

veto of the Dominion Government. Both speeches are however significant, as showing that the policy of the new Government is to go on with the construction of the road. Such, indeed, is the state of feeling among the adherents of both parties in the Province that no Administration could have any longer an option in the matter. Meanwhile, as a spur to prick the sides of the Government's intent, comes the wheat blockade on the Canadian Pacific, and the demonstrated impossibility that any one road can carry the crop to market within a reasonable time. It will be a sorry business, and a sad discouragement to Manitoba farmers, if large numbers of them lose a considerable portion of the fruits of their hard labour for want of better railway accommodation.

THE financial difficulty threatens to prove fatal to the British Columbia Crofter immigration scheme. The Provincial Government seem slow to assume any pecuniary risk in the matter, and it is scarcely likely that any British Government is yet ready to expend public money in expatriating British citizens. There can be little doubt that with proper selection a body of the hardy Crofters could be sent out who would make excellent Colonists, and that the immigrants themselves would find their material condition vastly improved on the fertile slopes of the Pacific coast. But mere physical comfort is not everything. To the Celtic races it is very far from being everything. With the Highlander, attachment to his native soil is a passion. The young chief and his clansmen, depicted by George Macdonald in one of his stories, who regarded the land of their fathers, the land on which they were born and bred, as almost a part of their own being, to be clung to with tenacious reverence, are scarcely such exaggerations as the cool-blooded Saxon may be disposed to think. To tear the Crofters in any considerable numbers from their native heath, and transplant them beyond the ocean, while there are tens of thousands of acres of their own islands reserved for deer-forests and sheep-walks, will be neither an easy nor a grateful task.

COMMENTING ON Parnell's remarks during a brief newspaper interview, the English newspapers credit the agitator with an intention to appear in a new rôle. He sees, they take it, that his old game of obstruction is no longer possible, and that it is, therefore, imperative to resort to a change of tactics. The new reliance is to be upon the incongruous and non-fusible character of the elements of which the Government majority is composed. The wider and freer the scope for the play of the inharmonious forces, he argues, the sooner the inevitable fissure will appear. Irish deliverance will be better hastened by internal dissensions than by active opposition from without. It is thought that the shrewd tactician derived this hint from Lord Salisbury's own words at Liverpool, words which seem to have been framed for the specific purpose of forestalling this very danger. In that speech the Premier exhorted his followers to remember, in passing judgment upon the Government's acts, these three things: that the Government existed for the supreme object of upholding the Union; that it could do this only by the support of the Unionist party; and that, as an inevitable result, its measures "must bear to a certain extent the colour which the support of the Unionist party lends to them." This sounds almost like a confession of weakness. It means, evidently, that the supporters of a Conservative Government must be prepared to accept from its hand, if not distinctly Liberal measures, at least measures in which the Conservative warp will be interlaced and bound together with a Liberal-Unionist woof, resulting in what may appear to old Tory eyes a motley fabric. Upon the loyalty with which the old party men, both within and without the Government, follow the hints thus broadly given them by their chieftain, will largely depend the ability of the Administration to escape from the gins and pitfalls which will lie in wait for it at almost every step.

THE simultaneous publication at Berlin and Vienna of the Secret Treaty of 1879 between Germany and Austria-Hungary was evidently the result of agreement between the two Powers. There can be no doubt that it has been done for specific effect upon Russia. It must thus be regarded as marking another and a most serious advance towards the coming crisis. So far as the fact of the alliance between these great Powers for defence against Russia is concerned, the publication scarcely reveals anything that was not known before. In the event of a Russian war they are bound to stand or fall together. But this can be no news to Russia, though the publication of it at this particular juncture may be intended to have the effect of a final warning, and may possibly indicate that, in case the movement and concentration of troops on the Austrian frontier still goes on, the allies will not choose to await the Czar's convenience to strike the first blow. But Russia has probably gone too far to retreat now without humili-

ation and loss of prestige, even if she were given to yielding to intimidation, which is far from being the case. At the same time it is hard to see what even the fanatical war-party who surround the Czar can hope to accomplish against these two great Powers, one of whom is about to add from half to two-thirds of a million to her already immense army, probably the best equipped and disciplined in Europe. Under all the circumstances it seems impossible that hostilities can be delayed more even a very few months longer at the farthest. It will be a conflict of Titans when it comes. Apparently, however, Russia has little to fear from the third member of the Alliance, Italy. However anxious the latter may be to take active part, her hands are already partly tied by the Abyssinian difficulty, while the state of feeling towards her exhibited by France, during the recent dispute concerning the affair of the consul at Florence, shows pretty clearly that any attempt at intervention on her part would quickly be counteracted by French resentment and interposition.

SINCE writing the above the German Reichstag has been opened, and Prince Bismarck's pacific speech has had a quieting and reassuring effect on public opinion. The publication of the treaty was not intended as a threat. "The treaty," he said, "is the expression of the community of interests of the two contracting parties. This it was we wished the world to know. Not this treaty only but also that with Italy is the expression of common interests and common efforts to avert common dangers and to maintain peace. Austria followed this thoughtful policy in 1870 in resisting the entreaties of France to come forward against the Germans. Austria is our natural ally in the dangers which threaten us from Russia and France. But there is no need to fear the hatred of Russia. No wars are waged from mere hatred. For otherwise France would have to be at war with Italy and the whole world. The strength we possess will reassure our public opinion and calm the nervousness of the bourses and the press." The speech has already had the effect of allaying alarm and restoring confidence; but despite even the Chancellor's declaration that he sees "no cause or pretext for a European war," the Russian military movements, the warlike attitude of Austria and the further strengthening of Germany's already vast armament do not seem to augur hopefully for continued peace.

THE political agitation which has sprung up in India is drawing to the side of the British some powerful allies amongst the more conservative races of that ancient land. The Bengalees are the active fomenters of the agitation and the leaders in the demand for a more influential voice in the government of the country. The Bengalees are the most intelligent, acute, and intellectually active of the Indian races, but they belong to the lower castes, are comparatively unwarlike, and, until raised to unwonted influence and importance by the new education, were regarded as inferior to the warlike Mahomedans, Rajpoots, etc., by whom they are still hated and despised. In a lecture recently delivered to Mahomedans at Lucknow, Sir Syed Ahmed, one of the most influential Mahomedans in India, repudiated on behalf of the whole community he represents, the proposal to throw open all appointments to native competition. Recognizing the inferiority of his own people in both numbers and education, he pointed out to them that the result of competitive examination would be to place the most warlike and fiery spirits in India under the heel of the Bengalee Baboo, "who at the sight of a table-knife would crawl under a chair. There would be no part of the country," he declared, "where we should see at the tables of justice and authority any faces but those of Bengalees." It is quite natural that the rapid rise of this intelligent and quick-witted race should have at last aroused the jealousy and indignation of the more masterful tribes, his former conquerors, and that these should hasten to denounce him as an inferior. But none the less the agitation will go on, and the old-time warriors will have to learn that a new order of things has dawned, that brains henceforth will count before blood, and that they had better set the schoolmaster at work if they do not wish to come eventually under the official control of the low castes they have hitherto despised.

THE New York Tribune gives an account of an organization which is being formed in Kansas to promote an extensive emigration movement amongst the coloured people in the South. Recruits are to be gathered from the American cotton belt, with its outlying tobacco, sugar, and rice fields. The objective point of the migration is South America, especially Brazil and the Argentine Republic. The promoters of the movement claim to have \$2,000,000 of capital pledged to aid them in the work, and expect to be able by the close of the year to offer free transportation to hundreds of thousands of plantation labourers. The latter are said to be discontented,