable character of the reports. Being truthful, they could not have been other than generally favourable, though, of course, at the same time discriminating. The results of the free distribution of these reports throughout the agricultural districts of Great Britain and Ireland will not be exhausted in a single season, or in many seasons, and we venture to say that these visiting tenant farmers will prove eventually to have been the most effective immigration agents ever employed by any Canadian Government. Whether the present Minister of Agriculture is continued in his official position or not, it must be admitted that the conception and carrying out of the plan of which these reports are the outcome and the establishment of the Ottawa Experimental Farm, will entitle him to remembrance as the originator of two of the most important movements that have yet been devised at Ottawa in the interests of Canadian agriculture.

THOUGHTFUL observers of the perpetual and disastrous struggles between capital and labour must often have wondered why a proximate solution of the whole problem has not long since been found in the principle of profit-sharing. The wonder still grows, for this system, in some of the many forms in which it has been and is now being successfully applied, must have in it the essential qualities of the remedy so sadly needed. Carried to its logical results the principle of profit-sharing should develop such potency for the correction of whatever is unjust in the ordinary distribution of the fruits of industry as would make it a veritable panacea for all troubles arising on this score between employers and employed. A Parliamentary return which has been recently published in England gives much interesting information with regard to the extent to which profit-sharing has already been carried in different countries. The chief forms in which the system is adopted may be briefly characterized as the bonus, the provident fund, the joint ownership system and the cash payment out of net profits. The bonus system, which consists simply of the distribution of a yearly gift or thank-offering to the workers, is fitly described as the "chrysalis stage of profit-sharing," and we shall not probably be far astray if we regard the order in which other methods are named above as indicating successive stages of its development. The cash-payment system, under which a percentage of the profits is added to wages, is said to be probably the most popular among workingmen. A good many firms combine different systems. For example the great undertaking of M. Leclaire, house painter and decorator, of Paris, combines, in its present development, the cash system, the stock system and the provident fund. According to the present organization of the Leclaire firm, 5 per cent. of the capital of 400,000 francs is deducted, like wages, to find the net profit, and of the net sum 50 per cent. goes to reward labour in cash, 25 per cent. goes to the management, and 25 per cent. to a great provident society, which, by the liberality of M. Leclaire, has become half owner of the capital of the firm. M. Leclaire's business, like that of some other eminent firms which have adopted the principle of profit-sharing, has been a splendid success. It is easily understood why this should be so when we consider some of the sources of the advantages to be derived from the system. These are classified as follows: 1. Reduction of waste of material. 2. Superior excellence in the work done. 3. Diminished expense of superintendence. 4. Greater stability in the staff, and consequent reduction of risk in commercial enterprise. 5. Increase of practical information connected with the