

bailiff is apt to do back home. The man who goes overseas to fight should be relieved of all worry. This is a matter for arrangement between the Dominion and Provinces, and while presenting certain difficulties, should be courageously faced and solved.

Neither of these suggested changes would be impossible to bring about, and yet we are satisfied untold good would result from the knowledge that a man who enlisted would be sent overseas within a month or two and that at the same time his home and business would be protected until he returned. It is obvious that something must be done, and done quickly. But we are satisfied that these two changes would materially help.

Does Col. Roosevelt Decline?

COLONEL Roosevelt, travelling through the West India islands, issued in Trinidad a statement to the American press which is heralded in some quarters as an announcement that he will not be a candidate for the Presidency of the United States at the coming election. A careful examination of the Colonel's words, however, fails to confirm this impression of his attitude. His communication was a comment on a proposal by some of his friends to have his name presented to the "primaries" in Massachusetts. Similar proposals had been made as respects the primaries in Nebraska, Minnesota and Michigan and to all he had turned a deaf ear. "I do not," he says, "wish the nomination. I am not the least interested in the political fortunes either of myself or of any other man." He is only interested in "awakening" his countrymen to a realization of the dreadful state of affairs under a Democratic administration. The time has arrived, he thinks, when the nation needs something "more than adroit cleverness in escaping action behind clouds of fine words." This is a sharp rap at President Wilson, but it might apply almost as well to Colonel Roosevelt himself, for his somewhat lengthy manifesto, while it contains much denunciation, of an indefinite character, of the policy and conduct of his opponents, really leaves the people entirely in the dark as to what is the Colonel's policy in any direction. The thing that seems most clearly indicated is that, while Colonel Roosevelt desires that his name shall not be used at the primary meetings, he expects conditions to arise at the Republican and Progressive conventions in June which will produce a Roosevelt call, whereupon the Colonel can say: "Of course, you all know that I did not wish to be a candidate; you know I refused to allow my name to be used at the primaries; but since there is this overwhelming demand for my services, I cannot refuse, etc., etc." And it must be admitted that events in both Republican and Progressive circles seem to be shaping themselves towards the success of this Roosevelt movement.

Some of the reports of the discussion at Ottawa, on the Finance Minister's bill to amend the Bank Act by providing for loans on live stock, left an erroneous impression concerning the taking of security. Such transactions, it appears from the text of the bill as it now stands, are not to be exempt from registration in Provinces where there are statutes or ordinances relating to bills of sale and chattel mortgages. In the case of Provinces having no such provision notice of the taking of the security is to be published in the official Gazette.

The Haig Brand

THERE is a story about Abe Lincoln and General Grant, which most people have heard. After the failure of several commanding officers, Grant had been given command of the army, and began to show evidence of his capacity. A worker in the Temperance cause deemed it his duty to warn the President that Grant was not a total abstainer—that, in fact, he had been known to take an occasional glass of whisky. "Is that so?" inquired Abe, "Well, I wish you would find out the brand he uses, for I may have to send some of it to those other generals." There is a visible connection between whisky and the new Commander-in-Chief of the British army in France that must be disturbing to some folk. Haig is a great name in the Scotch whisky trade. It is the proud boast of the Haigs that they have been distillers for centuries. Sir Douglas Haig is one of the proprietors of the old Haig concern. More than that, he is a director of the company which produces this particular brand of Mountain Dew, and the management, evidently with a keen eye to business, are making use of his name in their advertisements. Whether anybody has warned Lord Kitchener of the danger does not appear.

A School Question Settled

SASKATCHEWAN has new troubles on its hands at present, but one question which had threatened to be disturbing seems to be settled for the time. In a recent article we presented the facts of a school dispute which was the subject of much discussion in pulpit and in the press of the Province. The point of dispute, it may be remembered, was whether, in the case of the establishing of a Roman Catholic separate school, all the ratepayers of that faith were obliged to contribute to its support, or whether any one of them who dissented might pay his taxes to the public school, if he so pleased.

Judge McLorg, of the District Court, had decided that the ratepayer was free to pay to either school. The Provincial Government, claiming that this was contrary to the law as generally understood, caused the passing of a declaratory amendment to make clear that the ratepayer had no such option. It was this amendment which was severely attacked in press and pulpit, the allegation being that the Government had changed the law at the instance of the Roman Catholic authorities. The effect of the amendment, it was contended, was to destroy an option which the ratepayer previously had. The Government, however, claimed that they had made no change in the law, but merely "clarified" it, removing a doubt that had been created by Judge McLorg's decision, but giving this part of the School Act the meaning that it always had previously. The Government have now repealed the amendment. Thus the desire of those who so warmly condemned the amendment is fulfilled. But the repeal counts for nothing, because what the amendment aimed at has since been accomplished in another way.

The only available written judgment on the disputed point seems to have been that of Judge McLorg. But enquiries set on foot by the Attorney General elicited from three Judges of the Supreme Court of the Province letters stating that they had given decisions against the claim of a ratepayer of a right to pay to either school as he might prefer. Judge Newlands wrote:

"I held that when there was a public school district and a Roman Catholic school district:

"1st. That a Protestant could not at his own request be assessed as a supporter of the separate school, but must be assessed as a supporter of the public school; and
"2nd. That a Roman Catholic could not at his own request be assessed as a supporter of the public school, but must be assessed as a supporter of the separate school."

This was precisely what the Government had claimed to be the law. Judge McLorg, having now discovered that there had been such decisions, wrote that if he had been aware of them he would have felt bound to follow them, as the ruling of a higher court, and that his decision which gave rise to the dispute would not have been given. Thus, although the much condemned amendment has been repealed, the law is to be recognized as what the amendment declared it to be. In the absence of any judgment of the higher courts the decisions of Judge Newlands and his colleagues will stand as authoritative. For the time at least, the question is settled. If the same point be raised again, in a new case, the Saskatchewan Courts would, no doubt, follow the decisions already given, but an appeal which might then be taken to the Supreme Court of Canada would reopen the whole question.

A Queer Proceeding

THE American methods of conducting public business must have many merits, or so intelligent a people as those of the Republic would not adhere to them. Occasionally these methods strike outsiders as very strange. A case in point is the question now before the Senate at Washington respecting the nomination of Louis D. Brandeis, of Boston, to be a Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States. The constitution gives the President the right to select the Judges of this court, but his nominations can only become effective when confirmed by the Senate. Mr. Brandeis is a lawyer who has come into prominence through his sympathy with some of the popular movements of the day, and his part in the conflicts with some of the large corporations. His nomination appears to have come as a surprise to most people. While a man of undoubted ability, his standing in the profession has hardly been that of the class from which Supreme Court judges are usually taken. What may be called the conservative classes in the profession and in business circles view the nomination with strong disapproval. A committee of the Senate has been appointed to enquire into Mr. Brandeis' fitness, and is now conducting an investigation which amounts to a trial of the nominee. The probe is being inserted into his whole professional life. Witnesses for and against Mr. Brandeis are being examined daily.

To find a man who has been deliberately chosen by the President for a great judicial office thus placed on trial as to his character seems a queer proceeding. In Canada we should assume that a man chosen by the Government to fill a judicial office had the necessary qualifications; at all events so far as his character was concerned. Questions as to the extent of his legal knowledge and judicial temperament there might possibly be in the inner circles, but an inquiry to ascertain whether he had behaved himself as a member of the profession would hardly be deemed necessary. Mr. Brandeis' nomination will probably, in the end, be confirmed. But he will enter upon the duties of his great office under circumstances that must make his position somewhat uncomfortable.