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THE Government of Ontario made a sensible innovation in foregoing some of the customary, but meaningless, formalities hitherto observed on the assembling of the Legislature. The Lieutenant-Governor's Address foreshadows a larger number than usual of important measures to be brought forward on behalf of the Government. All of these, with the exception perhaps of that indicated in connection with the recommendations of the Quebec Conference, are in the line of practical and progressive legislation. Manhood Suffrage is logical and inevitable; Municipal Reform is of pressing necessity; judicious protection of juvenile employes in shops as well as factories has become, most will admit, a public duty. It is high time all matters in dispute, both with the sister Province and the Dominion Government, were finally disposed of, and any hopeful measure looking to that end should meet with unanimous support. Whether any economy is practicable in the other departments of administration or not, the country will no doubt approve of the appointment of a Minister, whose duty it shall be to give his whole time and strength to the study and promotion of the agricultural interests of this great farming Province. Measures introduced in furtherance of each of the specified objects must, of course, be considered on their merits. What embarrassing criticisms the Opposition may be able to make on the Government's policy in educational and other matters remains to be seen, but at present the great strength of the party in power and the clearness of its outlined policy in local matters seems to give promise of rapid progress with the work of the session.

IN the absence of any indication of the nature of the legislation to be proposed by the Ontario Government, for the furtherance of the objects of the Quebec resolutions, it may be premature to raise the question of the mode of procedure by which the action of the Provinces can be brought before the Queen, in other words the British Government and Parliament. Under the Constitution the Governor-General is the medium of communication between Canada and the Colonial Office. But the Governor-General has official communication only with the Dominion Government, and according to the amended instructions now given can act only on the advice of his responsible advisers. On what principle can the Home Government be expected to depart from the principle enunciated by Mr. Meredith in another connection, that the Dominion Parliament is the expression of the will of the people of Canada for the time being? Can the Provincial

authorities communicate with the Governor-General, and through him with the British Government, save through the Dominion Government? If not, will that Government regard itself as under obligations to lay at the foot of the Throne petitions and representations from whose purport it dissents and to whose objects it is resolutely opposed, without at least accompanying these documents with counter representations, which would have great and probably preponderating weight with the Home authorities? A similar difficulty seems to have already arisen in connection with the Manitoba Anti-Disallowance petition, which was forwarded from Winnipeg some months ago, but whose reception has not yet been acknowledged. We learn since writing the above that it was duly received at Ottawa, and has been forwarded to the Colonial Office. This is well, but the delay in making the announcement was unnecessary and should not have occurred.

THE conviction is, there is some reason to hope, steadily gaining ground amongst thoughtful people that government by party, with all the tremendous waste of energy and other evils it involves, is at best but a clumsy device, adapted it may be to a certain stage in the growth of commonwealths, which must be one day superseded by a simpler and better method. But none the less it is wise in the meantime to make the best of the existing system. So long as the conflict of parties is regarded as the balance-wheel of responsible government, and the palladium of liberty, it is eminently desirable that the parties should be strong and vigorous. That this is not at present the condition of the Dominion Opposition is obvious to all except those whom the party spirit has made temporarily purblind. It may be true, as the *Globe* maintains, that the Liberal minority in the present Parliament is still considerably stronger, counting by votes, than it was in the preceding, and that there is an almost unbroken line of Liberal governments and legislators from Nova Scotia to Manitoba. But the mass of the party in Parliament is made up of elements so diverse, and so lacking in amity of opinion and purpose that it can scarcely be relied on for vigorous attack or defence of any line of policy, while the various bodies of provincial Liberals, so-called, do not seem to be compacted together by any common principle or aim, making them one and strong in Dominion politics. The planes of cleavage between so-called Liberals and Tories are not parallel in any two of the Provinces. In Quebec, in particular, the political strata are marked off from those of all the other Provinces, not only by diverse angles and formations, but by broad fissures wrought by special forces, racial and ecclesiastical, which are still active and powerful. Even the watchword of political purity, with which it was sought to unite in a grand rally all the adherents of Liberalism at the late general election, not only failed as a war cry, but has been held up for the ridicule of the triumphant party by the revelations of the election courts.

SINCE the inherent weakness resulting from the lack of a strong common policy and purpose has been subjected to the successive shocks of defeat at the polls, and the loss of the leader from whom so much was expected, it is no wonder that the Liberal Party has been brought to the verge of demoralization. It is now essential, in the interests of good government, that it should be revived and reconsolidated. The two great needs of the hour are a strong platform and a strong leader. Material is not wanting for either. To go no further, the great questions already opened up and likely to be pressed upon public attention by the failure of the Fisheries' Commission afford abundant opportunity for a strong movement. In all probability the destiny of Canada for long years to come will be determined by the choice she will be compelled soon to make amongst the various issues which will shortly present themselves. It would be presumptuous to attempt to indicate what choice of these would be best for the State, or most in accordance with Liberal traditions; but it is certainly desirable, from every point of view, that the Liberal Party of Canada should know its own mind upon such questions as Protection, Free Trade, Commercial Union, Imperial Federation, Constitutional Revision, etc. It may not be out of order to observe that to onlookers it is a source of wonder that there should be any hesitation in the choice of a leader. Assuming, as there seems good reason to believe, that Mr. Blake's retirement is final, and Mr. Laurier's acceptance of the position but provisional and temporary, there remains, among a number of moderately able