

roul and defeat by an aggregation of adverse circumstances against which no human foresight or energy could have prevailed, and so it is with the statesman. The destiny of nations is worked out upon a plan as ruthless, so far as the interests of the individual or class are concerned, as it is inscrutable; and schemes formulated for the advancement of the common good are rendered futile, although their promoters cannot perceive the reason or righteousness of their failure. The irony of fate may be as grievous to the politician as it is to the individual, but it is equally certain that in the long run right will prevail in the one case as well as in the other. If the Liberal party of Canada have faith in the equity of their policy, they should not lose hope in the issues of the future. DIXIE.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

EVENTS AND COMMENTS.

The history of the British Colonies, since they have been confederated into one Dominion, is an interesting study for the political economist who endeavors to solve the social problem of maintaining the just relation between constitution, government, and the people. Taking the United States as a model, (although this is bitterly denied by the press in the interest of the Ottawa Government,) we find that the Dominion leaders have followed in the footsteps of the neighboring republic as nearly as possible, since the days of Confederation—in fact the Dominion would be almost a counterpart of the United States, where it is not that a constitutional monarchy and a constitutional democracy are incompatible, and would not suit for the government of both countries alike. A government to afford the needful protection and exercise proper care for the welfare of the people, must have homogeneity in its constituents. It is this necessity which has divided the human race into separate nations, and finally has defeated the grandest efforts which conquerors have made to give unlimited extent to their domain. This "New Dominion" is simply the experiment of a new form of government on the American Continent, and it remains now to be seen whether the union of the British Provinces will dissolve like the baseless fabric of a vision in the various evolutions and revolutions through which it is destined to pass; or whether the Dominion will be as lasting as the eternal hills that surround her beautiful valleys.

We find that the United States, after a long, bloody, civil war, pinned their union together with bayonets—this was necessary, or else "state sovereignty" would be to-day as rampant as ever—such was not the case with the provinces of British America. They were cemented together under the influence of shrewd, able politicians, by a bloodless *coup d'état*, and it will remain to be proven, when the projectors of the "Confederation Act" pass away from the stage of action, whether the Dominion will be able to stand under the dissensions that must necessarily arise from the action of the dissatisfied party, that has always been opposed to the confederation of the Maritime Provinces with Canada. It will be a very difficult matter to preserve the integrity of the Dominion if the evil hour should ever come, (which may heaven avert,) in which the union of the provinces was to be determined by the power of the sword, from the fact that over three thousand miles of Canadian territory are bounded on the south by the United States, whose people could not be induced to take a neutral position in case that even a minority of the people of any part of the Dominion should seek through peaceable means or otherwise, either independence or annexation to the United States. It is a notable fact that since the union of the provinces, the Dominion Government has displayed great energy in increasing the public debt of the country. Railroads have been built—the Marine and Customs departments have largely increased—and subsidies for other public works have been granted throughout the country with a lavish hand. It is to be hoped that the Canada Pacific Railway will not prove as great a loss to the Dominion Government as the Union Pacific Railway has to the United States. Then to still follow in the tracks of "Uncle Sam," we have a tariff, which makes living in Canada, under the "National Policy," much dearer now than in the United States, because the diversity of natural products is much less in Canada than in the United States. This tax or duty fills the coffers of the Dominion treasury, which, like the United States treasury, will, before a great while, require a new "army chest" to hold the surplus cash. The control of the tariff, railways, steamship subsidies, manufacturing interests, and other works by the party in power, will be difficult matters to overcome, and judging from the example set by the United States after their civil war, it may be many years before a change in the government at Ottawa takes place, especially as the people become indifferent and apathetic in proportion to the difficulties to be surmounted in making organic political changes. Perhaps as the Dominion Government approaches more and more towards a gigantic "government monopoly," it may become necessary in the not distant future (for the electors of the Maritime Provinces at least,) to unite at the ballot-box, as the Southern States did in their last Presidential campaign, and cast their votes against this extravagant "National Policy," which has proved so detrimental to the best interests of the Maritime Provinces from the time it was first inaugurated until the present day.

VETERAN.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

Moir, Son & Co. employ about one hundred people in their extensive bread, biscuit and confectionery manufactory, which number will be considerably increased in a month or two. During the autumn they had 150 hands on the pay roll. They manufacture bread, cakes and pastry for retail business, and biscuit, confectionery, syrups, etc., for their wholesale trade, which extends through the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland. They also ship to Montreal—the article most in demand there being desiccated

coconut. The firm have lately rented premises on Barrington Street extension, where they now manufacture the paper boxes in which they pack their confectionery. There is a large demand for their goods, but competition is keenly resulting in low prices and small profits. They have at Bedford a saw mill and box factory fitted with the most approved machinery, where are manufactured all the wooden boxes used by the firm, besides a large surplus which is sold to others in the manufacturing business.

This is an age of advancement and improvement, and so A. Robb & Sons, Amherst, N. S., continue to place upon the market new styles of stoves. Prominent among these is their "New Standard" which is the neatest and most attractive Franklin stove made for several years.

The Yarmouth Woollen Mill is steadily increasing its output, last year its sales being ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) over any previous year. The working classes have found that it pays to wear strong, honest goods, and ask for Yarmouth Woollen Mill Tweeds, which for variety of pattern and durability in wear cannot be excelled in the Maritime Provinces. The mill gives steady employment to fifty hands.

The Moncton Knitting Works, Stevens & Co, Proprietors, are large manufacturers of all kinds of seamless hosiery. The firm commenced business three years ago, in 1885, after the failure of the Moncton U. K. Machine Co. From the start the business has steadily increased, and the company now employ from 27 to 30 girls. The sales last year amounted to \$9,000, and this year they will largely increase. The force is now being augmented to complete orders that have to be filled in May. Goods have been sold in all parts of the Dominion, but the largest share of the business is in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Some time back the firm purchased the plant and machinery of W. C. Archibald & Co., also all the machinery of the defunct Moncton Company, and have ample plant and machinery to employ 140 hands. The competition with the Upper Province knitting mills is so keen, that goods have to be sold for small profits, but the superiority of the article turned out at Moncton is forcing it everywhere. They have also another great advantage in low rent, cheap management and small expense, and are more than able to hold their own. Cotton hosiery yarn is purchased by the works from Messrs W. Parks & Son who, they report, make a first class article. The domestic wool yarns which are largely used, are purchased mostly in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, while the finer yarn is procured from the Quebec Worsted Co.

PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW.

DOMINION.—The opening of the second session of the sixth parliament, on the twenty-third of February, was witnessed by a brilliant gathering of notables from various portions of the Dominion, especial interest having been awakened from the fact that it was the last occasion upon which Lord Lansdowne would be called upon to perform his important functions at the opening of a session of the Canadian Parliament. The speech from the throne was brief, containing little that would be of interest to readers in general, the general prosperity of the country, the abundant harvests, especially in Manitoba and the Northwest, and the probable happy termination of the Fisheries negotiations were referred to as matters for thankfulness and gratulation. Measures were promised for the consideration of the representatives of the people, with respect to the consolidation of the railway acts, the amendment of the acts respecting the election of members, the controverted elections, and the franchise. Speaking generally, the bill of fare is not extensive, but such substantial as are offered, if well digested, will keep the members in the House of Commons fully employed for at least ten weeks to come. Of the thirteen new members introduced, three are Liberals, and ten supporters of the government. Dr. Montague moved the address in reply to the speech, drawing a parallel between the comparative value of mortgages upon farming property in the United States and Canada, in which the latter country is proved to stand on the best footing. Mr. Jones ably seconded the mover in an eloquent speech delivered in French, in which he made a strong appeal to all parties and all races in the Dominion to unite in building up the young country. Mr. Laurier, leader of the opposition, expressed the deep regret that he, with many others of the House, felt at the absence of Canada's two great Liberal leaders, Blake and Mackenzie. He satirically condemned the manner in which the government had dealt with Manitoba and the Northwest, through which a strong monopoly had been established. "A monopoly by which the blessings of God had been taken away by the hand of man." Sir John A. Macdonald made a good-humored reply to Mr. Laurier's attack on the government, broadly insinuating that the leader of the Opposition would continue to view everything with disfavor so long as he remained in the cold shades of opposition. Several of the speeches made by the other members of the House were pointed and effective, but were not remarkable for originality or freedom from partisanship. The appointment of Robert Sedgewick, Q. C., of Halifax, as Deputy Minister of Justice, is generally regarded with favor by those who have a knowledge of his high ability and legal attainments. Sir Charles Tupper has been confined to the house since his return from Washington, where it is said his labors as Canada's representative on the Fisheries Commission were unceasing, allowing but scant time for even necessary rest. Mr. Blake, who is now in Italy, writes "that his health is better than it has been for many months past, and that he hopes by next session to assume a share of Parliamentary responsibilities."

PROVINCIAL.—The Provincial Legislature of Nova Scotia convened for business on the 23rd of February, and was opened by His Honor Lieut.-Governor Richey, with the customary speech from the throne. In this speech the Lieutenant-Governor expresses thankfulness for our continued