

pany by the Revd. Mr. Hill, a prominent Presbyterian clergyman, in well chosen, genial, and kindly words. In his response Mgr. Merry Del Val paid a charming tribute to the noble personal character of the Queen which met with enthusiastic appreciation for its grace and loyalty. A notable feature was a public Te Deum service at Notre Dame Cathedral, in which Catholic and Protestant worshippers knelt at one altar. Every city, town, village, "corner" settlement, every home indeed in this Dominion was the scene of a Jubilee celebration. From every Canadian heart rose the aspiration for its Queen:

"Peace go with Thee, and comfort all thy days!"

CITY INCIDENTS IN 1897.

The past year will ever be memorable in our annals as having been the time in which a number of civic events of exceptional interest occurred. The Bar Association of Canada held its inaugural meeting in this city, in 1897. The British Medical Association, on its first visit to Canada, held its annual meeting in Montreal. A number of the more illustrious members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science visited us. These distinguished visitors were royally entertained, and left us with assurances of their gratitude for the unprecedented hospitality of Montreal's reception. We had also a visit from one of Her Majesty's war vessels, and a number of persons of high rank in the world of politics and commerce. The opening of the Lachine Rapids Electrical Works was an event of the deepest interest.

The year in this city was marked by the death of Archbishop Fabre, who had won the universal esteem of our citizens of all races and creeds. The appointment as his successor in the archiepiscopal chair of Canon Bruchesi, was hailed with general gratification, as his abilities, lovable disposition, and his willingness to help in every movement for the welfare of the city, and his anxiety to promote harmony amongst citizens of various nationalities, and faiths, had won for him the respect and affection of the whole body of our citizens.

THE TARIFF ENQUIRY

The early part of 1897 was occupied in Canada with the work of the Commission, appointed to enquire into the effects of the Tariff, and to hear the views of leading manufacturers, merchants and consumers as to what changes they deemed desirable. The evidence was very varied in character, some of it merely the expression of theoretic ideas of a political nature or of facts of very limited significance, but on the whole the Commission reaped a harvest of highly valuable data relating to the history, the condition and the needs of Canadian industries, and of its commerce. The evidence of manufacturers demonstrated there having been an enormous development of native industries under the existing Tariff as established substantially to produce this effect. The investments of capital in such enterprises was shown to be so enormous and the employment of numer-

ous work people so dependent upon those industries that very grave results would follow from legislation adverse to native manufactures. The evidence was impressively strong in favour of the contention that home competition was too keen to allow of manufacturers reaping exorbitant profits at the consumer's expense. One of the largest manufacturers in Canada said: "There is but one portion of the community that is suffering, and that is the men who have put money into manufacturing, whose capital is less productive than investments in loan companies and banks." The danger of disturbing our industries by any changes in the Tariff calculated to close up our factories and mills was presented with all the influential force of practical knowledge. The result of the Tariff Commission was a disappointment to those who, as Professor Skeat says, "Prefer their own guesswork, made without investigation, to any evidence however clear." The Government took the wiser course by refraining from making any radical changes in the Tariff of a character likely to crush any Canadian enterprise or decrease the sphere of Canadian labour.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION

Soon after the elections of June 23rd, 1896, by which Mr. Laurier was placed in power, a short session of the new Parliament was held to complete the work of the earlier one which had been suspended by protracted debates. In this first Session Parliament went through certain routine proceedings, enlivened by flashes of party fireworks. The Session will be often referred owing to the censure passed upon the Governor-General by Sir Charles Tupper over His Excellency's declining to confirm appointments to offices made by the Administration after its defeat at the Polls, but prior to the official assumption of the Premiership by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The long established custom sanctions appointments being made by a defeated Minister before his successor takes the reins of power. There is, however, an understanding that such appointments must be so limited as not to embarrass the incoming Premier, nor trespass upon his just prerogative. As the Governor-General believed that the appointments made by Sir Charles Tupper infringed this understood rule, he declined to confirm them. The speech by Sir Charles in which this constitutional question was discussed was a remarkably able review, replete with historic precedents. There was no dispute, however, between His Excellency and Sir Charles on the main principle of such precedents; their difference arose from the alleged straining of that principle to justify a larger number of appointments than was contemplated when the principle was established, a number so excessive as to threaten embarrassment to the Government just placed in power by the will of the people. This chapter of our history requires to be well understood, as it is the key to the policy which has since been adopted, inspired by the maxim, "To