

Council,—not to mention the Supreme Court of Canada ; and either of these may be used to fall back on as an *amicus curiæ*, whose decision can settle any dispute. So that there is little on which that guarantee of order among the people beneath one flag—namely, "the common sense of most"—can be severely tried.

We see, therefore, that our communities in this Greater Britain have fined down to a minimum their demands for Home Rule in the separate Provinces, and practically retain only those questions for local decision of which the Central Parliament is glad to be rid, and of which it may be profitably relieved. No question can be raised which shall unite a race, section, or geographical part of the country, as a unit against the Central Government. This is an important lesson, and one not lightly to be passed over. Even in the subjects left to be dealt with by the Local Governments, if internal Provincial trouble came, the whole Commonwealth might think it necessary to interfere, and in any such event the troops to keep order would be Federal, for there are no others. In New Brunswick there was once a serious conflict on the subject of education ; but the affair was settled without the intervention in any form of Federal agency. No Local Government has proposed to change its Provincial laws relating to devolution or tenure of property ; but this could be done by Provincial enactment.

We must go back to the past and to an era before Confederation for any great change in agrarian conditions. There is no instance in the history of the United Province ; but there was a case of the kind when Ontario and Quebec were united under the appellation of Upper and Lower Canada, and a single Legislature endeavoured to meet the wants of both. In those days the old seigniorial tenure, derived from pre-revolutionary France, existed in Lower Canada, and troubles arose. An enactment was passed by the Parliament in which Ontario was represented along with Quebec, and the principle adopted was practically one of compensation for abrogated privileges. The rights of superiority were in the main abolished by the grant of a fee simple to the superior over a proportion of the lands formerly held in fief, while the vassals were freed from their onerous dues, and their vassal tenures practically converted into a tenancy at a statutory rental which could at any time be converted, by capitalizing such rental, into a tenure in fee simple. Unlike the process adopted in the last Irish Land Act, whereby two men are obliged to have partnership in one property, the Seigniorial Tenure Act loosed the two men who had been tied together as vassal and superior, and gave each a definite proprietorship. Some feudal dues were retained for the superior, but these were of a certain kind, and did not include casual or accidental payment. Quebec is the only Province in Canada, and, indeed, the only State on the American Continent, in which a race and language different from the Anglo-Saxon survive. The French Canadian rules by his majority in the local Chambers, and he takes care that the population shall remain as far as possible French Canadian, and that in any