

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The dollars and cents feature of Government is lost sight of in much talk about union of the Maritime Provinces. Think of the economy of labor and taxation accruing from one governor and Premier, one Parliament and staff of officials doing the work of three. At present there is scarcely enough population in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, to go round; certainly not enough to support such a trinity of politicians without feeling the monetary pinch of such support. That the Dominion is over-governed is the contention of many; certainly the Eastern Provinces should be in a position to know.

Meantime, while the necessity of uniting under one head three separate old provinces becomes increasingly recognized, a movement has set in for the disunion of Ontario. At least, the reports to hand, credit some such proposal with the title of "movement," though what the movers hope to gain, by what methods they mean to succeed, nor in what manner they hope to escape its obvious disadvantages, are details not mentioned. Probably the idea will prove still-born.

There is partial precedent, at least, for the mining innovation to be practised on the Gillies timber limit by the Ontario Government. It comes from China. It has become very difficult for foreigners to acquire mines in that country. The Government is insisting that Chinamen must hold at least half the shares in any mining company to be constituted in future; and the Government itself is demanding a big share in the mine's profits. The flotation of a certain mine was proposed. The Government insisted that not only was the native owner to receive one-half the shares, but that, after a six per cent. dividend had been paid, the Government was to take 25 per cent. of the balance. These are impossible terms, of course. The Chinese cannot develop their own mines. Foreign capital will not give the vendors of undeveloped mines, 50 per cent. of the capital stock. It is regarded as essential to sound mining finance that 80 per cent. of the capital of a proposition should be represented by cash available for developments—which leaves 20 per cent. for the vendor and the middleman.

The unseating of the Minister of Finance for the bribery of an agent, for whose acts he had no personal responsibility, was accompanied by an expression from the Chief Justice of Nova Scotia, highly complimentary to Mr. Fielding's innocence and devotion to the public service. It is confidently predicted that he will be re-elected by acclamation. Even should there be a contest, there is little hope for his opponent. If the results of election petition trials have to be formally reported to the House before a bye-election can be ordered, Mr. Fielding's absence would be specially annoying to the Government, because the session will be primarily for the revision of the tariff, which is Mr. Fielding's own subject; which it would be impolitic to leave to anybody else. But, contrary to British practice, the result of the trial can be reported to the speaker between sessions. Otherwise the Opposition might force a contest so as to inflict the maximum inconvenience upon the Government. Mr. Fielding was kept away from the earlier part of last session by an accident to his ankle. From the beginning of the next he will be kept away by an accident to his seat. The two misfortunes are a strange method by which Fate has celebrated a unique kindness to Sir Wilfrid Laurier's lieutenant. Mr. Fielding has recently completed what is surely a record term as Finance Minister to the Crown. Certainly no Chancellor of the Exchequer within the last hundred years has presented to Parliament his tenth consecutive Budget.

The meeting in Toronto this week of the British Medical Association is an event of importance to Canada. In addition to the value to our medical men having doctors from all over the world discussing health problems in our midst there is the advantage of having these men see our country and observe closely one or more of our chief cities. Amongst the items discussed at the congress is one of particular interest, the installation of proper drainage systems in small towns and villages, so that as they grow the systems can be expanded without having to be taken out to make room for more perfect equipment. The experience of English physicians will be of particular value here, where there are so many small towns destined to grow into big cities. A paper on this subject is by Dr. Graves, who has been in charge of the drainage systems on the Isle of Wight, where are the royal residences. Influential opinions were pronounced in favor of what may be called medical reciprocity between various parts of the Empire, a sort of medical federation as one man put it. But Dr. MacAlister, of Cambridge, president of the section of Therapeutics, gave expression to a wish that seems almost startling when it emanates from an Old Country physician; "Canadian graduates come over every year," he said, "to study and to obtain diplomas at home. When I observe your splendidly-equipped medical schools and hospitals, I cannot help wishing that a strong reverse current might be set up, and that our own students and graduates might acquire the habit of crossing the Atlantic to complete or to supplement their medical education in Canada. \* \* \* And I am sure that such educational interchanges would exert a powerful influence for good, not only upon us, but upon you." It is not to be supposed that this speaker said what he did merely to pay a compliment. And this handsome recognition of Canadian medical equipment is as welcome as deserved.

It is gratifying to note every potential increase in the efficiency of British trade methods. The insular habit of regarding every British method as perfect, simply because it is British, is slowly passing. Even Free Trade Government is trying to quicken the commercial life of the country in some very desirable directions. It is vital to know where the national commerce stands. Statistics collected on plans laid down a generation ago are inadequate to modern needs, and the little Welshman who is now at the head of Imperial Board of Trade has proposed a census of production which, though it has startled many of the slow-going manufacturers, is likely to be endorsed by the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom next month. Whenever you propose to a British manufacturer to do something which his father never heard of, he is apt to suspect craziness or downright roguery. Mr. Lloyd-George has propounded a bill providing for accurate information about the manufacturers of the United Kingdom. A deputation from a large number of employers' associations told the President of the Board of Trade that the proposed census would involve them in considerable expense, and trouble, and in the risk of exposing the trade secrets. One speaker feared that the extra expense would absorb 3 per cent. of their profits. Mr. Lloyd-George replied that this was a very exaggerated idea of the proposed requirements. The United States Government required manufacturers to furnish much more elaborate particulars, without any serious complaint, or disadvantage to those making returns. He proposed to appoint a committee including representatives of the leading industries to draw up the schedules, etc., and setting out the general character of such heads of information as they thought could be obtained, without revealing trade secrets. All of which goes to show how easy it is to be more frightened than hurt, and to spend more intellect on evading a profitable responsibility than is necessary to shoulder it successfully.

## BANKING

The Bank of New  
Fredericton probably next  
The Sovereign Bank  
Brampton, Ont.

The Bank of Hamilton  
Sask., and Warman, Sask.

M. J. Sage & Co., a la  
with branches in Canada,  
reported considerable.

The Nipissing Mini  
\$6,000,000 treasury stock  
\$12,000,000 stock still out.

The Bank of Nova Sco  
at Port of Spain, Trinidad  
H. J. Jordan, formerly man

The Traders Bank h  
Station, which will be kno  
branch. A branch has al  
Avenue and Davenport Ro

The shareholders of th  
will hold a special genera  
Toronto on September 10th  
date of annual meeting, co  
and electing additional dir

The Rothschilds are r  
road from Guiterrez, on t  
hutes, and also a line from  
line to Ciudad de Jerez, to  
prime object will be to ai  
childs are interested.

The National Bank of  
to benefit bankers in the  
which section a large amo  
Western Canada, has ma  
banks to make transfers at  
all banking points in the C

Senator Lovitt, preside  
mouth, which failed under  
and S. A. Crowell, its vic  
a charge brought by J. Ly  
wilfully false and deceptiv  
ment. Action is thus tak  
order to establish directo  
through the failure. Bail w

Bonds are meeting a v  
New York market, even sin  
disbursements. With sto  
even those of high-grade, h  
decline. One cause undou  
purchasing by insurance  
losses having made them  
other is the relatively high  
on behalf of remunerative in

Mexican Light and Po  
first six months of present  
expenses were \$722,330 an  
all in Mexican currency, wh  
amounts in gold. The cor  
maximum of 200,000 horse-p  
to make gross earnings of  
penses of \$1,500,000, and n  
these figures increasing as  
stalled. Several important  
obtained which will allow  
mented power.

The London Chamber o  
the special meeting of the  
Commerce of the United Ki  
growth of representation wi  
our representation to be a s  
demanding the Government  
habit of the people to live i  
full franchise without liabili  
to "the total disfranchisem  
carried on by limited compa  
the rates and taxes largely  
non-tax payers."

Bank statement for July  
Chief features of the month  
paid, \$707,285; deposits in  
deposits on notice, \$253,123  
where, \$3,482,232; call loans  
elsewhere, \$784,304; and d  
lation and \$688,044 in curre

Death of M  
Word comes from Montr  
of Mr. John Hague, of that  
deceased gentleman was a v