

marred his career are comparatively so few and, for the most part, so venial, that in the hands of so skilful an advocate they might have been fairly admitted, without endangering the success of the argument, if they did not even serve as foils to set off the more strikingly the real merits of his administration. To our thinking the effectiveness of Mr. Blake's powerful speech would scarcely have been lessened, while an excellent moral impression might have been made, had the orator felt, as well he might, that he could afford to admit frankly that such incidents as, *e.g.*, the division of the Registry Office and the appointment to the Shrievalty, were the blemishes of weakness and fallibility cropping out in a strong and upright leader, and were really to be regretted as departures from the best principles and traditions of political Reform. Mr. Blake, in a more judicial mood, could hardly deny that the circumstances of the Toronto Registry were such as afforded an admirable opportunity to a brave leader to reform the bad and indefensible system which enables a Government to reward a partisan with an office in which the amount of fees collected from the public is out of all proportion to the services rendered. To have placed the Registry Office upon a business basis and to have saved to the public or the municipality the thousands of dollars now paid without an equivalent in services rendered, would have been an act worthy of a Liberal statesman. Still less defensible, as indeed Mr. Blake evidently felt, was the appointment of the Premier's own son to one of the most remunerative offices in the gifts of the Government. Mr. Blake knows well that *nepotism* is one of the abuses which has been most persistently, and with only too good reason, charged by Liberals against the Ottawa Government, though to Sir John A. Macdonald's credit it should be said that he himself has not used his patronage for the benefit of members of his own family. The thing is wrong in principle and demoralizing in practice, and it is greatly to be regretted that Mr. Mowat should, in a moment of weakness, have set an example which can always be quoted as an offset to any similar act of another administration. Would it not have been much better in its moral and political effect, and much more in keeping with Mr. Blake's own high standards of life and conduct, had he frankly refused to apologize for Mr. Mowat's blunder, and boldly enunciated the sound principle that a Cabinet Minister should in no case use his patronage for the enrichment of his family, instead of attempting a defence the weakness of which is transparent?

THE Report of the Royal Commission on the Mineral Resources of Ontario and measures for their development is a voluminous and valuable document. Though the time—two years—consumed in its preparation may have seemed long to those who were in haste to see the results and who had no definite idea of the magnitude of the undertaking, no one can examine the volume of nearly six hundred pages now given to the public without being rather disposed to wonder that so much has been accomplished in so short a period. Admiration is increased by a detailed examination of the work. Sessions of the Commission were, we are informed, held at thirty-seven different places in the Province, from Ottawa in the east to Rat Portage in the west. One hundred and sixty-four witnesses were examined under oath, including men of all classes, whose education, experience, and pursuits have been such as to give them a knowledge of the subject, theoretical or practical, in any of its branches, conditions or relations. Mines, mining locations and works in the vicinity of places where the Commission met were examined and careful enquiry made respecting them. Other important mining districts, both in Canada and in the adjoining States of the Union, as also some of the principal schools of mines in the United States, were visited, as were also the furnaces and steel works at Pittsburg, Pa.; Chattanooga, Tenn., and Birmingham, Alabama. The data of the report are, therefore, "original and historical." The Commission has not followed in the footsteps of others, but has pursued the course marked out for itself, and it professes to "present no inference, opinion or statement of fact which is not warranted by the evidence, the study and observation of its members, or the testimony of the highest authorities." Evidence was not before wanting that Ontario possesses great mineral wealth, but the authentic information on that score furnished by this Report will add very materially, and it may be hoped beneficially, to the sources of knowledge of all who may be interested in gaining accurate and reliable data for scientific or practical purposes. The mere enumeration of the varied forms and localities in

which Ontario's stores of natural wealth are distributed in the central, eastern, northern and western parts of the Province would require more space than we have at our disposal, while the fact still remains that many districts in the vast area of the Province, as now defined, have not yet been prospected at all, and it may therefore "be reasonably presumed that only an inconsiderable portion of our mineral wealth is yet known to us."

SHOULD anyone be led to fear from the general and somewhat comprehensive view of the subject-matter of this Report outlined in the foregoing paragraph, that the Commissioners have given us an undigested and possibly indigestible mass of unclassified material, he would be doing injustice to the ability and industry displayed. The Commission was happily so constituted that it was able at the outset so to arrange its plan of operations, and so to assign various parts of the work to members specially fitted by education and mental habit to do that special work, that the result is an orderly arrangement of topics and an admirably clear presentation of results. What could be better, for instance, than the assignment of the geological part of the work and the question of organizing a bureau of mines to Dr. Bell; detailed descriptions and maps of working mines and all matters which appertain to mining engineering, together with the founding of a geological and mineralogical museum, to Mr. William Hamilton Merritt; all questions of trade in mineral products, shipping facilities, and a general enquiry into the business features of the industry to the Chairman, Mr. Charlton; and matters pertaining to mining laws and regulations, the best means of promoting the metallurgic industry, the collection and publication of mining statistics, and technical instruction in its relation to mining and metallurgy, to the Secretary, Mr. Blue, the efficient head of the Ontario Bureau of Statistics? It is to the Secretary, we presume, that we are mainly indebted for the excellent arrangement and classification of the various subjects treated of in the volume. The easier and, if we mistake not, the more usual method in preparing such reports is simply to set down the evidence collected, from various sources, at various places, and in regard to the various subjects included in the reference, in the order in which such evidence was obtained, with or without a summary or digest of the whole by way of conclusion. Mr. Blue has adopted the more laborious, but more scientific and satisfactory method of arranging the information gained in regard to each particular subject under its appropriate head, following to some extent the division of work above indicated. Thus the reader interested in a particular class of minerals, as, for instance, building materials or copper and nickel, is not left under the necessity of going through the whole mass of evidence in order to pick out that which concerns his special enquiry. Great credit is, we are sure, due to all the members of the Commission, and to the Secretary in particular, in that they have not spared toil and pains in order to make their report a model in form, as well as a rich storehouse of information, as thoroughly sifted, and as complete and exhaustive as it could well be made at this stage of provincial development.

WHEN we turn to glance at the present state and prospects of the mining industry, as indicated by the Commissioners, we find, unhappily, much less reason for satisfaction. "The evidence that Ontario possesses great mineral wealth is," as the Report both says and shows, "abundant, and is constantly increasing." But notwithstanding the extent and variety of our mineral resources, the statistics and tables presented show conclusively that in Ontario, as in the other Provinces of the Dominion, the mining industry is making slow progress. There can be no doubt, we think, that Canada is relatively to population, not to say absolutely, richer in mineral resources, than the United States. But whereas the value of the metallic and non-metallic mineral products of the United States for the year 1887 was \$542,284,225, that of the same class of products in Canada for the same year was only \$11,896,793. That is, it was nearly four times greater in the former country than in the latter, per head of population. The main cause of this difference is not far to seek. It is the want of a sufficiently accessible market for the Canadian products. The population of Canada is quite too small to warrant the carrying on of the business on the scale necessary to the best results, while access to the markets of the United States, our chief customer, is artificially obstructed by fiscal restrictions. Apart from the vexed question as to whether there is any reasonable

ground to hope for the removal of those restrictions at an early day—a question on which the Commissioners do not, of course, touch—it only remained for them to enquire as to what can be wisely done, and in what directions, to foster and stimulate the development of our mineral resources. Notwithstanding the numerous complaints heard by the Commission respecting the mining laws of the Province, they do not find, on careful enquiry, that very radical changes are demanded. Some minor changes are indicated as desirable. The special claims of the prospector and the explorer for consideration at the hands of the Government are presented. Incidentally the great damage and danger to the forest wealth of the Province from the fires kindled by prospectors are pointed out, and the need of preventive measures urged. The necessity of providing for the health and safety of miners is recognized. Probably the most useful and hopeful suggestions which the Commission has to make are those which relate to the dependence of the growth and prosperity of the mining industry upon a knowledge of the best methods and processes, and the need of more adequate provision for scientific and practical instruction of Canadians in mining and metallurgy. The Commissioners recommend for this purpose the adoption of such a scheme as that which has been tried with gratifying results in New Zealand, and which is fully explained in an appendix. However inadequate, owing to causes beyond our control, the practical results of the labours of the Commission may be to give to the development of our mining and mineral resources such impetus as could be wished, there can hardly be a doubt that material benefits, ample to justify all the trouble and expense involved, must result from the enquiry, if the Report be followed by suitable action.

ARE we never to have an end of political scandals? One becomes disgusted and almost feels as if self-respect must suffer in handling such topics, yet they cannot be passed over in silence. They stand, unhappily, more closely related to our political well-being, than many a more agreeable theme. The latest, and that which bids fair to prove the worst, the Pacaud-Whelan affair, is full of mystery as well as of evident iniquity. The only thing that seems certainly known to the public is, that large sums of money have been paid by Mr. Whelan, and doubtless by others for corrupt purposes, and that at least \$10,000 of this money was given to Mr. Pacaud and handed by him to some unknown person, as a means of securing a certain award to Mr. Whelan. Whether the unknown was a friend of the Government or of the Opposition is not yet clear, though Mr. Pacaud solemnly avows the latter. The man who could consent to become the intermediary in such a transaction must not complain if his unsupported statements are accepted with reserve, especially in the face of the emphatic denial of the Opposition leaders. All parties, at least all whose consciences are clear, must be glad that Mr. Mercier has resolved to appoint a Commission to investigate the affair of the \$10,000. If, as Mr. Whelan loudly protests, and, as seems probable from other circumstances, Mr. Mercier had no knowledge of the transaction, he can well afford to make the enquiry thorough. It is highly desirable that it should also be made exhaustive, and not limited strictly to the affair of the \$10,000. It is pretty evident from the statements of Mr. Whelan and others that the transaction in which Mr. Pacaud figures has not even the questionable distinction of being a higher peak in a mountain chain of undeveloped rascalities, if we may borrow Sir Richard Cartwright's metaphor. We earnestly hope the exploration will be thorough, and that, to use a more familiar figure, the Commission will probe the shameful business to the very bottom. Meanwhile one lesson stands out upon the face of the scandal. The money paid as bribes was mainly for electioneering purposes. The lesson thus reiterated is the necessity of adopting that feature of the British law which strictly limits election expenditures and requires an authenticated statement of accounts. So long as unlimited sums may be received and expended on behalf of rival candidates, so long will corruption attend both the getting and the expending.

THE corporation of Trinity University, at a recent meeting, adopted a resolution protesting in vigorous terms against the re-establishment of the Medical Faculty of the Provincial University, as an act of injustice to all the independent medical colleges in the Province. The argument underlying the protest is that the Legislature of Canada having in 1853 abolished the medical department of the University on the express ground that it was not in