

An amusing commentary on the difference between profession and practice is seen in that leading members of both parties are often heard to say that the Senate and the Legislative Assemblies are useless and a state burden, and yet, as soon as there is a vacancy in either, candidates rush forward for the place, and there is no peace until the seat is filled once more. Both sides play this game with equal keenness, but the spirit which it displays is not that of true elevation.

It is not easy to determine the true meaning of the by-elections that have lately taken place in England and Scotland. On the face of them they seem to signify a gradual revulsion of the feeling in these two countries, in favour of Home Rule for Ireland, but the interpretations of the newspapers are so hopelessly contradictory, that nothing can be made of them. Indeed, it looks as if the British press is not a whit more dispassionate or less partisan than that of the United States or of Canada. By-elections are hard to interpret, as a rule, but surely there is a way of telling whether the issues are political or only local and personal.

The new member for Shefford had scarcely been a week in the Legislature when he moved to repeal the charter of the Quebec Ship Labourers Society, on several pleas of incompetency and mischief. That a gentleman from the hills of Stukely, where streams are not navigable and shippers unknown, should take upon himself the Herculean task of wiping out the Quebec Kings of time and tide, is one of the amusing anomalies of legislative life. The question is primarily a municipal one, and as the corporation of Quebec has wisely let it alone, the chances are that the legislature will have some trouble with it.

Two useful and practical measures have been taken by the Department of Marine and Fisheries, which doubtless will meet with the approval of both parties, after being sanctioned, as they were, by Parliament. The one is the ordering from Scotland of a steamer specially adapted for government and other service between Prince Edward Island and the New Brunswick Coast, and the other is a call for tenders, in Scotland again, for a new steam cutter to be used in lighthouse and other work on the Pacific Coast.

A number of banks of Ontario and Quebec, having their headquarters at Toronto and Montreal, have held their yearly meetings during the past few days, and put before the public statements of their operations. The report from all of them, beginning with the Bank of Montreal and the Bank of Commerce, down to the smaller banks, is altogether satisfactory, testifying to a sound business for themselves, with good dividends and adequate rests, and proclaiming a healthy state of trade and money in almost all branches. This, with the now almost assured outlook of a plentiful harvest, is cheering news.

THE DOMINION'S MAJORITY.

There is no question here of polling day or of votes being cast. The reference is to the twenty-first anniversary of Canadian Confederation. On the first of July of the present year of grace, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, the Dominion attains its majority. In other words, a whole generation has been born and brought up since that great constitutional event took place, and to that generation belongs the immediate future. The young men, on finishing their schooling, have chosen a trade, a profession, or some other calling, and, with the use of the suffrage, enter practically upon the functions of public life. The young women, having also concluded their training, assume the duties of the household, after passing under the flowery arch of courtship and love. They begin at once to raise the second generation of Canadians, and imbue them with their own good principles and sentiments.

It is on this auspicious day that the DOMINION ILLUSTRATED issues its first number, and our readers will allow that no more appropriate date

could be chosen. The object of the paper is to illustrate, by pen and pencil, the resources of the Dominion of Canada; to assist in its growth; to promote its prosperity, and to help the spread of its good name both at home and abroad. There is no more powerful agency to this end than the work of the painter, draughtsman and photographer, setting before the eye of the reader scenes of men, places, incidents, and the whole living panorama of a busy, active nation pushing forward, through seven rival provinces, to the fulfilment of their manifest destiny. The DOMINION ILLUSTRATED will be the people's paper, putting everything before them that will be likely to interest, inform and benefit. The letter press will eagerly support the artist and furnish the reader a weekly choice of all that is new, fresh, wholesome and important in the social, literary, scientific, artistic and even political spheres.

In illustration of this article, we publish, on this page, a coat of arms, which is commended as a permanency, and not subject, as is the case with the ordinary escutcheon, to changes on every new accession of provinces to the Confederation.



There is first the shield, divided into four quarters, representing the four races whose bone and muscle, whose brains and toil, whose pluck and money have made this country what it is, and laid the foundation of that mightier structure which it is going to become in the not distant future. These races are the English, French, Scotch and Irish. Each is represented by its token of national flower—the rose, lily, thistle and shamrock. The tutelary power of the whole is represented by the Imperial Crown, at the summit, and the peculiar and special Canadian character is denoted by a beaver over the shield and around it a broad wreath of the beautiful maple leaf. The legend underneath is simple, while it expresses the fundamental principle of our constitution that we thrive by union, although severed by race, creed and tongue. *Diversae conjunctae crescimus.* We need not indulge in sentiment, but in sober earnest there is room for saying that so sure as the Canadian confederated provinces are bound for a glorious destiny, a fair share of coöperation in the national work will be reserved for the DOMINION ILLUSTRATED.

CANADIAN CREDIT.

The material aspect of the national question is not sufficiently taken into account, especially in a young country like ours. And yet Canadians are a practical, almost prosaic, people; sprung, as a rule, from poverty; broken to hard toil;

used to the closest thrift in household management; unhelpful of much beyond competence, and not given to wild speculation. In Quebec, the French inhabitants are more inclined to fancy and sentiment, and often forget the hard needs of the present in the rehearsal of what is acknowledged to be a beautiful past. But even in that province, the staunch, solid farmers, who slave in their fields from youth to old age, and succeed in getting a stake in the land, are fully alive to the necessity of promoting the financial and business interests of the country. The same may be said of the merchants, tradesmen, real estate dealers and money makers of the cities and towns.

The man is blind who does not see that the natural resources of Canada, immense as they are, have been immensely developed in the past ten or fifteen years, and that the result of this expansion has been the physical and social well-being of the people. The improvement in agriculture has been very great, although there are parishes and counties where the backwardness of one hundred years is still seen. The transformation of whole cities and country towns by the establishment of manufactories, within the past short decade, has struck the casual visitor as much as the compiler of statistics, who sees therein the infallible figures of national progress. With agriculture and manufactories, as two pillars upon which to build, the natural resources of the country have a chance to spread, to blossom and to produce fruit. Money goes into circulation. The banks get hold of much of this money and lay it out, according to approved principles of experience, in such manner as to assist legitimate efforts of trade, while yielding a fair profit to the managers. Importers and tradesmen generally have learned the wisdom of assorting goods so as not glut the markets, either in the quality or quantity of their importations and purchases.

The ease of the farmer, the ready means of the manufacturer, the wealth of the importer and wholesale dealer in many wares, the intelligent handling, by the banks and other financial institutions, of large lumps of idle capital for definite purposes of general gain, all this puts the whole country on a comfortable footing, and then Government steps in, with the sanction of Parliament, to use the revenue, which represents the support of the people, for the building of public works.

Here again, the record of the Dominion is one that may be viewed with a feeling of satisfaction. There have been abuses, of course. Money has been ill spent, and some ugly superfluities have burdened the exchequer. But, as a rule, with the plans and specifications, which are the result of departmental experience, and the close scrutiny of a watchful Opposition, it may be set down that the numerous and splendid public works of the Dominion, notwithstanding their first outlay, and their cost of maintenance, are valuable assets which contribute not only to the present prosperity of the whole country, but are the most powerful levers of its credit at home and abroad.

This credit, founded on dollars and cents, which dollars and cents are the outcome of the farmer at his plough, the mechanic at his stool, the tradesman at his counter, the working man in all branches of toil, the banker at his desk, and the Department of Public Works, in its manifold relations to all the Provinces, should be regarded as our dearest treasure, and no partisanship ought to be allowed to mar it for the sake of any theoretical craze or empirical change.