

margarine is an unfair competition with the dairying industry." And for that reason Mr. Ruddick would renew the prohibition of oleomargarine! Is not that merely a submission to unfounded prejudice? Would it not be better to appeal to the understanding of those maritime provinces and prairie farmers, who as a class are not less intelligent than those of Ontario and Quebec? Since Mr. Ruddick virtually admits the use of oleomargarine does not really injure the dairying business, should he not endeavor to instruct the farmers accordingly? Commissioner Ruddick has rendered much valuable service to the dairying industry of Canada. We should like to see him continue that good work on the line of educating the farmers in the truth respecting oleomargarine, rather than by encouraging them to look for a prohibition which, while it will do no real good to the farmers, will array a large part of the people against them.

The Ambassador to Washington

THE report of the appointment of Sir Auckland Geddes, a member of the British Cabinet, to be Ambassador at Washington, has been officially confirmed. He has resigned the Presidency of our McGill University, to which he had been appointed, and when he leaves London it will be to take up his duties at the American capital. There is some difference of opinion in political circles in London as to the wisdom of the appointment. The American people are complimented when a man of high rank, of distinction and political prestige, is chosen by a foreign government for the diplomatic service at Washington. Sir Auckland Geddes has made an excellent record as a business administrator during the war, but some fear is expressed that his short political experience and the forceful methods of war-time business are not the best qualifications for diplomatic service. There is, however, another side to the question, viewed from which Sir Auckland's appointment may be regarded more favorably. The qualities required in an Ambassador at Washington are the subject of an interesting article written, on his return to England from an American visit, by Mr. A. G. Gardiner, formerly editor of the London Daily News. Mr. Gardiner is one of the ablest of English journalists. As editor of the Daily News he was rather too much inclined toward pacifism to meet war-time public opinion. On one question he was always a leader of British opinion—the cultivation of good relations between Great Britain and the United States. He was therefore particularly interested, on his visit to the States, in endeavoring to ascertain the real character of American opinion towards Great Britain. His conclusion is that the "best mind" of the United States is most friendly, but that the "popular mind" has yet to be won. The most influential thought, the most educated opinion, the most indigen-

ous culture, he says, are pro-English. Indeed he found among these classes, to a surprising degree, a "tenderness of affection" toward England. But, highly gratifying as this is, it does not overcome the fact that American popular sentiment, influenced largely by the foreign population, is not pro-English. The best that can be said of it is that it is not anti-English, that it is indifferent for the most part, "shot through with threads of friendship here and hostility there." To keep the goodwill of this better class, to extend it, and to bring popular sentiment into accord with it should be the British aim. This brings Mr. Gardiner to the consideration of the qualities of representative British public men who have visited the States, some of whom, he thinks, are unpleasant memories:

"America has sent its most famous citizens to represent it at the Court of St. James. With the exception of Lord Bryce, we have usually sent to Washington men trained in the evil spirit of European diplomacy, ignorant of the American spirit and often contemptuous of that spirit if they were not ignorant. The fresh, healthy understanding spirit which Lord Grey and Sir William Tyrrell have breathed into the official atmosphere during recent months must be maintained. We must have in Washington big men who understand America, love it, and sympathize with its culture and ideas."

It may be that Sir Auckland Geddes, free as he is from the "evil spirit of European diplomacy," and fully acquainted with the spirit of America, will be better able to render the service now required at Washington than would be one of wider experience in the field of diplomacy.

Judges' Salaries

A LARGE deputation from the Canadian Bar Association waited on a committee of the Cabinet at Ottawa a few days ago to ask for an increase of the salaries of the Judges of Canada. The request seems to have been general and indiscriminate, and according to a press report the representation was made that "there had been no increase in the stipend paid to judges during the last thirty-five or forty years, notwithstanding the abnormal increase in the cost of living." If the deputation made such a representation they did harm rather than good to their cause. There certainly has been increase of the stipend of judges within the time mentioned. There is only one class of people that we know of whose salaries have not been increased during that long period. It is the Cabinet Ministers themselves. Cabinet Ministers are members of Parliament, and as such they receive the indemnity allowed to members, which was increased some years ago; but apart from that, the salaries of the Ministers remain as they were fixed many years ago. Acts readjusting the salaries of judges, or some of them, have not been rare. On at least one occasion a pretty general and substantial in-

crease was made. And only a year ago an Act was passed providing for increases to a number of judges.

The present claim of the judges for increase is therefore not as strong as it has been represented. Nevertheless, there may be good ground for the reconsideration of the subject which the Bar Association is asking. The maintenance of the judiciary in independence and dignity is an essential part of our social system, and such conditions are not to be expected if the salaries of the judges are not on a liberal scale. Perhaps the public would be more ready to recognize this if there were a more general belief that appointments to the bench, and retirements and pensions, have been governed entirely by the requirements of the public service. There is among laymen a widespread opinion that these things are too often regulated by political convenience, that judges are sometimes appointed where there is no need of additions to the bench, and that judges well able to continue their work are retired on pension in order that places may be made for others. The fact that in some large districts there are judges who are overworked is hardly sufficient to remove the impression referred to. And the readiness with which judges have taken upon themselves duties beyond those of their offices is calculated to confirm the opinion that some of these high officials are not too busy. The payment of better salaries to judges who have had no increase, and whose work is really necessary for the proper administration of justice, can easily be defended.

Unhappy Ireland

THE hopes that were entertained that the new Home Rule bill, the second reading of which is about to be moved in the British House of Commons, would solve the old Irish problem seem doomed to disappointment. The bill is the fruit of long and unquestionably sincere effort on the part of Mr. Lloyd George and his colleagues to find a ground upon which all parties could unite. The adoption of the system of two Legislatures instead of one, it was hoped, would remove some of the strongest objections that had been raised by the opponents of Home Rule. That feature of the new bill seems to have secured a reluctant and rather sullen assent to the measure by Sir Edward Carson and a part of his 'Ulster following, but beyond that qualified support the new bill appears to have no friends. If Mr. Lloyd George's Government decide to press the bill they may be able to carry it, but if so, it will have little effect in removing the discontent in Ireland. Mr. Asquith has evidently reached the conclusion that the bill will accomplish no good purpose, and therefore has given notice of his intention to move to reject it. Whether the bill passes or is withdrawn will unfortunately make little or no difference as respects the present strife and disorder in Ireland. The Irish problem seems insoluble.