

becoming more and more restricted. The desire of the leading members of the Bar is naturally to reach the highest honours of the profession; but the disproportion between the professional gains of leading Canadian counsel and the salaries of the judges has now become so great that the best men cannot be induced to exchange the emoluments of the Bar for the higher dignity of the Bench. The situation is one that is full of evil. The Bench seems destined to become the refuge of second and even third-class lawyers. Recently, offers of judicial appointments have been rejected by several leading members of the Bar in succession; and it is well understood that not one of the great lights of the profession, whatever his wishes might be, could afford to accept such a salary as he would be obliged to take if he became a judge. Unless some change be made, we shall before long see the superior courts in possession of men greatly inferior in a knowledge of the law to the counsel who habitually plead before them: appeals, which have already become far too numerous, will become still more frequent; and respect for judicial decisions from which all certainty and stability have departed will suffer a serious decline. But for one or two reasons, Mr. John O'Connor would not have been made a Superior Court judge; his appointment is evidently owing either to the impossibility of finding a first-rate man who would take the position—which may safely be assumed—or to the supposed necessity of occasionally observing ecclesiastical lines in the distribution of secular patronage. The truth is this appointment is one of the bids for Roman Catholic votes that both political parties are constantly making. Already, it may be, there were weaker men on the Bench than Mr. O'Connor; but whether this be so or not, the appointment marks another step in a descent from which nothing but evil can come. The obvious remedy is to raise the salaries of the judges. Leading counsel cannot afford to take on the Bench one-half or one-third of what they can make at the Bar. The difficulty is supposed to be with the judges of the smaller Provinces, whose services, it is assumed, would be overpaid by salaries which would command the best talent of the Ontario Bar; and against whom it would be difficult to make a discrimination. But unless the situation, which is already bad, is to get worse, some change must be made. It would not be necessary to increase the salaries to the highest amounts which a few leading counsel can make; the honour of the position, to reach which is an object of just ambition, would count for something. As things go at present, the prize is becoming of less value, and the incentive to take it is losing some of its force.

SINCE the loan to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company was made, last session, the public has received assurances from time to time which tended to remove doubt and dispel anxieties. Doubt was felt in many quarters as to whether the loan would be sufficient to enable the Company to finish the work without further application to Parliament. Mr. George Stephen, President of the Company, has recently given the public assurance that he has no misgivings on this point. When the loan was granted the Minister of Railways laid great and, as many thought, undue stress on the early completion of the road. Parliament, whatever its motives, concurred in the necessity of continuing construction with the same rapidity that had so far characterized the progress of the work. As time goes on, and the precise nature and difficulties presented by the work remaining to be done becomes better known, no fears are expressed that completion may not be reached as soon as promised. Mr. VanHorn is reported to be rather disposed to bring nearer than to put at a greater distance the time when it will be possible to run a train over the completed line. The Pacific Railway proper is far from measuring the amount of the expenditure incurred or the extent of the work done. Under its contract, the Company was bound to build what is known as the Canadian Pacific Railway; but, if it had not gone beyond the letter of the bond, this great public undertaking, vast as it is, would have been not only incomplete, but much of it practically useless, especially during the winter season. It would have come to a dead halt, in the wilderness, at Callendar, from which point there would have been no means of connecting with the Atlantic Ocean. The means of reaching the Atlantic would have had to be found, and the cost of the undertaking would have fallen on the Government. If, as the critics tell us, the Company has incurred an expenditure of nearly fifty-five millions (54,795,999), while it could have performed its contract obligations to date by an expenditure of less than half that amount (23,563,564), its enterprise, far from being a legitimate subject of censure, entitles it to the thanks of the public. By this expenditure, it has given completeness to a great public work, which would otherwise have been but half finished. To the company not less than to the public the complementary sections, which it has voluntarily supplied, were necessary; and in supplying them the company has proved its confidence in the future of the work, as a whole. To reach the Atlantic

was even more necessary than to reach the Pacific; and the whole line to be worked to advantage, must be under one management. If the company had stopped short with merely fulfilling its contract, the country would not have secured a road which could take the produce of the North-West to the seaboard; and even if the Government had undertaken to complete the connections, as it must have done, the patience of the settlers in the North-West would have been put to a severe trial. The cost to the Government would have been so much more money sunk, and the road east of Callendar would have been less satisfactory as a possession than the whole property of the Company is as a security. Whatever has been done by the Company in the acquisition of roads, looking to the completion of the system, has been done under the eye, and with the sanction of Parliament. Dividends paid during construction, as they must come out of capital, increase the amount of capital on which future dividends would have to be paid. But if investors were asked to forego dividends, for several years, they might not accept the condition. A dividend on part of the stock of the Canadian Pacific has been provided for by a deposit made by the Company; but it cannot be said that there is no danger of any part of the dividend being virtually paid out of the loan of public money received by the Company. But for the loan security has been given; and the money, when handed over in exchange for the security, becomes the property of the Company, and can be applied to meet any of its obligations, and that it could be so applied Parliament must have been aware when the loan was granted.

It is a pity that the U. E. Loyalists cannot, like other people, celebrate the historic origin and the pleasant traditions of their families, in which the whole community feels a sympathetic interest, without flinging stones at their neighbours. They are not the only people whose hearts are true to the interests of Canada. Indeed, had they, or some of them, been allowed to have their own way, Canada would still be without responsible government and under the heel of some military Viceroy. Colonel Denison has been repeating at Niagara the offensive language with which he broke the peace of the Semi-Centennial at Toronto. The Independence movement may be wise or unwise, but it is very certain that there are connected with it men whose motives are undeniably honourable and whose character and position entitles them to respectful treatment. The movement was not set on foot by those whom he calls "Bohemians and wanderers." It was in full swing, and "Canada First," the memorable pamphlet which formed its manifesto, had been published before these men came into the country. It was the natural offspring of Confederation and of the appeals which were then addressed to the patriotic pride and hopefulness of the people. It is curious to read among the names of the U. E. Loyalists present on this occasion that of the Hon. J. Burr Plumb. As Mr. Plumb is understood to have been a citizen of Albany, N.Y., and to have formerly engaged in commerce in that place, Col. Denison's allusions to "Yankees" and their "rascality" must have sounded pleasantly in his ears!

Nor a little surprise seems to have been felt at the "mixed" class of travellers who came out to this country—ostensibly as "scientists"—in connection with the recent meetings and excursions of the British Association. But it was not eccentricity of genius that inspired the extraordinary appearance and conduct which provoked expressions of astonishment. The truth of the matter is that to a certain proportion of eminent scientific men was added a large number of mere "trippers"—pleasure-seekers who availed themselves of a good opportunity of seeing Canada to advantage. The members of this easy-going fraternity made their presence manifest even before they landed on Canadian soil; for, true to the nature of men of that ilk, they indulged in horse-play and gambling when crossing the Atlantic, and drew forth protests from *bona fide* scientists, who formally complained of the presence on board of "vulgar Manchester bagmen." In this connection it was amusing to read the first interviewers' accounts of "eminent scientists at play"—learned professors indulging in leap-frog, intellectual giants vainly endeavouring to walk a chalk-line with a heavy swell running! The experiment of holding the annual meeting of the British Association out of Great Britain has unquestionably been more successful than was at first anticipated, but the Montreal session can hardly be deemed representative: many of the foremost names in the world of science were absent from the list of those who took part in the deliberations.

It is questionable whether the general chorus of approbation with which Lord Dufferin's appointment to the Viceroyalty of India has been received is bestowed with full knowledge of the circumstances and the man. Competent witnesses are of opinion that India has in the past been too much governed, and that what she absolutely requires at the present moment is a