

and unequalled ovation, we are not unprepared for very different figures touching the number of the audience. The journals quoted are the leading newspapers of the Dominion which plume themselves on their eminent respectability and invariable trustworthiness. Now it is evident that magnifying and belittling carried on to this extent is nothing more nor less than downright lying, and its evil effects must be widespread. There is no excuse for it, and the papers themselves lose far more than they gain. Indeed, we doubt if they or their party ever gain anything even temporarily by the publication of untrue reports. The confidence and respect of the community cannot be enjoyed by the journal which trifles with the truth.

A Tribute to
Mr. Laurier.

Having read these conflicting reports and studied with care the speeches delivered on the occasion we have come to the conclusion that Mr. Laurier's meeting was a success, but not quite the success the Liberal papers say it was. But Mr. Laurier has every reason to feel deeply pleased at the splendid reception he himself received; and if his speech was a little disappointing, if the audience felt that something was lacking in it, if they wanted something new and something strong and did not get it—perhaps the great company of people expected too much, for it was a company with great expectations. Perhaps the new and strong things are to come by and by, though many supposed that the "platform" was to have been laid down that night in the sight of all the people. The meeting was a fine tribute to Mr. Laurier's influence and popularity. Indeed, his charming personality is always irresistible. Surrounding him was the flower of the Liberal party, and speaker after speaker paid marked homage to the hero of the evening. There is evidently no division amongst the Liberals respecting their leader whatever difference they may have respecting the trade policy of the country. Mr. Laurier defined the Liberal fiscal policy to be a gradual modification of the present tariff, not its destruction. The welfare and interests of both farmers and manufactures are to be carefully considered. The Liberal tariff will bear lightly on the farming community, but at the same time greatly stimulate the manufacturing industries of the Dominion. Mr. Laurier sees how this difficult thing is to be done, but he did not stop to explain how it is to be done. With regard to the everlasting Remedial business Mr. Laurier vigorously protested against being made responsible for the withdrawal of the Bill, and once more repeated his plea for conciliation, and his sympathy for the downtrodden minority. Amongst the other speakers were Hon. Mr. Harcourt, Ontario's Treasurer, Hon. L. H. Davies, Mr. D. C. Fraser, Mr. Tarte and Mr. James McShane.

English
Opinion.

The London papers do not quite know what to think of the recent severe obstruction in the Canadian Parliament. The Times commiserates Sir Charles Tupper and says fate has not been kind in plunging him into such a controversy on his re-entry into Canadian politics. The Morning Post remarks that "the occasion which has produced this extraordinary energy on the part of Canadian legislators is the Committee stage of the Manitoba Schools Bill. If there was the slightest chance of the measure becoming law one could understand such heroic devotion to duty. But seeing that the Bill contains one hundred and twelve clauses, of which only three have been voted, and that the life of the present Parliament must terminate in a fortnight's time, it is difficult to understand the motive which prompts the Dominion Government to persevere to the bitter end. Scenes such as this only tend to excite public opinion in the

Colony, while all hope of the Schools Question being a minor consideration at the General Election must now be abandoned. This is a great pity, as not only are religious differences at issue, but Constitutional questions, such as the right of the Federal Parliament to interfere with Provincial legislation, are also involved. Without in any way dealing with the merits of the Bill, it should not be forgotten that the Canadian Government are merely upholding the rights of the Constitution in pressing legislation in the matter upon the Federal Parliament. At the same time it would seem more dignified to let the issue be fought out in the constituencies. To try and force a measure in the last hours of a dying Parliament is not good policy if the party in office wishes to return to power." The St. James Gazette does not approve of the cry "Hands off Manitoba." It observes that "it is upon this electioneering cry that the Liberal obstructionists in the Dominion Parliament are fighting the Bill to restore the rights of Catholics to denominational teaching in the great Province in the North-West. Like most cries invented to tickle the ears of the electorate and draw votes into the party net, it is of a specious, if not dishonest, character."

The Triple
Alliance.

The recent meetings of the German Emperor with King Humbert at Venice and with the Emperor Francis Joseph at Vienna were interesting and important events. It was admitted that the object of William's journey was to renew the Triple Alliance for five years from 1897. The Kolnische Zeitung, the organ of the Berlin Foreign Office, makes the journey the text for a little essay on the Vatican. "The times have changed," it says, "but the Vatican has remained the same. It still clings ever steadfastly to the old dream of bringing the world under the sovereignty of the crowned prelate. It has remained as it was before, inwardly hostile to the very existence of the State, and incapable of relinquishing the idea of developing itself into a State universal. At the same time, it is deeply imbued with the conviction that only the path which it points out is the path of truth, and so far it is always a danger to intellectual liberty, which has only found a safe home within the framework of the modern State. But there is no longer any cause for fear. Public opinion during the last few days has been very much occupied by the fact that the German Emperor has shown special favour to a Cardinal of the Roman Church, while his brother, Prince Henry, as his representative, has paid a visit to the Pope. Anxious minds may be reassured. The eminently peaceful character of the Emperor's tour has been visibly displayed by these acts. In view of the strained relations existing between the Vatican and the Quirinal their object was manifestly to point out to the world that no difference is made in demonstrations of friendly feeling. In order, however, to place an accurate construction alike on personal and political circumstances attention need only be drawn to one obvious point—namely, that it has not happened that the Emperor in a tour to Italy has exchanged greetings with the Pope without visiting the King, but, *vice versa*, he has visited the King without seeing the Pope. And so will it remain in the future.

The Irish Land
Bill.

The new Irish Land Bill is a vast measure but it seems to meet with general approval. It is fair to the landlords and yet offers boons to the tenants which the Nationalist's leaders hardly dare oppose. Much is said in favour of "the able and ingenious purchase clauses under which the Irish tenant will get the annuity he pays for the freehold reduced every ten years for the next thirty years." The estates "that are lying rot-