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editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to
any person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

ECONOMY was the watchword which gained the present Mayor of Toronto his elevation to that responsible position. There is no doubt both room and need for greater economy in some directions in the management of our civic affairs, and we are glad to see some indications that Mayor Fleming means to hold fast to his motto. But there is economy and economy—a true economy and a false economy—or rather a semblance of economy, which is really no economy at all, but the opposite. This remark has just application, we believe, to more than one of the economies recommended by Mayor Fleming since he came into office, but it is suggested particularly by his reported statement that \$2,700 per annum is "far too large" a salary for the librarian of the Public Library. When we consider the varied and rare qualifications required in an efficient librarian—knowledge of books, courtesy and urbanity in bearing, experience in the complicated and difficult details of library management, high moral character, etc.—the wonder is rather that a thoroughly competent man is available for the salary indicated, which is less than that which would be offered to an able member of any of the learned professions. A greater wonder is that any public or private citizen could grudge so moderate a remuneration to an officer so faithful and efficient as Mr. Bain has proved himself to be. We do not believe that the citizens of this wealthy and prosperous city either need or wish that those who have for years been giving them faithful service, and the advantage of qualifications which it must have taken no small portion of the study and experience of a lifetime to acquire, should be dealt with in a narrow and niggardly spirit. Rather should the city set an example of justice and liberality to all employers. We hope that Mayor Fleming's suggestion, if he really made it, will not commend itself to the Board or Council.

THUS far party honours in the bye-elections have been pretty evenly divided. The Liberals have gained one seat, which will of course count in their favour on a division, but, for reasons before given, it is evident that this victory was due to exceptional causes and affords no evidence of increase of Liberal strength. The increase of the Liberal majority in Lincoln is fully offset by that of the Conservative majority in Cumberland. The Opposition papers say, with some appearance of truth, that the contests thus far are no true test of the relative strength of parties, the Government having resorted to the old and, it was hoped, discarded tactics of bringing on the elections first in the constituencies where they are tolerably certain of success, thus gaining whatever advantage is derived from the prestige of victory at the outset. It is already pretty clear that the effect of the revelations of last session at Ottawa, as a weapon against the Government, is fully counteracted by that of the discoveries now being made in Quebec, as against the Opposition. On the whole there seems to be no sufficient reason to suppose that the relative strength of parties will be materially affected by the results of the bye-elections. In the Maritime Provinces Sir Richard Cartwright's severe remarks in disparagement of that section of the Dominion electorate are being used against him and his party with considerable effect. One would have supposed that so keen a politician as Sir Richard would have foreseen the inevitable result of the tone of disparagement and wholesale denunciation of one part of the Dominion, and have restrained his indignation as a matter of policy, if for no better reason. From the patriotic and national point of view nothing would be more disastrous to the future of the Confederation than that suspicion or dislike should arise between the Provinces, or party lines come to coincide to any considerable extent with Provincial boundaries. There is some reason to apprehend danger from this source. Every true Canadian, not to say every aspiring statesman, should set himself to counteract such a tendency to the extent of his ability.

ALL Canadians of every shade of political creed must approve the vigorous action which is being taken by the Dominion Government to secure a creditable representation of the resources, productions and progress of the Dominion at the forthcoming World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago. It is gratifying to learn that the keen interest manifested by representatives of our various industries bids fair to make the task of those who have charge of the matter comparatively easy. No other country, excepting of course the United States itself, occupies so favourable a position in reference to location, and there seems to be really no good reason why Canada should not profit almost as much by such an opportunity to call the attention of the world to what this country is, what its people have done and are doing, and what its vast territory and unbounded resources make it capable of doing for the future of the race, as the great Republic itself, and that too without having to share the grave financial responsibilities which the latter has shouldered. It is to be hoped that producers of every class will co-operate heartily with the Government and its commissioners in their efforts to make the Canadian exhibit one of which the country can be proud. Our attention has recently been called, in this connection, to a somewhat novel, and yet, so far as we can see, a perfectly legitimate and feasible proposal, to call the artistic talent of the country to the aid of the commissioners in such a way as to bring its claims to the world's attention into view in an original and striking manner. We refer to Mr. Hamilton McCarthy's suggestion that an allegorical figure, designed and sculptured in the highest style of art which Canada can produce, should be prepared and placed in a conspicuous position in the Canadian quarter of the Exposition. Mr. McCarthy himself has demonstrated in the best possible way, by his own productions, that Canada has the talent necessary for such a work of art. He has already outlined a design which seems well adapted to embody not only the native beauty, vigour and individualism of our youthful nation, but also to suggest in a striking manner the sources of her strength and the largeness

of her aspirations. The idea is a good one, and we hope that those who have faith in Canadian resources and sympathy with Canadian aspirations will spontaneously give our foremost sculptor all the encouragement he needs, financial and otherwise, to enable him to at once set about the execution of his rich design. Such a statue would pay a double debt, as being at the same time an exhibition of Canadian art and a suggestion of Canadian resources and ambitions.

A DESPATCH from London, of doubtful authenticity, was published the other day, to the effect that reciprocity negotiations were soon to be renewed between the Canadian and United States Governments, and that Newfoundland was in the meantime importuning Lord Knutsford to sanction the famous Bond-Blaine draft treaty on her behalf, prior to the opening of the said negotiations. The last sentence does not lack verisimilitude, but the first part of the alleged despatch is evidently unfounded, since nothing seems to be known at Ottawa of any proposed negotiations, or of a conference looking to such negotiations. The mention of Newfoundland and the Bond-Blaine draft treaty reminds us, however, that there is a question of veracity, or something very nearly resembling it, between our Minister of Marine and prominent members of the Newfoundland Government, which should be cleared up with as little delay as possible. These questions relate chiefly to two points. In the first place, whereas, as will be remembered, the action of Newfoundland in taxing flour and other Canadian products was represented here as an act of retaliation in return for the taxing of Newfoundland fish, which had become necessary, in justice to our fishermen, Mr. Harvey, a member of the Island Government, in one of his letters to the *London Times*, states positively, and quotes a clause of an Act which has been on their statute book for years to prove, that the present Government of Newfoundland had nothing to do with the alleged retaliatory tax, but that it came into operation automatically, as the result of the action of the Canadian Government. He avers, moreover, that our Government was not ignorant of this fact, as they had been informed in a friendly manner that such a proviso was in the Newfoundland Act, and that the Government of that Colony had no power to prevent its operation, even had they wished to do so, in advance of a meeting of the Legislature. The other point is of still greater importance. The gist of it is contained in the following extracts from a letter addressed by the Hon. Robert Bond, Colonial Secretary of Newfoundland, to Mr. Munn, of Montreal, in reply to an enquiry from that gentleman. Mr. Bond quotes from a report of the speech of Hon. Mr. Tupper, delivered in Toronto on December 16th, as follows:—

Under the Bond-Blaine negotiations it was proposed to shut out our flour and other products of the western part of Canada out of that market, and to impose a tariff discriminating in favour altogether of the goods and products of a foreign country, the United States of America.

And proceeds:—

I hesitate to believe that the Hon. Mr. Tupper deliberately asserted that which he knew to be untrue; yet I can only say that if he did make the statement contained in what purports to be a report of his speech at Toronto on December 16, it was one contrary to the facts and for which no possible excuse can be forthcoming. The Bond-Blaine "negotiations" did not propose to shut out Canadian flour and the products of the western part of Canada from Newfoundland; neither did they propose a tariff discriminating in favour of the goods and products of a foreign country, the United States of America. When a similar statement was forwarded by the Canadian Cabinet to Her Majesty's Government as the justification for its unwarrantable interference with the Newfoundland negotiations, this Colony at once intimated to the Imperial and Canadian Governments that such a contingency was not contained in the proposed convention or contemplated by the Government of this Colony. As a member of the Canadian Cabinet, the Hon. Mr. Tupper must have been aware of this, even if his own interpretation of the "negotiations" had led him into error, hence my unwillingness to believe that he made the untruthful statement that has been attributed to him.

The point at issue is, it will be seen, of great importance, inasmuch as the alleged discrimination against Canada constituted the strongest, if not the only reasonable,