

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENGLAND AND HER COLONIES.

THE London *Economist* in its issue of January 30th. contains an article, entitled "The demand for troops in New Zealand," in which it argues against any home aid being given to the English colonists in New Zealand, and maintains that they are able and should be left to defend themselves against their warlike enemies, the Maories. Assuming that the policy of the Government, a policy endorsed by every statesman interested in colonial affairs, and essential to the thrifty administration of the empire, is to compel English colonists to assist in providing their own defence, the *Economist*, while allowing that their failure generally to do so may not arise from cowardice or even slackness, points out the natural reluctance of men to undertake inconvenient and unprofitable labour, and states plainly that the only way to overcome this reluctance is to let them take the consequences.

We do not imagine it likely that Canada will be involved in war on her own account for many years to come, probably not during the whole time she may continue to be a dependency of Great Britain; but should she at any time be drawn into measuring force with the United States, (our only possible enemy) we feel confident that, provided only we did what we could for ourselves, we would get all the aid possible from the Mother Country. Many people think—and may have apparent cause for thinking—that England is weary of the burden of her colonies, and would gladly be rid of them; but England is also proud of them, and is not disposed to take the first step to break the connection. The Dominion of Canada could have its independence any time it chose to ask for it, but practically it is already independent, and the ties which bind it and England together are those of mutual interest. The trade with Canada is already very valuable, and yearly increasing, while, on our part, we have to credit to England the large sums she has paid out, and will still continue to pay out, although on a reduced scale, for the maintenance of her troops here as an aid to our own militia forces in case of any trouble.

Should Canada be engaged in war, through the breaking out of a war between England and the United States, then, and as a matter of course, England would do all in her power to drive out an invading foe; while we ourselves, it is to be hoped, would not be backward in making common cause with the mother country and in defending our own homes, although the quarrel might not be of our own seeking, or for any object of immediate interest to ourselves.

We are now tolerably well able to take care of ourselves, and there is no hardship in being required to do it; and we should be willing to acknowledge the justice and accept the necessity of the Imperial policy, to make all the colonies self-dependent as fast as their growth enables them to become so. We are growing out of infancy into manhood, and we must be willing to accept the responsibilities that attend our coming of age.

IMMIGRATION.

THE importance of this subject, and the practical difficulties that lie in the way of carrying out any of the numerous systems which have been proposed at various times, continue to keep it prominent before the public, both of the colonies where settlers are wanted, and of the thickly peopled old countries, whose overflowing population leads to a glut of the labour market, low wages, starvation and pauperism. In England especially, the increasing number of paupers and the heavy burdens they entail on those who have to contribute to their support, have made the question of how to alleviate their condition, or at least arrest the further increase of the evil, one of the most important of the day. Numerous plans have been suggested for transporting, or rather transferring, the poor of England to some of her prospering colonies. But the difficulty in the way is that the colonies as a rule are unwilling to receive even, much less help to pay for, the shiftless helpless paupers that England most desires to become rid of. We want self-reliant, energetic, capable men, who can and will work their way despite the difficulties and hardships that meet the poor settler everywhere. We want neither the honest incapables nor the criminals, nor the drunkards of Britain's crowded cities; we do want all who can turn their hands to labour of the kind for which there is always a steady demand, the

labour that is needed for the cultivation of the ground

A pamphlet entitled "State Emigration" by Mr. Edward Jenkins, formerly of Montreal, now a resident of London, England, has attracted, and deservedly attracted, much attention, and been favourably noticed by some of the leading English journals. The aim of this pamphlet is to show that the necessity exists for a system of emigration on a national scale, that England has too many, the colonies too few workers, and that to give the desired relief to the home labour market and to decrease the burden of pauperism, and, at the same time, send to the colonies the right kind of settlers, may be quite compatible. He insists on the insufficiency of any emigration movement, relying on the aid of individuals or of societies, and the need of state aid to accomplish anything worth speaking of, and his proposition is briefly that the English Government should borrow the necessary funds and lend them either directly to the settlers or otherwise to the Colonial Government to be thus lent. Mr. Jenkins distinctly objects to giving to the settler, it being in his opinion destructive of his feeling of independence; and he even condemns the policy of free grants of land. We think Mr. Jenkins is in error, on this point, when he writes "that the colony by the free land system "throws money to strangers at the expense of the "citizens—diminishes its future resources, and pre-pares a burden of taxation for coming generations, " &c." Had we space, we think it could easily be shewn that the indirect returns to Government through customs duties on imported goods consumed by every family of settlers on the 100 acres of a free grant, to say nothing of the profits to the wholesale and retail trader, would more than equal the interest on the value of the land supposing it to be saleable at as high a rate even as two dollars per acre. Our Local Government have, however, decided in favour of the system of free grants, and will not be likely to alter their policy, at least until it has had a fair trial.

Mr. Jenkins' plan is to send out not the labouring classes, artisans, domestic servants, for whom there is a steady though limited demand in the colonies, and which demand can be supplied without government aid, but to export a class of emigrants, whom he terms *settlers*. He would export families, and young married men—able-bodied and of good character, but he would not object to their being artisans, provided they were desirous of becoming farmers. To secure *bona fide* settlers it is suggested that a bond be taken from each colonist, subjecting him to certain penalties in case of desertion, of fine or imprisonment; and it is shewn that as the act is a voluntary one, there is no hardship in demanding from the settler such a bond in order to prevent his leaving the land which he has agreed to cultivate. It is also proposed that this bond should embody another consideration, namely, to secure the return by easy and regular instalments, of the amount advanced for emigration and settlement, and of the value of the land; and an agreement that a certain proportion of the acreage shall be cleared and cultivated within a certain period, say ten acres a year for three or four years.

Mr. Jenkins estimates that £70 stg., would pay the cost of transferring a family of five persons, parents and three children, from England to Canada (which he considers the most eligible of the colonies) and to support them for the first eighteen months, until their land began to yield crops enough to sustain them; and adding the cost of the land at a dollar an acre, he finds that the entire indebtedness of the emigrant to the Home and Colonial Governments would only be £80.

Turning from the pamphlet of Mr. Jenkins, we have a somewhat different scheme proposed by Mr. George Laidlaw, of Toronto. In a letter to the *Globe*, he suggests that four or five British Transports be employed as an Emigrant Transport Service, to sail regularly from certain ports, the home Government to furnish ships and sailors, and the colonial plain food for the emigrants; that Mayors and Reeves be empowered to receive offers for the service of intending emigrants, for the term of one or two years, the requisition to be accompanied with the sum of \$6; that agents in Great Britain or Europe shall on receipt of these requisitions, advertise for the mechanics, laborers, or servants required, and that these having signed for emigration and service shall be entitled to a passage on one of the transport ships; that no emigrant shall be entitled to a passage certificate, unless the Government Emigration Agent is satisfied by medical certificate of his health, sanity and sobriety; and that all persons availing themselves of the Emigrant Trans-

port Service be entitled to 200 acres of land (in Ontario), when the terms of the emigration contract are satisfactorily fulfilled, and not till then. Mr. Laidlaw suggests also a number of details for working out his scheme, but which are not of importance at present.

It will be observed that the main feature of this system is securing to the emigrant immediate employment on his arrival in this country, enabling him to become acquainted with his novel position, to learn and to overcome its difficulties, and fitting him to commence farming on his own account, with better chances of success than if he were to start without such preliminary experience. If any way could be found to determine whether the demand in this country for agricultural labour is sufficiently great to make Mr. Laidlaw's scheme a practicable one, we should be heartily in favour of it; and even as an experiment it might be tried on a small scale, increasing the number of transports as the demand for and corresponding supply of immigrants made it desirable.

The two plans we have been writing about, though differing altogether the one from the other, are not necessarily antagonistic, and might be in operation side by side, and, in fact, together furnish one complete system. We trust something may be done by the Imperial Government in connection with the Canadian, whereby we may at last begin to reap some of the advantages so long enjoyed by the United States almost as a monopoly.

MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.

THERE is no word yet as to when the Dominion Parliament will be called together. From present appearances we should judge it will not assemble till late in the spring. Some persons who profess to be well-informed, assert that the first week of April will be the time selected; but nothing is definitely known. It is hardly likely that a meeting will take place before Easter, for there would have to be an adjournment during that season, if past experience can be taken as a criterion.

It is undoubtedly to be regretted that our "collective wisdom" should not be called together sooner. This has been insisted upon both in Parliament and the press for many years, but all expostulation seems to be in vain. No improvement in this respect is visible, and this year the period for assembling is even later than usual. The reasons which will do service on this occasion for calling the members together, when just in the midst of spring business, will no doubt be: the absence of Messrs. Cartier and Macdougall in England, and the possible necessity of immediate legislation to give effect to any agreements which they may enter into; the negotiations with Messrs. Howe and McLellan in regard to the pacification of Nova Scotia, and the legislation necessary to give effect thereto; the proposed admission of Newfoundland into the Union; and the necessity of time to lay something definite regarding the Intercolonial Railway before the House and the country. How much force there are in these pleas, each person can judge for himself. It is impossible to deny that they carry some weight with them, but we doubt if they will satisfy the 181 members who will have to leave their homes and their business in April, when their own private concerns urgently require their attention.

The session promises to be one of scarcely less interest than that of last year—the first under Confederation. We observe that several of our *confreres* of the press seem to hold the opinion that there will not be much legislation to be submitted. We think this idea is incorrect. There is nearly all the criminal laws of the different Provinces to be assimilated, amendments to the Insolvent Acts, a new patent law, and many others to be brought forward. Then there may be further legislation regarding the North-West Territory, certainly regarding the Nova Scotia troubles, and all this in addition to the ordinary sessional business, such as the Public Accounts and Estimates for the ensuing year. Many of the questions will produce animated and exciting debates, and will consume considerable time in their settlement. We should not be surprised to see it near the end of June before the adjournment, although it is maintained in some quarters that April and May will finish the whole business.

One thing will certainly favor the chances of the business being quickly despatched. The hot weather will soon tell upon the patience and endurance of the members, and they will be very apt to take the quickest mode of getting away from Ottawa. This feeling may facilitate the passage of Government measures, but it is not likely to add to the care or circumspection with which the legislation of the session will be considered.