

the passengers would not be welcomed as residents. During the last six years, emigrants of the undesirable classes, permanent paupers, have been taking this route; and in nearly every one of these years, charitable institutions in the State of New York have been sending them back, in twenties and forties, to the countries whence they come. A knowledge of this abuse has led to the enactment by Congress of a law under which immigrants can be inspected at the frontiers of Canada and Mexico, but which does not appear to have been yet put into force. But now that the reports of charitable institutions have called attention to the abuse, a minor one compared with what occurs at the port of New York, the inspection authorized may hereafter take place. If it be true that the local authorities of European countries ship off lunatics and idiots, about which information is hazy and uncertain, their conduct is deserving the severest reprobation. Idiots and lunatics being unable to give an intelligent account of whence they came, the facts are involved in mystery and uncertainty; but it is thought that those sent back are only a small proportion of the unwelcome immigrants.

DEATH OF THE PREMIER.

Everyone is speculating on the changes that will follow the death of the veteran Premier, Sir John Macdonald, which took place on Saturday night, June 6th. His death occurs while Parliament is young, when the relative strength of parties has only just been tested by two decisive votes. This is the machinery which, at his call, the constituencies provided for carrying on the Government, and it is the means by which his successors must learn to do their work. It will be very easy to say that they take up the old policy where the late chief laid it down; to work it out will be a practical problem by no means free from difficulty. Of this policy the first plank is reciprocity with the United States, and it involves for its success the necessity of an international agreement, in which Parliament cannot command success by its votes or volition. All we know is that the United States Government has agreed with ours to negotiate, and that no treaty is possible of which the schedule does not go beyond natural products. The negotiations cannot fail to be embarrassed, if a second party in this country should virtually say to the United States: "Refuse what is offered to you, and we will give you more; you can make a better bargain with us, in fact you can have about everything you have a mind to ask." But it does not follow that these promises could be carried out. The present Parliament would not accept such a programme, and a new election would bring us back to the point at which we stood in the recent appeal to the constituencies. The same questions would be in issue, with the same political parties and substantially the same men, in the absence of the late Premier, and who can say that the late verdict of the electors would be reversed?

Much depends of course upon the con-

tinued cohesion of the ruling party. If high places are coveted by subaltern ambitions, refusal or concession would be equally dangerous: refusal might lead to party rebellion as success would conduct to disaster. Public men who succeed as a rule give their whole lives to public affairs. This was one secret of Sir John Macdonald's success. He gave himself wholly to his country. If he had tried at the same time to continue a large and lucrative law practice, he must have failed in one or both his aims. But it is not every one who can make up his mind to sacrifice everything for the public, or who could do so if he would. Besides, men's ambition runs in different channels; and it may be that Sir John Thompson's preference would be for judicial position, should the Chief Justiceship of the Supreme Court come within his grasp. He might take the premiership for a while, but he might not desire long to retain it. The late Chief Justice Draper got thoroughly wearied of politics, though he held the premiership, before he retired to the bench. Mr. Abbott would not be likely to hold the position of first Minister for a long time. Exception is taken to Sir Charles Tupper, though he is the best fighter of the dominant party, and has spent his life in politics and journalism, using the one as Howe and Hincks did, as a stepping-stone to the other. The chances are that some emergency will arise, in which a call on Sir Charles Tupper will be made, not as a mere helper, as he was in the late election, but as a co-director in the Cabinet, if not as the chief. But at present he is likely to be kept in reserve; and in any case it is probable that he would prefer life in London to life in Ottawa. Of all others he is perhaps the man whom the opposing party most dreads. Mr. Dalton McCarthy, if acceptable to the French politicians of Quebec, would scarcely pass muster with the Church, which wield's there a power with which every Government has to account. Besides, there are not wanting signs that law, not public life, is his true vocation. He is young as a politician, and if he has the faculties of a leader, they may not yet be developed.

Personal difficulties may arise to hinder the march of the ruling majority, if there be no serious difficulties of policy. Protection, let us hope, has reached its utmost bounds; and if we are to succeed at Washington, some manufacturers will have to face the cold blasts of competition. Whatever lines may be selected for the sacrifice, there will be trouble, involving a loss of capital in concerns reared under the hot-house system. For this reason the 12th of October will be looked forward to by manufacturers with dread at the uncertain fate that awaits them, whether of extinction or more extended operations.

—For the first time in its history Prince Edward Island has had to import a large quantity of hay. There is also a great scarcity of good oats this spring. There has been a large quantity of potatoes sent away this spring. The average price was 45 cents. Eggs, notwithstanding the McKinley tariff, are now (1st June) selling at as good a price as at this time last year.

BANK MEETINGS.

The directors of the Eastern Townships Bank, whose headquarters are at Sherbrooke, in the Province of Quebec, express in a very judicial paragraph of their report, a dignified reproof of the authorities of that province for their policy with respect to taxation of the mining industry. With the current activity in mining—asbestos and slate and marble is mined in Quebec, as well as copper, gold, and iron—"had it not been for the doubts thrown on these industries by the unfortunate legislation of the last session in levying taxes on them, the development of the latent mineral resources of the country would have been hopeful and satisfactory." As business men these directors feel that these and other taxes laid on corporations in that province are doubtful expedients for the raising of revenue, and they "trust that the legislature may see ere long that the taxing of commercial operations, of mining industries, in fact the singling out of any special class of men or of business operations to be the bearers of public burthens, is a mistake in political economy, and detrimental to the true interests of the country."

These are bravely spoken and true words. And the Premier of Quebec, when he has done with securing decorations from foreign powers, and has exhausted his efforts to borrow money abroad to replenish his needy treasury, may profit by considering the plain meaning of such hints as are to be found applicable to his case, in the recent words of the general manager of the Bank of Montreal and the warnings of the board of this bank.

Turning to the record of the bank itself, we find that although the board characterizes the business of the year as having been extremely dull, the gross earnings are \$2,300 greater than in the preceding twelve months. After paying seven per cent. dividend, an addition of \$50,000 is made to the Reserve and \$20,113 carried forward. The Reserve is now \$600,000, over 41 per cent. of the paid capital. The remainder of the report is occupied with a synopsis of the principal features of the new banking Act, which comes into force on the first day of July next.

A CLEARING HOUSE FOR TORONTO.

The banks in Toronto have agreed to an arrangement which will doubtless prove a great convenience, besides lessening the risk of loss. We refer to a Clearing House, for effecting the exchange of balances daily between the different banks in the city. A room has been secured in the British Bank building, to which every bank doing business in Toronto will send a clerk and a messenger each forenoon, the latter officers carrying with them the sums due by each bank to the other, and the juniors who accompany them attend to the paying or receiving of balances at that central point. Hitherto, each of fourteen bank messengers has been obliged to visit daily thirteen other banks to effect the daily balances.

We understand that the Bank of Montreal has consented to act as the clearing