

probably be censured, at Rome, for the course he has taken; though it is difficult to say what view of this advice may be taken by an authority which reduces the German Septennate to a moral question, voting for which was to be binding on Catholics. While the Archbishop tries to paralyze the Government, by refusing it the sinews of war, Mr. Chamberlain amuses himself by drafting a new constitution for Ireland, after the Canadian pattern, in profound forgetfulness of the dissimilarity of the two cases. The Government, as a means of self-protection, lets it be understood that it contemplates the suppression of the National League, and will ask parliament to arm it with power to do so.

Again has the purchase of artillery horses for the British service, been ordered to be made in Canada. The limit of price, £45 each, is an obstacle to these animals being procured in England; and as a previous trial of Canadian horses was satisfactory, resort is had to this country for a further supply.

A New York electrician has invented a machine by which instant and painless death can be produced, while the victim is sitting in a chair. He proposes to substitute this easy process for hanging. It is not quite plain why the greatest criminals should be the only persons in the world whose death should be rendered perfectly painless.

THE OUTLOOK AFTER THE ELECTIONS.

As we anticipated, the tariff is not likely to undergo any change as a result of the elections, the depositories of power remaining unchanged. The seats of manufacturing industry have taken what they considered the most effective means of sustaining the National Policy, by strengthening the hands of its authors and chief supporters. This is what we pointed out as the probable result of the appeal to constituencies. In the rural constituencies of Ontario, other issues probably turned the scale; it was felt to be necessary that the vindication of the law in the execution of Riel should meet popular approval. In Quebec, sympathy for the culprit prevailed over every thing else. In Nova Scotia, there was the most important issue of all. That province has done well and wisely in pronouncing against secession, which its abettors know to be utterly unattainable, and that any attempt to realize it could only lead to disaster, which would fall with heaviest weight on Nova Scotia. If there is any honesty among politicians, the result of the election in that province, is the last word of Repeal. It is devoutly to be wished that this may prove to be so.

The chief remedy for the ills of Nova Scotia, as Mr. Jones has himself more than once virtually admitted, is economical. The fishery is her chief industry, and what she wants more than anything else is a sure and steady market for the product of her waters. This, Mr. Jones has shown, she can secure by changing the mode of curing her fish, so as to make it suit the require-

ments of European markets. If that were done, he forcibly pointed out, she could find a ready market for all the fish she has to dispose of. Large numbers of Nova Scotians go to New England to seek employment from Gloucester fishermen. They have not, it is to be presumed, the means to engage in the fishery on their own account. But does not this state of things afford exactly the opportunity which men of enterprise, with capital at their command, would be supposed naturally to seek? Why cannot Nova Scotians employ this labour in their own fisheries? Could men of means not extend the chief industry of the province, in this way, to their own advantage and that of the labor which now seeks employment in Gloucester? Given the market for the fish, which Mr. Jones points out as attainable, it is difficult to see why such an enterprise should not be successful. That there is plenty of capital available for the purpose, the amount of deposits in the Savings' banks sufficiently attests. Where does the fault lie? Is it due to a want of enterprise? And if so, what is the cause of the apathy? These are questions which might well form the subject of a formal investigation. Unhappily it cannot be denied that, economically, Nova Scotia is more or less in an abnormal condition, the cause and the cure of which are well worthy of being sought out. To rely on political remedies is to rely on a broken reed; a fact which Nova Scotia seems at last to have come to realize. If so, her industrial, commercial and economical salvation is nigh at hand. The whole country is willing to cheer and assist her to recover lost ground, in any and every practicable way, if she will only be practical, and instead of dreaming and bewailing her lot, do what she can to turn her splendid resources to the best account.

Manitoba, the Northwest and British Columbia are exerting themselves wonderfully to work out their own destiny. On the whole, they have shown by their voice in the late contest, that they are satisfied with their condition and prospects, in which latter they include some definite means of ameliorating their lot. Quebec must now see that all men in this broad Dominion are equal before the law, and that the fact of being of French blood, while it brings no disadvantage, will not, on the other hand, suffice to save a criminal from his fate. The work of knitting together a confederation like ours, composed of such heterogeneous materials, is stupendous. The crisis seems to be past, though the labor of keeping the union in harmonious working order, will still tax the power of the strongest: the maintenance of the union is the first thing; subordinate to this are tariffs and all other questions of internal policy. The union has escaped a great danger; and the tariff is preserved, whatever may be the advantage of the achievement.

The relations between the Provinces and the Federal Government have in them nothing to cause serious anxiety. The lawsuit between Ontario and the Dominion will run its natural course, and the dispute about timber and minerals, in the northern part of the Province, will end, Disallow-

ance in Manitoba, in the matter on which it has been chiefly exercised, must cease before long. The land question, in that Province has been settled by compromise. The Half-breed claims in the North-West have been adjusted. British Columbia is in possession of the Pacific Railway, which formed one of the considerations of its coming into the Canadian union. It has been allowed to keep the Chinese at arms length, and just now has no grievance which finds audible utterance. In the East, the question of the Atlantic postal port will settle itself, in favor of the longest rail and the shortest water route; while freight will have a choice of many ports, and will fare best if left to the channels which it may prefer to select. Quebec and Prince Edward Island send majorities to the House of Commons opposed to the government; but in this there is nothing which is not at any time liable to occur. There is no question between Quebec and the Dominion with which legislation could deal. There is a question of boundary; but it is not probable that this will be found difficult to settle. Any territory which it is possible to bring into dispute is of exceedingly little value; and the settlement of the Ontario boundary dispute may aid remotely in the adjustment of this. In the wise resolution to which Nova Scotia has now come, Confederation has avoided a peril; and we see nothing in any other quarter to give cause for serious uneasiness.

FIRE INSURANCE IN CANADA.

In this market, shares of the Western and British America fire insurance companies have long been among the "active stocks." A heavy strain was for a time put upon the faith of shareholders and stock jobbers who held or desired to hold, shares in these Canadian companies. Losses were serious and dividends were reduced. A year ago, the shares of the British America were worth but two per cent. over par, and those of the Western stood at only about 128. At former periods they had run down to much lower figures, having both gone below par. Last year, about this time, a distinct change of investors' views took place when the annual reports of these companies were issued and it became known that they had made some money! This year the price of their shares has been generally advancing and the result of another twelve months' business shows that the position of both companies has been improved.

The premium revenues of the Western Assurance Co. for 1886, were nearly \$100,000 better than in the previous year. While fire losses were less, those in marine were greater; the result of the year's business was a net profit of \$122,300 as compared with \$85,400 in the previous year. Seventy-five thousand dollars has been added to Reserve, which fund now stands at \$735,000 after paying a dividend of ten per cent. The president was justified in saying in his address that this showing should be highly satisfactory, and that such results warrant the increase of capital recommended a year ago. As refitted and redecorated the Head office of the Western