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ON the principle that the people are happy who have no history, the Province of Ontario is to be congratulated on the absence of exciting public questions which the very quiet opening of another session of the Legislative Assembly suggests. The chief objects of the opening speech which the Government puts into the hands of the Lieutenant-Governor are, we suppose, to recount facts accomplished during the recess, and to foreshadow important measures to be submitted during the Session. Amongst the former, the victory achieved before the Judicial Committee of the British Privy Council, the organization of the new Department of Agriculture and the Exhibit of Minerals made at the Cincinnati Exposition are the chief. The principal measures promised are a bill to extend the operations of the School of Practical Science, and a new Voters' List Act for the better carrying into effect of the system of Manhood Suffrage, on the "one man, one vote" principle adopted last session. Improvements are also to be attempted in the Factory Act and the Workmen's Compensation for Injuries Act. The Land Titles Act is to be modified, whether in the right direction or not will subsequently appear. Effect will, of course, be given to the agreement reached between the University authorities and the city of Toronto, for the endowment of two additional Chairs in the former. This somewhat meagre programme will, no doubt, be considerably enlarged, both by Government and by private measures, as the session proceeds. But the mildly aggressive attitude of the Opposition seems to promise little attraction for the political petrels who delight in the stormy atmosphere of fierce debate. With a comfortable balance on the right side of the ledger, and so good a prospect of plain sailing, the friends of the Government may, perhaps, be pardoned a little vainglorious boasting.

THERE is, perhaps, no better authority upon the resources of Canada than Dr. Bourinot. We are quite sure there is no one who could deal more ably and sympathetically with these resources in their relation to the future national development which they render pos-

sible, than did he in his lecture delivered a few days since in the Convocation Hall of Trinity College. The lecture seems to have been a happy commingling of reliable statistics, sustained argument and patriotic anticipation and forecast. With such facts as those exhibited in this lecture, and in Mr. Wiman's recent article before him, why should any loyal Canadian despair of the commonwealth? The material resources of the county are undeniably great, the climate and the quality of its population on the whole good, and the history of its growth and development within a period of fifty years encouraging. Why then the present tendency to unrest and to that distrust of the future which Dr. Bourinot and many other sanguine loyalists feel called upon to rebuke? May we venture to suggest the answer? No one, so far as we are aware, questions the richness of our resources in field, mine and forest. No one doubts the wonderful progress made during the last half-century. The distrust regards not the past but the present. For some reason or other many have an impression that the rate of progress is not being kept up, that in some way the development is for the time being checked. The question to which those who wish to revive the faith and courage of the faint-hearted should address themselves is this: Is the country now making the progress in population, distributed wealth, and general development of its resources which it ought to make? If the affirmative of this can be proved, the mouths of the advocates of change and the prophets of evil will be stopped. What has been the increase in population and wealth, the growth in trade, in agriculture, in the aggregate of all industries during, say, the last five years? We ask these questions, not by way of sceptical suggestion, but as indicating wherein, it seems to us, those who deal with the matter from Dr. Bourinot's standpoint generally fail to come to close quarters with their pessimistic opponents.

AN ominous statement, made by Premier Mowat, in the course of the short debate on the Address, warns us that we must not be hasty in accepting this dearth of promised legislation and of exciting topics of debate as an indication that the people of Ontario have reached the happy end of all political agitation, and have nothing to do but settle down in enjoyment of peace and prosperity under a faultless ministry and a perfected constitution. Many of our readers have, no doubt, often wondered at the speedy oblivion which apparently overtook the "Quebec Resolutions," after their adoption by the Assembly. Can it be that those resolutions are really dead and buried, we have often asked, and, if so, who or what killed them, and how, when, where? Mr. Mowat, however, replying to an Opposition taunt, assures us that those results of the Inter-Provincial Conference are very far from being dead. They are merely in a state of quiescence, awaiting their appointed time. That time is to be, so far as Ontario is concerned, the next general election. They will then be brought forward and marshalled on every platform. This would seem to indicate that the Provincial Leaders came to the conclusion that it would be useless to press the matter further upon the attention of the British Government until they could present unequivocal proof that the people of the Provinces demand the constitutional changes sought. Hence, it is reasonable to suppose that, in the absence of some new and stirring local question, the next election in each of the Provinces will be fought on the grave constitutional issues raised by the Quebec Resolutions.

A VIGOROUS attempt to give a practical turn to the proceedings at the Montreal Board of Trade Dinner was made by Mr. Henry W. Darling, of Toronto. Mr. Darling took advantage of the presence of so many Dominion Ministers to urge that the Government should take immediate action, under the powers which they have already taken from Parliament, to add to the Cabinet a Minister of Trade and Commerce. He certainly succeeded in showing that there is a good deal of very useful work for such a Department. Exception might, perhaps, be taken to some of his remarks, on the ground that the Minister whose duties he partially outlines might almost be regarded as the agent and mouthpiece of the Boards of Trade, to whose views he is expected to pay so much defer-

ence. These might, consequently, become objects of distrust, as having more than their due share of influence in the Government counsels. But this does not necessarily follow. Any man worthy to occupy such a position would have a mind of his own. Moreover, the fact that these Boards exist all over the Dominion, and represent in their membership both political parties, all localities, and almost every variety of economical interest, would afford ample safeguard against undue personal or sectional influences. There might certainly be some room for objection on the score that the Cabinet is already numerically large, and in danger of becoming unwieldy, as well as needlessly expensive. But why should not the active Minister required be substituted for one of the members of the Government who are now without portfolios? In view of the large and important commercial interests already existing, and of the almost imperative necessity for greatly extending the trade and commerce of the Dominion in foreign countries, Mr. Darling's suggestions are timely and entitled to the serious consideration of the Government and all concerned.

TWO events of last week have reminded us that the Dominion is still haunted by the hateful spectre of the Fisheries Dispute. These events are the enforced resignation of Collector Ross, of Halifax, and the termination, or at least suspension, of the *Modus Vivendi*, under which we have had an interval of comparative quiet. The virtual dismissal of Mr. Ross has given rise to much animated and even angry discussion, especially in his native Province. His offence was peculiar. He seems to have misinterpreted sundry acts of leniency towards American fishermen, which were permitted and sanctioned by the Government, as indicating a change of policy, and warranting him in following them as precedents, or even going beyond them. It is difficult to account for his mistake otherwise. The position is a very responsible one, and the manner in which Mr. Ross exceeded his authority in an international matter, most reprehensible. But it is by no means clear that had he referred the case, as he understood it, to the Department, the same privilege would not have been granted. The use made of the incident by the United States Consul and the American press was embarrassing and annoying, but could hardly have been anticipated. On the other hand there is some force in the contention of Mr. Ross's friends that the case was not of the kind that demanded such severity, inasmuch as the error was on the side of courtesy to the United States, and could by no means involve serious consequences, so far as that country is concerned, while there is some danger that the stern penalty inflicted may convey an impression of unfriendly motive. Nor is it easy to avoid the feeling that the suspension of the *Modus Vivendi* at this particular juncture is adapted to strengthen that mischievous though, we feel sure, false impression. The Government was certainly under no obligation to continue the voluntary courtesy of the *Modus Vivendi* long after the rejection of the Treaty for which it was intended to smooth the way. It was for the Government, too, to judge whether there is any prospect of a renewal of negotiations such as might be facilitated by the continuance of this friendly concession. But was not its withdrawal at this particular juncture inopportune, as being peculiarly liable to misinterpretation?

IT will be difficult for the Government which stands by the National Policy to resist or evade the force of the arguments set before it the other day by the delegation representing the Canadian Copyright Association, against the passage of the proposed Berne Copyright Bill, and in favour of legislation on the lines recommended by the Association. It would be too much to expect the British publisher, who is at the bottom of the difficulty, and whose self-interest is involved, to appreciate the injustice which would be wrought to all in any way connected with the publishing business in Canada by the operation of the Berne Bill, but the Canadian Government should not be slow to see it. As the law now is, the British publisher, so the members of the Deputation declare, absolutely refuses to sell to the Canadian publisher the right of republication, preferring to keep the Canadian market in his own hands, or use it as a make-weight in dealing with the United States publisher. Were the Berne Act in force,