

The Coming Election.

It is doubtful if the most ardent devotee to either political party, the deepest dabbler in public affairs, or even those to whom is entrusted the management of the approaching contest, can be otherwise than in a state of doubt and perplexity as to the issue.

The absolute confidence in the result openly and loudly expressed by the politicians on both sides, only seems to show that those who have been feeling the public pulse are totally at sea as to what it betokens.

However, as an election always interferes with the regular course of business, and acts as a drag upon enterprise, very few will be found to regret that the political campaign is nearing its close. That an election is bad for trade has always been a maxim among business men, and, although the issue in this instance is not of great moment to the country, the political disturbance must have had a depressing influence upon the trade of the Dominion.

When the smoke of battle clears away, may the best men of both parties be found to have survived the fight, and we hope they will unite in accepting the invitation extended to Canada to send her Premier to attend the inauguration of the commonwealth of Australia.

A Very Satisfactory Census.

Mr. Justice Haliburton says that Sam Slick never spoke of his own countrymen without calling them "the most free and enlightened citizens on the face of the airth," or as "takin the shine off all creation." His country he boasted to be the "best atween the poles, the greatest glory under heaven." He not only claimed that the Yankees have "gone ahead of all others," but added that they are "goin ahead of themselves." Whatever amusement the reader may derive from the gifted Nova Scotian's presentment of the delicate brag of Sam Slick, the figures of the recent census of the United States in the matter of "big gains" certainly take "the shine off all creation."

In ten years there has been an increase of nearly 21 per cent. in the population. In 1890, the country contained 62 millions of people, while the latest official announcement gives a total of 76 millions. There can be nothing more pleasing to a reflective Britisher than to observe the wonderful growth, the surprising prosperity of the United States, and the rejoicing at the great increase in their population will extend to Canada, even if we are not prepared to admit that the country of Sam Slick is the "best admit the poles."

Silverism and Wall Street.

Addressing a large audience in New York on Saturday night last, Mr. Bryan, probably feeling compelled to say something on the silver question, a subject he has been accused of desiring to avoid; said that only Wall Street and a few similar interests were opposed to him on the money question. After announcing that he had not changed his views, he said: "I would be unworthy of your confidence if I changed my mind to suit every occasion and in order to win votes. If I should surrender my ideas on silver to become President I might as well surrender my ideas on trusts, imperialism and militarism."

Much as they may admire his moral courage, the advocates of sound money in Wall Street and elsewhere will be apt to regard this statement of the Democratic candidate for the Presidency as good reason for extra efforts to secure his defeat.

It would have been better for Mr. Bryan to have adopted the tactics of a certain public man in Nova Scotia, who, when twitted with a change of views on an important matter, told his political opponents that such a change was a tribute to the breadth of his mind, and that there was nothing for which he had so much contempt as his "opinions of yesterday" on the subject under discussion.

Possibly if Mr. Bryan had publicly abandoned silverism, and confined himself to attacking the trusts and the expansion policy, Wall Street might have changed its mind about Mr. Bryan.

No politician can afford to fling himself in the face of business men and their interests, by a threat to lower the standard of value.

Payment of Unjust Claims.

Insurance companies, both life and fire, pay in the aggregate large sums of money each year to avoid what they regard as the unfavourable influence of litigation on their business. Agents are prone to say in effect: A law suit in this case or a refusal to pay the claim promptly will do our business much damage, and the company yields its rights and pays a claim which has neither law nor equity for its foundation. Agents and officers are grossly mistaken in their estimate of the effect of an honest defence made by a company against an unjust or illegal claim. There is that in the human character which leads men to admire those who have the courage of their convictions, and the bravery to defend their rights; and while there are some who are sure to decry an insurance company which refuses to be defrauded, or, as in the case of a mutual insurance company, refuses to permit honest policyholders to be robbed, there are others, and many more who commend, and will extend their custom to a company which defends itself against manifest wrong, and protects its policyholders against