

stitution by the active interest taken in its affairs by wealthy citizens is as well known and as fully recognized in the States as in other countries. The objection urged against our branch bank system, that it creates a banking monopoly, excites only a smile, it is so fanciful. The fact is that, over competition in banking is a serious evil in Canada, an evil which has been developed by and under the extension of branch banks. The people of Canada prefer strong branch banks to

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solely because they discern and appreciate the more efficient services, more reliable security, and greater permanence of a solid financial institution, endorsed by men of wealth, and controlled by an eminently skilled, long experienced, and thoroughly practical General Manager. We have confidence in our banks for business reasons only. The "hereditary aristocracy" idea, as a basis of public credit, never entered the mind of any person in the Dominion. Canadians generally have more intelligent ideas on banking than those entertained by the people of any other country, thanks chiefly to the financial Press, which for many years has systematically indoctrinated them with sound principles, and periodically supplied them with ample materials for forming a correct judgment regarding the current affairs of the banks. When the people of the United States become intelligently acquainted with banking principles, banking methods, banking experiences; when they have learnt the true objects of banking, and know the best way to secure such objects, so as to render them promotive of the general interests of the whole community, they will adopt the branch bank system. They will see its value as a financial training school, which their system is wholly without, hence so many failures from bankers in the States having had no practical experience in the business. Having experimentally realized the advantages of a sound banking system they will then pay "the banking fraternity" the respect due to all who are engaged in a highly responsible and honorable calling, upon the right discharge of the duties of which largely depends the financial as well as the social well-being of all classes of the community.

THE PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS.

It is difficult to make any comments on the recent elections in this Province from a non-partizan standpoint, especially when those defeated are naturally very sensitive by their sores, and the victors equally so by the excitement of victory. To both parties the result came as great surprise, for, although, as usual, both were confident of winning, neither had the least anticipations of securing more than a working majority. The campaign is recognized on all hands to have been one of the quietest on record. The issues were of too business a nature to produce excitement. That

they failed even to arouse general interest is shown by the remarkable smallness of the votes polled on both sides. This indifference of the electors is always favorable to the party making the attack on the existing Government, who, acting under the stimulus of hope are usually more active, more in earnest, than the party of defence. Although the only relevant question before the electors related to the financial administration of the Province, having no political significance, in the ordinary sense in which politics are viewed, there were questions raised which have been, and yet are, exciting the most intense excitement in political circles. The *Toronto Globe* even admits that, "the Manitoba school settlement" was one issue in the elections, and another it declares was, the question of, "freedom of elections as against clerical domination." This view is shared by all French journals which defend the school settlement, and protest against so-called "clerical domination." Their jubilations over the victory are openly inspired by these sentiments. They pronounce the result of the elections to have "sodded over the grave of the school question, never to be disturbed," and to have "given a wider freedom to the electorate than they ever have enjoyed in this Province." Standing aside, as we do, from both camps, we are unable to understand what connection the Manitoba school question had with the question as to the merits or the demerits of the Flynn administration, which neither directly nor indirectly, had made any reference to this vexed dispute. Elections are however now and again decided on outside issues, for, when feeling is running high in a constituency the prevailing passion is apt to find expression in the ballot box, into which answers are dropped to questions that had not been asked, and which those answers will not decide. If then the Flynn government was overwhelmed by the school settlement wave, it may fairly complain of being a most innocent victim of popular sentiment it had done nothing to antagonize. Although holding no brief for its defence we cannot close our eyes to the fact that under the late administration, and as a direct result of its financial management, the credit of this Province had been restored to a sound condition, indeed raised higher than ever before. Such a change in the judgment of business men is regarded as a "financial reform" of the first magnitude. We find it impossible to reconcile such a reform having been effected as consistent with the assertion that the Government was defeated because it failed to effect financial reforms. Another explanation of their overthrow is, the "demand for improvement in the educational system of Quebec." It is on record that, the defeated Premier's educational policy was approved by his successful opponent. There was no contest at all over this question, it probably did not affect any vote. We are thus thrown back upon the theory relating to the Manitoba school settlement, and the freedom of election from clerical interference. The electorate