

They simply do not believe in the Turkish religion, but have one of their own. Our religion is not theirs. We should gather from all this that there is little to choose between the Turks and Armenians. The world could get along very well without either.

The Remedial Bill.

The passing of the Remedial Bill by a majority of eighteen, to which important fact we had only time and space to refer very briefly in our last number, was the great event of the week in the Canadian political world. It is a triumph for the Government, but one bought at great cost. Had it not been for the seven "bolting" Liberals the majority would have been but four. Two more desertions from the Conservative ranks and their majority would have vanished. Mr. Speaker would have had to give the casting vote—a responsibility which he no doubt was very glad to escape. Of the eighteen Conservatives who voted against the second reading, all are from Ontario save Dr. Weldon. Six of the Liberals who forsook Mr. Laurier are from Quebec, and one, Mr. McIsaacs, from Nova Scotia. Of the fifteen votes polled by Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, and British Columbia, all but one were in favour of the bill. Mr. Joseph Martin, who enjoys the distinction of being the only Liberal elected to the House of Commons from all that vast region lying between Ontario and the Pacific, voted against the second reading. The other members from the West are called traitors by the Winnipeg Tribune, and Mr. Martin is regarded as the only friend the Province has. It is certainly curious that there was no bolting on the part of Manitoba's members. The Province is reported to be practically solid on the school question. If it were so, could its members afford to ignore, as they appear to have done, the opinion of their constituents? Or is it that they do not intend again to seek parliamentary honours.

What it Shows.

The vote on the second reading of the Remedial Bill was the largest ever recorded in the House of Commons. Two hundred and six members voted. Seven years ago another Roman Catholic question brought out the second largest vote—that on the Jesuits' Estates Act, when two hundred and one votes were polled. Matters of infinitely more importance to the Dominion than these two questions have failed to arouse in Parliament half of the interest excited by the Jesuits' Act or the Remedial Bill, as divisions have plainly shown. This is not a satisfactory state of affairs. It shows that our politicians are ready to allow the greater concerns of the country to be pushed into the background if the Roman Catholic Church has some little matter in hand to which it desires the attention of Parliament. Everything else is dropped until the "little matter" is attended to, the whole country is aroused from end to end over it, and the politicians regard it as a matter of life or death. This is all very nice for the Church of Rome. It is a great tribute to the pre-eminence of the Church and its commanding influence in Canada. But it is a little hard on the country. We are afraid the intense and overshadowing interest taken by our politicians in the Remedial Bill and other affairs of the Roman Church springs not so much from principle or religious zeal as a desire to gain the good will and the practically irresistible influence of the bishops and priests of that communion.

The Deputation.

The deputation appointed by the Federal Government to confer with the Manitoba Government on the interminable school question left for Winnipeg on Monday. The Minister of

Justice, the Minister of Militia, and Sir Donald Smith, comprise the deputation, and it is reported that Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., may be in Winnipeg before the negotiations are concluded. The deputation is commissioned to discuss the question with Mr. Greenway and his confrères "with a view to reaching a settlement, by Provincial legislation, which will be mutually satisfactory to the Government of Manitoba and to the Roman Catholic minority." It was announced that Mr. Laurier had been asked by Mr. Foster to accompany the deputation to Winnipeg, but this improbable story has been denied. Mr. Laurier has been requested by Sir Charles Tupper to exert his influence with Mr. Greenway to induce him to act in the matter, and the leader of the Opposition has assured Parliament that this has ever been his aim and wish. The deputation is an excellent one. Both Sir Donald Smith and Mr. Dickey have avoided taking an extreme position, whilst Mr. Desjardins, for a Frenchman, has been passably moderate. It is devoutly to be hoped that the conference will have a satisfactory ending, and that Manitoba may be induced to deal with the dispute itself. Had the Federal Government seen its way to cease pressing the Remedial Bill pending the outcome of the conference, we believe the prospects for a satisfactory settlement would have been very much greater. It is customary to cease firing when the flag of truce is sent forth.

Nova Scotia's Method.

The Roman Catholics of Nova Scotia are not allowed to have Separate Schools, but whenever their numerical strength justifies the division they may have schools of their own, though the law does not sanction such an arrangement. These schools come under the same regulations as the Public Schools. They differ from the latter in one respect only: Roman Catholic religious instruction is imparted to Roman Catholic children. It is reported that Mr. Greenway would be willing to accede to the Roman Catholics of Manitoba the same system as that which exists in Nova Scotia. If this be true, there can be no excuse whatever for the Roman Catholics to make any more fuss about the matter, and the present difficulty should be settled forthwith. If they are not willing to accept such an advantageous settlement as the adoption of the Nova Scotia system, the country will lose all patience with them, and decline to make any concessions whatever.

Preferential Duties.

On Monday there was an interesting debate in the House of Commons on Mr. McNeill's resolution, "That it would be to the advantage of Canada and the Empire, as a whole, that a small duty (irrespective of any existing tariff) be levied by each member of the Empire against foreign products imported by them, and that the proceeds from such duties be devoted to purposes of Imperial intercommunication and naval defence." In speaking to his resolution Mr. McNeill made an excellent speech, with the spirit and principle of which we are in hearty accord. The member for North Bruce estimates that a discriminating duty of five per cent. on the foreign imports of Canada would be sufficient to meet our ordinary military expenditure, to pay our steamship subsidies, and still leave a balance for other Imperial purposes. But the most important part of the plan is that it would give the produce of Canada an advantage over all foreign articles in British and Colonial markets. In return for this privilege Great Britain would have a corresponding advantage in Canada and the other Colonies. Mr. McNeill expected the hearty support of the Secretary of State, but Sir Charles appeared to have forgotten the conversation he had