

was taken in England in the late Canadian election as contrasted with the indifference of twenty-five years ago, proceeds as follows:—

Of course, I was pleased with the result of the election as far as it went. But matters here are by no means on a solid or satisfactory basis. The "National Policy"—that system of high protective tariffs introduced by Sir John Macdonald and the Conservative party in 1879—has pressed heavily and with evil effect on the country at large. The farmers have been impoverished by it, and to-day are poorer men, and their land much lower in value, than twelve years ago. Discontent is rife among them, and they are beginning to see that they have been taxed to make rich a few weak and trashy manufacturing concerns. "Commercial Union" or "Unrestricted Reciprocity" with the States was proposed by the Opposition to cure this condition of affairs, and the specious and sophistical arguments they brought forward had undoubtedly the effect of turning a good many farmers' votes. To my mind "Commercial Union" with the States would prove utterly incapable of affording relief to our farming community. If we came under the high protective system of the States, our farmers would be ten times worse off than they are at present; they would be crushed out and farms would be abandoned by the hundred in Ontario, just as they are now in the New England States (the Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of New Hampshire reports 887 abandoned farms!).

He then proceeds to give with clearness and force the familiar argument that profitable trade with the United States is impossible for Canadian farmers, because that country already produces a vast deal more of such commodities than it can consume, and consequently exports agricultural produce in great quantities. He then proceeds as follows:—

In order to restore this country to a sound condition, we must get back to true principles. The false doctrines taught during the last twelve years must be unlearned. The people must be made to see that taxation is an injury and not a benefit; they must be made to see that our prosperity depends on trade, that we can only trade with the country that needs our produce, and that that country is England. To do all this, however, is a Herculean work, and there does not appear to be any Hercules ready to undertake it. If the Liberal party here had come out and declared for free trade with England—instead of the stupid and disloyal union with the States—I believe they would have carried the country. Or if the Conservatives had declared for a large reduction of the tariff, the Government majority would have been increased instead of diminished. But our public men here are not learned in political science, and they are learning political economy by practical experiments—a most dangerous thing for the country. The elections have brought out how strong the loyalty of the Canadians is; they have also shown how much the country has been strained by the high taxation of the National Policy. The danger is that if this strain continues the people may be wrongly persuaded into the belief that relief can only be had through Commercial Union with the States—and that means Annexation.

MR. GOSCHEN'S promised Free School Bill has aroused a discussion in England, the earnestness and seriousness of which can best be understood by reading some of the long and laboured articles in the leading periodicals which have lately come to hand. We, on this side the ocean, have been so long familiar with the practical workings of the free school system that we have almost forgotten that any other is possible. A proposal to return to the old method of payment of fees in the public schools would be greeted with derision by nineteen of every twenty of the tax-paying citizens. Under these circumstances it is hard to realize that in the Mother Country—so far in advance of us in many respects—the proposal to relieve compulsory education of its most burdensome feature by remitting the parents' fees at the cost of the nation, has been received with something approaching dismay by a large and influential class. To the old-fashioned English Tory, a *genus* which is still by no means extinct, the proposal seems fraught with danger, as well as injustice. It is regarded as a long step in the direction of the much-dreaded Socialism. It is, evident, however, that the scheme, emanating as it does from an approved Conservative Government, will not be seriously opposed in its main features. Nevertheless the advent of the Bill will be awaited with great interest and anxiety by both parties. In the meantime Ireland still, as usual, bars the way, and, if we may judge by the slow progress of the Land Bill, is likely to do so for some weeks to come. In fact, it seems scarcely likely that the Education Bill can be got through this session. Its principle will, probably, be accepted by both parties. Indeed, the Liberals could not, without much inconsistency, oppose it, seeing that it is one of their own fore-shadowed measures. But the subordinate features and details of the Bill, however carefully arranged, are pretty

certain to give rise to almost endless discussion. The great battle will be fought over the question of the Voluntary or Denominational Schools, and the closely connected question of local control. It is pretty evident that the Government intends to make these schools sharers in the public bounty, by relieving their pupils of fees, and at the same time to leave them as at present in the hands of the Church authorities. This feature of the Bill will, no doubt, be resolutely opposed by the Liberals, as inconsistent both with religious liberty and with sound political principles. They will contend that public control is the corollary of public support. To this the *Spectator* replies, not without considerable force, that not local but national control is the corollary of national support, and that for this the Government will provide. Still the inherent injustice of a system under which large numbers of parents whose taxes aid in supporting the schools will be deprived of all the advantages of free education for their children, save on the condition of having them educated in denominational schools, is, one would suppose, too obvious to need much argument. Present indications are, however, that the Liberals will be forced to accept the Bill with this sectarian appendage, and that they will do so with the avowed expectation of being in a position at some early day to remove the appendage and remedy the alleged injustice.

THE best benefactor of the poor is not the man or woman who bestows charity most freely, but rather the one who best helps them to help themselves. And this help, it is obvious, may be rendered no less effectively by teaching a better economy in the use of the incomes already earned, than by opening the way to larger incomes. One of the most common observations of those who have made it their business to go among the struggling poor is that an enormous waste of food material often accompanies and in a measure accounts for their poverty. This waste, it may be assumed, is not so much the result of carelessness, though it may often seem so to the superficial observer, as of want of knowledge or want of skill in the choice and preparation of food. Hence the man who can come forward and show the industrious poor, as well as those who, though they may have a competency, are yet not averse to taking lessons in economy, that they are every day paying twice as much for food and four times as much for fuel as is necessary, and set before them clearly the remedy, deserves to be ranked as a great public benefactor. Such a man, according to the verdict of the *New York World*, is Edward Atkinson, of Boston, U. S., the inventor of the "Aladdin" oven. This novel cooking machine consists of an exterior oven of non-conducting wood-pulp, resting upon a stand over a large Rochester lamp, which cooks the food. The heat is regulated by simply turning the circular wick higher or lower. The oven proper is a sheet-iron box placed within and resting on the bottom of the wood-pulp oven. There is a space of two inches on each side between the outer and inner ovens. The inner one has a tight-fitting iron door and a ventilator on top. The heat from the lamp enters the outer oven through a round hole in its bottom, and fills the space between the two boxes. As the ventilator is not large enough to carry off the heat as fast as generated, it remains there, and a steady temperature of 400 degrees can be maintained as long as necessary. The *World* heard of the invention, sent to Boston for one of the stoves, put it in charge of a skilful and experienced cook and had its capacity tested. The results were astonishing and gratifying. Space would fail us to describe these experiments in detail. From one learn all. With five cents worth of oil, a dinner of five courses, consisting of soup, fish, steak, roast and the inevitable pie, with vegetables and other accompaniments in ample variety all in their places, was cooked. The dinner was served to ten people, who found it sufficient in quantity and excellent in quality. The total cost of the meal was \$1.45, or about fourteen cents each. This requires explanation. Granting the cheapness of the five cents' worth of oil which was the fuel, how could the oven lessen so amazingly the cost of the beef and other articles of food? Herein lies the secret of its alleged success. The peculiar merit claimed for the oven is that the coarsest and toughest meats cooked by it become juicy and tender as the choicest cuts of the best qualities, under ordinary treatment. Both steak and roast were specially selected for coarseness, leanness, toughness and cheapness, and both were so transformed by this wonder-working arrangement that they came out juicy, "tender as a spring chicken" (genuine), and with a flavour beyond criticism. Mr. Atkinson claims

to have invented this oven for the benefit of the poor, and to have demonstrated with it his pet theory that the average mortal cannot eat more than twenty-five cents worth of food a day, and that whatever is spent in addition to that amount is wasted. The *World* vouches for the perfect success of the series of experiments conducted at its expense. Its statements are worth summarizing for their very suggestiveness in regard to the mistakes and wastes of the present and the possibilities of the future. We shall no doubt hear more of the "Aladdin Oven."

OTTAWA LETTER.

"LOYALTY before all" has been the unanimous cry in the Capital for some days past; and, though this virtue has many phases of development in the thoughts and actions of our countrymen, there is yet one in which the politician, the civil servant, the business man—Conservatives and Grits—all agree in finding an opportunity for doing nothing, and doing that thoroughly. The politicians certainly had the best of it, as all those who desired to do so were able to leave the city on Friday evening to recover from the labours of the past week, and drink Her Majesty's health far from the spot where they agree to differ as to the management of her Dominion.

The Prohibitionists, one might imagine, have taken their pleasure even so little sadly, compared to their brethren who do not refuse to "look on the wine when it is red," for, on this occasion, the most popular and widespread expression of loyalty is naturally to drink something. And after their recent protest it is probable that even a bumper of currant wine, such as figured at Miss Pecksniff's banquet, might savour of backsliding. But, whether they drink to her or not, it is certain that Canadians are second to none of the Queen's subjects in unswerving devotion to her, and that of a very personal kind, considering how many of them have never seen or are likely to see her. It is the combined simplicity and force of character she has always displayed that knits her so closely to the hearts of her people; the simplicity which has never left her since, as a mere girl, she began her reign; and the force has gone on increasing, so that now, though advanced in years, she directs the actions of her own family, and in all matters connected with them there is no appeal from her decision. She has also kept herself so completely "in touch" with all movements, political, philanthropic or social in her Empire that, in spite of her fondness for a retired life, she may be said to live with, as well as for, her people. In a felicitous speech at the recent Academy Banquet, in London, Sir Arthur Sullivan spoke of the depth of feeling stirred by the first bar of "God Save the Queen," and it is a strong testimony to our national sentiment that he especially observed this, "during a visit to that greater Britain beyond the seas."

The chief political excitement of the past week has been the first Division taken in the new Parliament on Mr. Cameron's Bill for a repeal of the Franchise Act, which resulted in a substantial majority for the Government, and this taken with the victory in Algoma will reduce the flourish of trumpets with which the Opposition heralded the beginning of the session to a long drawn note which can hardly be expected under the circumstances to be one of "linked sweetness." The Minister of Justice performed his favourite operation of crushing the life out of his opponents' arguments with even more than his usual success, and after a really creditable maiden speech from Mr. Desjardins on the same lines, came the call for a Division, pending which the usual informalities took place and the singing members proved that they have neither left their voices nor their energy behind them in the Provinces. On the second Division the assured position of the Government was even more conclusive, the majority being twenty-nine. The announcement of these figures was received with such enthusiasm that Dr. Weldon's happy thought of starting the National Anthem probably came at the right moment to remind both victors and vanquished that there was, in spite of all, one strain in which they could join free from party strife.

Two ex-speakers of the House of Commons have been enrolled as Privy Councillors since the last issue of THE WEEK, and Mr. Bergeron, who, though one of the younger members, has a thorough knowledge of the texture and business of the House, is now Chairman of Committees, which post includes the Deputy Speakership.

The opening of the "Lady Stanley Institute for Trained Nurses" by His Excellency the Governor-General, provided for a want that has for some time past been felt in Ottawa, and the successful progress of this work will no doubt be followed with the same generous interest as has marked its inauguration. The first idea of the institution originated with Her Excellency Lady Stanley, and, having the immediate co-operation of Lady Macdonald and many persons of wealth and position in the Capital, it was speedily carried into effect. Funds were immediately forthcoming and a suitable sight obtained without difficulty, on which a very handsome and commodious building now stands. The Institute starts on its career not only free from debt, but with a surplus of \$1,500. There is no doubt that the Protestant Hospital will derive great benefit from the near neighbourhood of the new Institute and that in many other ways a wide field of usefulness lies before it. As was well said by Sheriff Sweetland: "It would be a lasting monument to the memory of Her Excellency,