

at 108,640 in 1886, and at 152,510 in 1891; in 1896 it is 193,425. The census of the Prairie Province is taken quinquennially for the purpose of readjusting the subsidy payable by the Dominion, and the rest of the people of Canada would have been glad to pay for 250,000 for the next five years. It is to be hoped that as the result of better times and a vigorous and sensible immigration policy, it will be half or three-quarters of a million in 1901. By way of removing one obstacle in the way of the advancement of Manitoba, the people of the Province should unite in settling the school question on terms that will satisfy all reasonable citizens irrespective of religious complexion, and will thus take it entirely out of Dominion politics. With the Minister of the Interior to look after her interests in the Cabinet they should be regarded as quite safe, no matter what party is in power at Ottawa.

Unpaid
Aldermen.

A graceful and well-deserved compliment was paid the other day to Ald. Lamb, of this city, in connection with the opening up of the Rosedale drive, which was undertaken and partly completed while he was Chairman of the Board of Works. The address presented to him expressed appreciation of what he had done for Toronto, and this sentiment will be heartily endorsed by the citizens generally. This year has witnessed the inauguration of a greatly modified system of civic administration, under which the Chairman of the Board of Works will play a less prominent and responsible part than he formerly did. This fact should make the people of Toronto more rather than less grateful to the public spirited and able men who have for years given their time and business ability to the public without remuneration. Three of these men deserve special mention in this connection, ex-Ald. Carlyle, ex-Ald. Shaw, and Ald. Lamb. While filling, without remuneration, an office entrusted with the construction of works costing millions of dollars, not one of them was ever suspected of peculation to the extent of a single dollar. It is well that the village plan of unpaid services should end, but it is well, also, to show hearty appreciation of the ability and rectitude of the men who made the old system tolerable.

Bismarck and
Queen Victoria.

Now and then a flash of light reveals to the student of current history some of the mysteries that lie beneath the surface of international diplomacy. The dislike manifested by Prince Bismarck towards the British Royal family has for years been equally notorious and inexplicable. Now he has himself made public the cause of it. Grievously disappointed at the rapidity with which the French Republic recovered from the war of 1870, Bismarck was eager to renew the contest five years later. In his merciless desire to crush a fallen but rising foe he found himself thwarted by the aged Emperor William, who had a will as obdurate as his own. It was supposed at the time that the Emperor's reluctance to pick a new quarrel with France was due to the influence of the Czar Alexander II of Russia; Bismarck has now published in his personal newspaper organ a letter which gives a different and no doubt authoritative explanation. In this letter, which was written to the old Emperor in 1875, he complained bitterly of Queen Victoria's personal intervention to prevent a renewal of hostilities, and from that time on he was persistently and vindictively hostile to her and her family. Had the Emperor Frederick been spared to occupy for a length of time the throne of Germany, it is quite likely that Bismarck's service as Chancellor would have been dispensed with sooner or later, as they actually were by his son the present Emperor. The whole incident shows Queen Victoria in a light to which her loyal subjects are fortu-

nately quite accustomed—that of an international peacemaker. It recalls that other and earlier episode of history, in the course of which she used with success her personal influence to prevent France from recognizing at a critical stage of the American civil war, the independence of the Southern Confederacy—a memorable service which many worthy people in the United States seem to have forgotten.

Great Britain
and Russia.

The sudden death of Prince Lobanoff, the influential Foreign Minister of Russia, has occurred on the eve of the family visit which the Czar and Czarina are to make to Queen Victoria at Balmoral. As the deceased statesman was the reverse of friendly to Britain, his removal may perhaps conduce to a better understanding between the two countries as the result of the approaching family reunion. It is characteristic of Her Majesty that she has taken the precaution to have a long interview with Lord Salisbury, her Foreign Secretary, before the Czar arrives, apparently with a desire to avoid such complications as might easily result from an effort on her part to bring about more complete co-operation between the two countries. The venerable Queen never forgets her position as a constitutional sovereign, though her grandson is the somewhat arbitrary Kaiser of Germany and her grand-daughter is the consort of the despot of all the Russias. If the result of the visit should be the co-operation of Russia and Britain to secure better government for Armenia and Crete, the occasion will become a memorable one in history.

Mr. Edward
Blake.

Referring to the unfounded statement circulated last month—that Hon. Edward Blake has been appointed a member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council on the nomination of the Canadian Government—the *London Canadian Gazette* makes the following observations: "There is no doubt, as we have ourselves said, of Mr. Blake's peculiar fitness for the post. It is probable that his nomination would be cordially made by the Canadian Government, and be received with general approval in Canada. The press comments on the Central News misreport show as much. But it must be remembered that Mr. Blake has committed himself to the Irish cause with a devotion and self-sacrifice which, whatever we may think of his political views, no one will deny. During the past few weeks he has shown especial activity in the arrangements for the Dublin Convention, which will, he hopes, heal dissensions in the Irish party, and those in the counsels of the Irish party who should know do not believe he would abandon the work to which he has so deeply committed himself. The acceptance of the position would presumably mean withdrawal from Parliament, and, of course, the abandonment of what is perhaps the largest practice of any barrister appearing before the last Court of Appeal in the Empire."

Indian
Silver.

One of the ironies of the United States Presidential Election is the report from India that the hoarders of silver in that country are eagerly hoping for the election of Mr. Bryan. It is well known that India was, some three years ago, glutted with silver to such an extent that the work of coinage was stopped at the mints, and it has never since been renewed. This was the only way to check the continued depreciation of silver coin and the consequent derangement of prices. It is further reported that the holders of Indian silver will take a hand in the Presidential contest for the purpose of helping to bring about the free coinage of silver