

combination would almost hold the balance of power in the House. The people of Manitoba have therefore good reason to believe that the days of disallowance are numbered. The desired result may be readily accomplished, if the Northwest representatives but do their duty.

In the other provinces of the Dominion the result of the elections did not show a sufficient change to indicate anything in particular. In Ontario no doubt the National Policy was not without its influence in upholding the administration, Mr. Blake's tardy and qualified admissions that he would not disturb the tariff, not being explicit enough to convince manufacturers of his thorough conversion to protectionist ideas. The Rielite movement in Quebec may also have operated against the Liberals in Ontario, thereby counteracting any benefit from their tacit acceptance of the National Policy.

SETTLE DOWN TO BUSINESS.

The country has been in a state of expectancy for the past few weeks, such as is usually the case during the progress of an election contest, with all its attendant excitement and unsettling of commercial affairs. But now that the cause of disquietude has been removed, it is hoped that business matters will at once settle down and go on as before without interruption. Merchants who have devoted almost their entire attention to politics for the past few weeks, will now be at liberty to take up once more the management of their business affairs, and as little time as possible should be lost in useless reflection over the past contest. A review of the situation, however, with special reference to the future, may not be out of place.

The Government went into the contest with the almost unwieldy majority of about seventy, in a house of about 210 members. It has come out with a greatly reduced majority, but still probably quite sufficient to enable it to administer the affairs of the country successfully. Aside from a party standpoint, there is reason for congratulation at the result. A very large majority begets carelessness and even arrogance on the part of an administration, especially when continued for several terms of office. The true friends of Conservatism in Canada could therefore not feel other than disappointed, had the Government been confirmed in office with an overwhelming majority, such as it has received at the two previous elections. But whilst a very large majority, long continued, is not conducive of good government, neither is a very small majority always desirable. A narrow majority is conducive of weakness, and often leads to corrupt practices in endeavors to secure increased support. The return to power of either of the great political parties,

with a majority barely sufficient to enable a Government to hold office, would have been a calamity to the country. A result much closer than the present contest has developed would probably have necessitated another general election at an early date, an event which from a commercial standpoint could not be at all desirable. As matters stand, however, there is every reason to believe that, when returns from the deferred districts are completed, the Government will be found to have a sufficiently large following to enable it to carry on the affairs of the country successfully. At the same time the Opposition in the next Parliament will not by any means be the insignificant factor it was in the last. It will have considerable influence in shaping the course of legislation, and should have power to prevent excesses or Governmental extravagance. This being the case, there is no reason why those who would have desired a different result, should not give over speculating upon a possible early defeat of the Government. The sooner the stability of the Government is recognized, the better it will be for all concerned. Whatever there might have been before the elections, there is now no immediate prospect of a change in the commercial policy of the country. The country has been fairly prosperous in the past, and it is to be hoped that it has again entered upon another four years of political quietude and commercial and industrial prosperity.

THE EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

The experimental farm project appears to have been at last fairly inaugurated. As the result of special investigations in connection with the subject, an act was passed at the last session of parliament, providing for the establishment of experimental farms throughout the Dominion, under the control of the Department of Agriculture. These farms were to be located as follows: One for the provinces of Ontario and Quebec jointly, one for the Maritime provinces, one in Manitoba, one in the Northwest Territories, and one in British Columbia. The work which is to be undertaken at these farms is of a very varied and extensive nature. Attention will be given to stock-raising, with a view to testing the relative value of different breeds, and their adaptability to climatic and other conditions. - Economic dairying will also be an important subject of investigation. The merits of the different sorts of cereals, vegetables, fruits, forest trees, etc., will be tested, with special reference to the varying climatic conditions of different parts of the country. Other matters, such as fertilizers, animal foods, forestry, diseases of plants and animals, vitality and purity of seeds, etc., will also be investigated.

The farm for the provinces of Ontario and Quebec has been located near Ottawa, and within three miles of the Parliament buildings, where 460 acres of land have

been secured for the purpose. The Ottawa farm will be the headquarters, from which the management of the other farms will be in a measure directed. Some work was done on the central farm last fall, though the season was too far advanced to make much progress. Purchases of seed grains, grasses, etc., have been made in Russia, Germany Japan, etc., for the purpose of testing side by side the merits of the different sorts. A large collection of fruits, trees and vines have been arranged for, including upwards of 200 hardy varieties of Russian fruits, which it is thought might be successfully cultivated in the colder portions of the Dominion. Special attention will also be given to the propagation of economic, decorative and other forest trees and shrubs. A very useful department will be that for testing and determining the value of seeds. Every person in Canada will have the privilege of sending samples of seeds to the Experimental Farm, when he may wish to know their germinating power. Mail matter to and from the farm will be carried free. The other farms in the different sections of the Dominion have not yet been located, but will be shortly established.

This movement on the part of the Department of Agriculture is certainly one of the most important yet undertaken, and if carried out properly, should undoubtedly prove of vast benefit to the country. In the Northwest especially great good should result. Agriculture in this part of Canada must be experimental to a very great extent for some time to come, owing to the fact that the country is yet new. Its capabilities are only beginning to be known, and much experiment is necessary to test the adaptability of the various kinds of plants to the country. Individual farmers as a rule have neither the knowledge nor means to carry on a system of experimental agriculture. The Government farms will be able to supply this want, and no doubt through their instrumentality many varieties of plant life will be found adapted to cultivation in the Northwest, which are not now known in the country. The tests in connection with hardy varieties of fruit trees, especially, will be watched with interest by the farmers of Manitoba.

Owing to the vast extent of the Northwest Territories, and the greatly varying climatic conditions between the extremes of distance, it would seem that more than one farm would be necessary to give this vast region that special attention which its importance demands. To thoroughly test the adaptability of the country to agricultural and pastoral pursuits, at least three or four experimental farms would be required. These might with advantage be located one at the east, one at the west, one at the north, and one in the great central region. However, the one will be very acceptable, as it is hoped that its success will lead to the establishment of others in the country, as no doubt will be found necessary in time.