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editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to
any person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

THE report of the Committee recently appointed by the Senate of the University of Toronto to enquire into certain matters in connection with the erection of the Biological building, which was accepted by an almost unanimous vote at the meeting of the Senate on Friday evening last, may be regarded, we suppose, as the final word in that controversy. The report vindicates the motives of the Vice-Chancellor, which have scarcely been called in question, at the expense, as it seems to us, of his clearness of view in respect to what was due from one holding his high position in the Provincial University to the Senate and the public. Of course this is not the meaning which the report is intended to convey. But what other construction can be put upon such a paragraph as the following:—

This Committee is not to be held as expressing approval of any secrecy practised in regard to any of the purposes of the buildings, but deem it their duty to express their conviction that in carrying the work to completion the Vice-Chancellor was animated solely by an earnest desire for the best interests of the University, and that his conduct throughout was disinterested and honourable.

Nor can we quite see the fine distinction between "misrepresentation" and "avoidance of publicity in reference to the dissecting room feature of the structure," as the expressions are used in the report, especially as it was before shown in evidence, if we mistake not, that in certain plans these rooms were purposely designated by misleading names; but we are glad that the Committee and the Senate do not approve of preventing residents in the vicinity from opposing what they deem objectionable by stealing a march on them under cover of darkness. We are glad, also, to see that the Committee do not in the slightest degree question the wisdom of the change of policy whereby matters, such as those in question, "are now referred to and form the subject of discussion in the Senate," and it may be that their explanation that this policy is a new departure and that Mr. Mulock did but follow old custom and precedents in the course he pursued is, as they suggest, a sufficient vindication of his course, so far as his failure to take the Senate into his confidence is concerned. The most unsatisfactory feature of the report

is its failure to deal with the fact that neither Vice-Chancellor nor Senate had any right to use the funds of the University for the purposes of the medical department or of strictly medical teaching. True, Mr. Mulock was scarcely to blame in this particular, unless for not better understanding the state of the law and of public opinion upon the point, for he has frankly stated that he had no doubt that in creating a medical department the intention was to make it a sharer in the University funds. But this is, as anyone may see, really the most important question involved. Possibly the Committee may not have regarded it as included in the reference, though in that case why should they have mentioned the fact that the medical faculty is now being charged a rental for the use of the rooms specially prepared for it, as if that fact changed the principle involved, instead of being an attempt to counteract the wrong done, after the misapplication of funds had been discovered and condemned?

THE retirement of Hon. Mr. Dewdney from the Dominion Government in order to accept the position of Lieut.-Governor of British Columbia, and the elevation of Mr. T. M. Daly, M.P. for Selkirk, Manitoba, to Mr. Dewdney's place and portfolio, may be regarded as another stage in the leisurely process of Cabinet reconstruction. These changes call for little comment. Mr. Dewdney, while not a source of great strength to the Government or the Party by reason of superior abilities or marked individuality, has nevertheless, it may be, discharged the routine duties of his office with as much faithfulness as many a more conspicuous member of the Cabinet. He will no doubt occupy the gubernatorial chair with becoming dignity, while his continued success in obtaining remunerative and honourable positions may be a source of encouragement to others by proving that great talent is not indispensable to high promotion in Canadian public life. Mr. Daly, on the other hand, is just putting on his armour, and has yet to prove his fitness for the responsible post to which he has been assigned. So far as the public have had an opportunity of knowing him, there seems no reason to doubt that the Premier's choice, or perhaps we should rather say that of Sir John Thompson, will prove to have been a wise one. At the present juncture a good deal of interest will naturally attach to Mr. Daly's views in regard to the Manitoba school question. We are glad to see that he has given an emphatic denial to the rumour that he had expressed himself in favour of Separate Schools during the recent electoral struggle in his Province. Whether he declared himself in favour of the existing school law we are not told. Naturally the opinions of the Manitoba member of the Government will have much weight in determining its attitude towards this burning question. If the other changes which it is believed are shortly to be made in the Ministry should take place, giving us Sir John Thompson as Premier and Mr. Meredith as Minister of Justice, the combination will certainly be a peculiar one. We do not say that it may not prove a strong one. But the old proverb touching the fondness of the fates for bringing together strange bedfellows will be strikingly illustrated.

THE Moosejaw Times of the 8th inst. contains what purports to be a full and circumstantial account of the events in the Territorial Legislature which have culminated in the present anomalous situation. The salient points may be given in a few words. Towards the close of the session in August last a vote of want of confidence in the Administration of which Mr. Haultain was Premier was passed by a majority of one. Mr. Haultain and his colleagues promptly handed in their resignations to Lieut.-Governor Royal, who accepted them and called on Mr. Cayley to form a Cabinet. Mr. Cayley did so, and the gentlemen whose names he submitted were sworn in. We are not told that these Ministers returned to their constituents for re-election. Possibly they did so, but the circumstances as narrated seem to leave no time for this important formality. At any rate, on the appearance of the new Ministers in the House, Speaker Ross, member for Moose Jaw, resigned the Speakership. Mr. Ross has been blamed for taking this means to bring about a dead-

lock, but we know no good reason why he should not have done so if, in his opinion, such a step would be in the interest of good government. Premier Cayley naturally did not wish to propose the name of one of his own supporters for Speaker, because that would have left him in a minority in the House. On the other hand, his opponents, one and all, refused to accept the office. The result was a dead-lock. Finding it thus impossible to transact business or command the confidence of the Assembly Mr. Cayley's clear duty was surely either to resign or to advise the Lieut.-Governor to dissolve the House and appeal to the people. Failing such advice His Honour should certainly have refused to permit the continuance in office of an Administration which evidently did not command the confidence of a majority of the people's representatives. What he did was to cause a special edition of the North-West Territories Gazette to be issued, announcing that he had prorogued the House. By this high-handed procedure Lieut.-Governor Royal has brought it about that he is and has been for some weeks administering the affairs of the Territories either on his own responsibility, or with the advice of a Ministry which does not command the confidence of a majority of the representatives. Either course is probably distinctly unconstitutional, certainly contrary to all authority and precedent. What are the people of the North-West going to do about it? Evidently it is for them to move in the matter.

WE are pleased to learn that the Minister of Justice at Ottawa is disposed to favour the Prison Reforms asked for by the Prisoners' Aid Association of Canada. To a deputation which waited upon him a week or two since, he stated that the Dominion Government would undertake the establishment of a reformatory for young men between the ages of sixteen and thirty, convicted of first offences, as suggested by the Prisoners' Aid Association and the Ontario Prison Reform Commission, also that the Federal Government is prepared to give practical effect to the recommendation that the managers of provincial reformatories be clothed with all necessary authority to pardon, parole, or apprentice the inmates of these institutions as a reward of, and an incentive to, reformation. These assurances from the Minister of Justice will be gratifying to all friends of the Prison Reform movement. It is to be hoped that there will now be no more delay on the part of the Ontario Government in carrying into effect the remaining recommendations with respect to Prison Reform, all of which have been fully endorsed by experts and by the best sentiment of the country.

TOO much weight should not, we suppose, be attached to the cablegrams of an alarmist character which have recently been sent to some of the New York papers, predicting famine in Great Britain at an early day. No doubt there is reason to fear that the approaching winter may bring great distress to the poverty-stricken multitudes who are crowded together in the poorer districts of London. The partial failure of the season's crops, combined with the decline in certain lines of commercial and manufacturing industry, are likely to prove but too sure forerunners of a period of much scarcity and hardship. Happily a long course of prosperity under the stimulating and fostering influence of free-trade has made England enormously rich, and the liberality of her people, aided, if necessary, from Government sources, will be found equal to any emergency that can arise. With free access to the world's granaries, and abundant means for the purchase of their contents, it is scarcely possible that many citizens can be left to suffer. Various causes, besides the one above given, have contributed to bring about this undesirable state of things. Among these the McKinley tariff has no doubt had its effect in Great Britain as in Canada. The market for certain of England's products has been materially injured and the enterprise of her people has not yet had time to adjust itself to the changed circumstances, either by finding new markets for the old products, or by turning attention to new forms of productive industry. The one thing which the English are evidently too wise to do is to add to the troubles arising from