

who would like to believe that there is at least one Government in the Dominion which is above resorting to unfair, underhand and corrupt devices will be glad if the Government can free itself from so serious an imputation upon its honour.

THE publication of "Toronto University Studies in Political Science" was happily conceived and is being judiciously carried out by Professor Ashley. Number III., of the First Series, which is now before us, is in some respects the best, because the most directly practical of the three which have appeared. The fact that the author is a young woman adds interest to the discussion, and is at the same time a suggestive reminder that times have changed since women were knocking in vain for admission to the lecture rooms of University College. Were it not now absurd to suppose any apology or vindication of the kind necessary, one might point to this pamphlet as an illustration of the wisdom of the innovation which was effected when it was decreed that sex should no longer debar a moiety of the young people of the Province from the advantages provided at public expense for university culture. Jean Thomson Scott, B.A., the writer of this treatise, has done her work well, and in doing it has rendered an important service to the working women of the Province, and, indeed, to all who are interested in the welfare of their fellow citizens. The facts have been searched out with admirable care and marshalled with a clearness and skill which leave nothing to be desired. The deductions and comments, too, are made in the true scientific spirit, without attempt at rhetorical embellishment. It will be of no small advantage to legislators and all others who may, for any purpose, wish hereafter to know the exact state of the law of the Province with regard to the employment of women and children in factories and shops, to be able to find, ready to hand, the full information contained in this pamphlet. Ample provision is made for testing the accuracy of any of the statements by the list of authorities given on the last pages. While the partially enforced Factories Act and Shops' Regulations Act have done much to improve and render tolerable the condition of women and children employed in the larger industrial and trading establishments of the Province, Miss Scott has very clearly pointed out various respects in which there is room and need for stricter legislation and better enforcement. It will be sufficient for the present purpose simply to indicate one or two of these. Perhaps the most serious of the defects pointed out is the limitations of the "Factories Act," in that it makes no provision for inspection of any factory not employing more than five persons, or of the work done in private houses where only members of the family are employed. There would obviously be serious difficulty in the way of inspection in the latter case, for the home is the castle of the Canadian as well as of the Englishman, and woe to the officer or the Government which attempts to invade its sacred precincts. But the author is clearly right in insisting that the smallness of the number of persons employed should give no immunity from the operation of the Act, for reason as well as observation shows that the small establishments are very often those in which inspection and the enforcement of sanitary and other regulations are most needed. Passing by various other defects and loopholes pointed out in the Acts, the force of the objections taken on the ground of insufficient inspection is obvious from the mere statement of the territory included in some of the inspectorates, while the necessity for female inspectors is so clear that one can only wonder why any Government should hesitate to appoint them.

CLOSELY connected with the subject of the previous paragraph is the question of the enforcement of the Truancy Act passed at the last session of the Ontario Legislature. Assuming that the Minister of Education is in earnest and means to have the provisions of the Act carried into effect, difficulties of various kinds at once suggest themselves. Chief amongst these is that of the disposal of children who have been dismissed from the schools, and other incorrigibles. It is reasonable to suppose that those who fall into the hands of the truant officers will be largely composed of such classes. It is, of course, out of the question, that those who have been expelled from public or private schools as unmanageable, should be forced back into these schools, to the destruction of discipline and the despair of teachers. We learn from a paragraph in one of the papers that the Public School Board of Brantford has been considering the ques-

tion and is about to petition the Government to establish industrial schools in sufficient number and in convenient localities for the reception of such children. This seems a most reasonable suggestion. It is, in fact, about the only feasible method. It may be costly, it is true, but, apart from the necessity which is stronger than even economy, it is doubtful if any better investment could be made in the interests of the State. It is the very kind of school which is wanted for this class of children, whose viciousness is in most cases the outcome of want of occupation. This idleness in its turn is usually the result not so much of dislike to active exertion as of inability to do anything requiring tools and a little of the skill which comes only from practice. We are firm believers in the compulsory education of every child in the State, but we are none the less clearly of opinion that compulsory education is impracticable in the absence of a sufficient number of schools specially adapted for the training of those who have been found incorrigible in the public schools, but who, in nine cases out of ten, can be easily managed and trained for lives of respectability and usefulness in schools properly adapted to the purpose. No State has wisely observed the teachings of political and social science until it has made ample provision for the reformation and education of all its truants, waifs and incorrigibles.

AMONG the various causes assigned by the Liberal organs for the series of defeats which they have suffered thus far in the bye-elections, there is one, in particular, which demands thought and investigation. We refer to their reiterated assertions that the Government candidates have been materially helped by the way in which the voters' lists are filled up and manipulated. Now there may or may not be ground for these complaints. That is a question of fact which can be determined only by special enquiry in individual cases. The point to which we wish to direct attention is the evidence afforded by these complaints—irrespective altogether of the truth or falsity of the allegations—that the present mode of preparing the voters' lists in Dominion elections is wrong and vicious. The very fact that such charges may be made with plausibility, or without absurdity, shows that the system is unsound in principle. That fact implies that it is possible for a Government so disposed to give the managers of its party interests in a given locality such information in advance of its opponents as may enable it to have a decided advantage in the contest. It also implies that it is possible for an unscrupulous revising barrister, as Government officer, to manipulate the lists in such a manner as often to turn the scales in favour of the candidate of his party. Now, it is surely a vicious system which makes it possible for a Government or its appointees to be suspected of so dishonourable an act. We confess ourselves unable to understand how members of a Government, if properly sensitive on a point of honour, can consent either to place themselves or their appointees in such a position, or to take for themselves by means of their party majority in the House, any advantage or possibility of advantage over their opponents. Again, to look at the matter from another point of view. We notice that the Toronto organ of the Government, replying to the charges of packed lists made by certain Opposition candidates and organs, says that "the matter is one dependent upon vigilance and energy," and that "if the Conservatives make gains on the lists it is because their opponents are sleepy and disorganized." But ought a duly qualified voter's right to vote to depend upon the vigilance and energy of one political party, or the sleepiness and disorganization of the other? Ought not the franchise of the elector in a self-governing state to be secured to him independently of the intervention of any party managers, independently even of his own energy and vigilance in looking after a system of registration whose workings he may not very well understand? Surely not. Surely it should be the aim of legislation to encourage every qualified voter to use his franchise, and, in order to this, to devise a scheme whereby the very fact of his having fulfilled the prescribed conditions would secure him a place on the voters' lists, without further action or anxiety on the part of himself or of any party managers. When we add to the enormous cost of working the present Act, the facilities it undoubtedly affords for injustice and fraud, the moral weight of the indictment should be sufficient to crush it out of existence at the earliest possible moment. If the Opposition do but make it clear that the repeal of this Act is one of the planks of their party platform, they may certainly claim the title of "Reformers" in so far as that particular part of their programme is concerned.

THE interim report of the first Quebec Commission has at length been replaced by full majority and minority reports, and the complications of the position are now greater than before. Notwithstanding the assurances that were given through that portion of the press which approved of Lieut.-Governor Angers' course, that Judge Jette, who was at the time too ill to speak for himself, was in full accord with his colleagues, it now appears that Mr. Mercier and his partisans were correct in asserting the contrary. Judge Jette's minority report, disagreeing in certain very important respects from that of his colleagues, and exonerating Premier Mercier, Mr. Garneau, and other members of the deposed Government from complicity in or knowledge of the Pacaud affair, places Mr. Angers in an embarrassing position, especially in view of the fact now revealed by the publication of Judge Jette's note, sent to him at the time of the presentation of the interim report, that he knew at that time of the Judge's dissent from the conclusions of his colleagues. It will be remembered that Mr. Mercier demanded at the time that the note in question be published, but the Lieut.-Governor refused on the ground that it was personal. Whether under the circumstances it could properly be so regarded is a nice question, which we need not undertake to decide. But that Mr. Angers was, to say the least, very ill advised in proceeding to act on the interim report, knowing that it was not concurred in by one of the Commissioners, is sufficiently evident, and there is reason to fear may be still more evident when the results of the coming election are made known. Mr. Mercier and his supporters could hardly desire a better canvassing card than is furnished them by the publication of Judge Jette's conclusions at the present moment, and they are not likely to fail to make use of it to the best advantage. It is true that the subsequent revelations before the Second Commission have pretty well supplied the links of evidence that were wanting in the first instance, and have left no room for reasonable doubt of Mr. Mercier's guilty knowledge of the way in which the Provincial funds were being stolen for his advantage. But it is doubtful whether the sympathy evoked by the evident straining of the gubernatorial powers, in order to give a reason for his dismissal, combined with the questionable propriety of Mr. Angers' subsequent procedure, may not blind a large majority of Mr. Mercier's followers to the facts of the case. It is unfortunate from every point of view that the differences of opinion in the first Commission should have followed the planes of political cleavage. It is equally unfortunate that, in choosing a second board of Commissioners, Mr. Angers should have thought it necessary or wise to select wholly from those who had formerly been identified with Mr. Mercier's political opponents and his own political friends. All these things give more or less of plausibility to the cry that the Lieut.-Governor was actuated by partisan feelings and the desire to snatch a party advantage from the disgraceful circumstances. Had Mr. Angers been content to move more cautiously, had he scrupulously refrained from anything that the most rabid partisanship could have construed into an evidence of party feeling, there can be no doubt that the uncovering of the astounding breach of trust of which the Mercier Administration were unquestionably guilty might have been made with much better moral and political effect. While some are disparaging Judge Jette's report as a "party manifesto," we see no evidence that he was less conscientious and unbiassed than his colleagues. It must be borne in mind that he was bound to give judgment strictly in accordance with the evidence brought before the Commission of which he was a member, and it is, we think, undeniable that the evidence of Mr. Mercier's personal guilt adduced before that Commission was, as we pointed out at the time, no more direct or conclusive than that of a very similar nature presented in the case of Sir Hector Langevin, who was acquitted by the House of Commons.

WE shall evidently have to wait until Parliament meets for information in regard to the reciprocity conference at Washington. As the interviews are said to have been informal and confidential, it is possible that not even Parliamentary interrogation may suffice to open the mouths of the delegates, though whether and to what extent the principles and usages of constitutional government permit Cabinet Ministers to carry on secret conferences and negotiations of the kind in question and refuse information concerning them to Parliament we are not prepared to say. Probably the only plea that would be held valid for such reticence would be that of the unin-