

Current Events.

CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT.

Since THE ENTRANCE last reached our young readers, as most of them are aware, there has been a change of government in Canada. The general election on June 23rd resulted in the defeat of the Tupper Government and the return of the Liberal party. Soon after this date, Mr. Laurier, as leader of the opposition in the late parliament, was called upon by the Governor-General to form a new government. He accepted the task and has since selected from his party the following gentlemen to act with himself as advisers of the Crown: Minister of Trade and Commerce, Sir Richard Cartwright; Minister of Finance, Hon. W. S. Fielding; Minister of Justice, Hon. Oliver Mowat; Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Hon. L. H. Davies; Minister of Railways and Canals, Hon. A. G. Blair; Minister of Customs, Hon. Wm. Paterson; Postmaster-General, Hon. Wm. Mulock; Minister of Public Works, Hon. J. I. Tarte; Minister of Militia and Defence, Hon. F. W. Borden; Minister of Agriculture, Hon. S. A. Fisher; Minister of Inland Revenue, Sir Henri Joly; Secretary of State, Hon. R. W. Scott; Solicitor-General, Hon. Chas. Fitzpatrick.

At this time of writing (early in August) the Department of Interior has not been filled. The Hon. Wilfrid Laurier is Premier and President of the Council. There are two other members of the cabinet, viz., Hon. C. A. Geoffrion and Hon. R. R. Dobbell, who are without portfolios, which means that, though they are honored with seats in the Cabinet, they preside over no department nor do they receive a salary. It will thus be seen that the Dominion Cabinet, or Ministry, consists of fifteen paid ministers and two without salary.

This is the second time since Confederation (1867) that Canada has had a Reform Government. The party was successful at the polls in 1873, but was defeated in 1878 on the question of the "National Policy." In our next issue we shall have something to say on the opening of the House for its first session and also a few words on our Provincial Governments.

THE VENEZUELAN QUESTION.

This subject continues to occupy considerable space in the leading papers and journals of more than one country. Doubtless much more will be said in reference to the matter before it is finally settled. That the boys and girls of our schools may take an interest in the subject and follow the discussion intelligently, we offer a few observations to show just how the matter stands at present.

About one hundred years ago, the territory known as Venezuela was under Spanish rule, and Holland was in possession of the country called Guiana. After a severe struggle the Venezuelans threw off the Spanish yoke and be-

came an independent republic. It is many years, too, since Holland made over to England a portion of Guiana. A dispute soon arose between England and Venezuela as to the location of the boundary line between the latter country and the colony. Settlement of the countries, however, proceeded. The trouble over the boundary line has since come to the front, and in 1887 so serious did it become that diplomatic relations between the two countries were suspended. The Venezuelans claim that the Essequibo River is the true boundary, while England asserts that her territory extends to the Schomburgk line (after the name of the surveyor), which is drawn a considerable distance to the westward. War between the countries seemed imminent, when Venezuela appealed to the United States. The President of the latter country, Mr. Cleveland, soon startled the world with a war-like message to congress. He brought forward the "Monroe doctrine" and stated that it would be enforced, even if war resulted between England and the United States. This "Monroe doctrine" is so-called after President Monroe, who, about seventy-five years ago, laid down the principle that no foreign nation has any right to take forcible possession of any territory on this continent. The Congress of the United States unanimously endorsed the stand taken by the President and the latter was authorized to appoint a commission to investigate the facts in regard to the boundary line. That committee is now at work.

Seeing that the trouble cannot be settled by the findings of this committee of inquiry, Secretary Olney, of the United States, has asked the British Government to submit the matter in dispute to arbitration. England is perfectly willing to do this, so far as the *unsettled* portions of the disputed territory are concerned, but not so the *settled* parts. Venezuela claims about two-thirds of the territory of British Guiana. Correspondence is at present passing between the Governments of England and the United States on the subject, and it is hoped by all that the question will yet be amicably settled.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

Canada is so intimately connected with the United States that it is well for our young people to know something about the questions which are agitating the public mind in the latter country.

In November, our neighbors will decide who are to be their next President and Vice-President. A few weeks ago the Republicans nominated McKinley and Hobart as their candidates. The Democrats, a week or two later, placed Bryan and Sewall in the field. The Populists, too, have also brought forward a ticket, in the persons of Bryan and Watson. The "Populists" is a party which has recently sprung up in the West. The Democrats and the Populists agree in some of the planks of their platforms, notably on the "silver question," but they appear, at our present time of writing, to be drifting hopelessly apart on many of the