

accidental or intentional dropping or adding of names in the printing office. The most noteworthy changes in the Controverted Elections Act are that which requires that election trials shall be conducted by two judges instead of one as hitherto, and that which provides that minor offences committed without the knowledge of the candidate, and in no wise affecting the result of the election, shall not deprive the member elect of his seat. The first of these is a wise amendment, and one which will be we dare say as acceptable to the conscientious judge as to the honest candidate. The second is of more doubtful propriety, since, while it may sometimes prevent what would otherwise be a real hardship for the candidate, it will also tend to remove from his unscrupulous friends the wholesome restraint arising from the fear of depriving him of his election by an unlawful act. Perhaps it is also worthy of consideration, on the other side, that it may occasionally prevent a treacherous enemy from unseating a member by an illegal act of pretended support. On the whole the changes are obviously in the right direction and may fairly be taken to indicate an honest desire on the part of the Government for purer elections.

A CABLEGRAM informs us that the Council of the Imperial Federation League has selected a strong committee to consider the definite proposals for imperial federation made by Sir Charles Tupper in his recent speech. We are further told that Sir Charles is surprised at the support his scheme is receiving, and that he congratulates himself on having been the first to frame a proposal that meets all the French-Canadian objections to federation schemes in general. Those objections are, we suppose, mainly to the taxation for the support of the British navy and the loss of a certain measure of the self-government at present enjoyed, which were hitherto generally and naturally supposed to be indispensable features of any possible scheme. If Sir Charles can obtain the consent of the British Government and people to a form of federation which involves no pecuniary obligations, and asks no sacrifice of autonomy on the part of the colonies, and which, while taxing foreign products for their benefit, leaves them free to maintain as high tariffs as they please against British manufactures—if, that is to say, an arrangement can be made which gives the colonies everything they could ask, and exacts no cost or sacrifice of any kind in return—the whole affair will be put on a new basis. We can conceive of nothing, unless it were a sense of self-respect and shame, which could prevent any colony from entering into a compact which gives all the benefits to her and puts all the obligations upon the Mother Country. In contrast with such a proposal, it may be interesting to read the following from a leading article in *Imperial Federation*, the journal of the Imperial Federation League. Commenting on the opinions on the federation question expressed by Sir John Macdonald a few years ago, which have been so frequently referred to since his death, this journal, in the number dated July 1st, says:—

That Sir John Macdonald expected more of the fiscal and commercial element of union than many of us on this side are inclined to is natural enough. To obtain advantages over other nations in the markets of the Mother Country is an alluring idea to colonial politicians everywhere, and above all in Canada. As a political leader in Canada Sir John was bound to give prominence to this view, at the same time being willing to commit himself to the belief that the colonies would in some sort reciprocate the favour. But in the course of the same statement, as in the utterance quoted before, he made the further declaration that the colonies would be ready to do what, to our mind, is vastly more worth having—not for the money, but for the sake of the principle and the political consequences involved—namely, to pay their share of the expense of national defence. His was too broad a mind to allow him to join the cry of those over-reaching politicians too often heard to speak in the name of the colonies, who cry always "Give, give," without acknowledging the obligation on their side to give also where they get. And it is upon this basis of mutuality alone that any union can be lasting.

THE Dominion Government has shown practical wisdom in so far conceding the demands of the people of the North-West for home rule, as they seem to have done in the Bill introduced by the Minister of the Interior. The question why having gone so far the Ottawa Administration should not have gone to the logical end may perhaps be raised and prove troublesome, even in the absence of Mr. McCarthy. So far as appears, the Bill decides the dispute between Lieut.-Governor Royal and the Assembly, touching the control of the exchequer, entirely in favour

of the latter. The Hon. Mr. Royal's claim of the right of disposing of the main portion of the revenue, viz., that coming directly from the Dominion treasury, is not upheld. On the contrary, the new Act seems to give the North-West Assembly as full control over all its revenues as that possessed by any other local House. This is a matter of primary importance, as the power of the purse is one of the chief prerogatives and safeguards of representative government, and was by far the most important question at issue between the Lieutenant-Governor and the Assembly. The removal of Government appointees or nominated members from the local Assembly will mark another stage in the march towards full local autonomy. Henceforth the representatives of the people will be able to make such arrangements as they please for the management of the finances, and will have the same freedom in local legislation which is enjoyed by other members of the Confederation. The Bill does not provide for the subdivision of the Territories into prospective provinces, but it is doubtful if the people, with the exception perhaps of the residents of Alberta, are desirous, as yet, of so far assuming the increased cost and responsibilities of self-government. If the population of the Territory increases with reasonable rapidity, the time for such division will soon come. Meanwhile it is probably better to make haste slowly. It does not appear that the new Act is to concede any fuller powers to legislate in regard to the dual language or Separate school questions than those already exercised. Whether, in the absence of Mr. McCarthy, and in view of the lateness of the season, those questions will be raised in Parliament this session is doubtful. It may be safely predicted, however, that the people of the North-West, who have already shown themselves so courageous and persistent in demanding their rights as members of the Confederation, will not long submit to the present curtailment of their liberties in these respects. The progress they have already made, and especially the important concessions they are gaining in the present Bill, may be accepted as a guarantee of their ability to insist in the future upon the removal of all disabilities and restrictions until they stand upon the same level in respect to local self-rule with the freest Province of the Dominion.

IS there, or is there not, any good ground to hope that the Hudson Bay route can ever become available for the cheaper and more direct transportation of the wheat and other products of the North-West to England? That, to our thinking, is the one question upon which the defensibility of the Bill granting to the Hudson Bay Railway Company a subsidy of \$80,000 a year, for twenty years, depends. We note that the Bill, in its passage through the Commons, was advocated mainly as a colonization road to the Saskatchewan. On this ground the building of the road, largely at the expense of the Dominion, is indefensible, at least until such time as much larger portions of the immense tracts of fertile prairie already accessible by rail are taken up by actual settlers. To afford facilities for scattering still more widely the sparse population, instead of striving by every means to fill up the vast regions already broached, is surely a most mistaken policy. But if, as we have always been disposed to believe, there is a reasonable probability that the great inland sea in the North-East may be navigated with tolerable safety and certainty for even three or four months in the year, the conditions are radically changed. Such a route would be of incalculable value to Manitoba and North-West farmers. The jewel consistency was openly discarded by those Liberal members of Parliament, who though they never tire of holding up liberty to buy in the cheapest and sell in the dearest markets as a first principle of sound political economy, or of contending that one part of the country or community should never be compelled, by the operation of tariff laws, to pay tribute to another part, nevertheless opposed the grant, as several of them did, on the ground that to build the road would be to divert from the older Provinces the trade of the North-West for which they had been paying such immense sums of money. To argue that the young North-West should be thus compelled to pay tribute to the older provinces ill becomes those who are continually denouncing the National Policy because it taxes the many for the behoof of the few. It can hardly be denied that the Bill, as passed through the Commons, was most unsatisfactory, by reason of the singular lack of information furnished in regard to the length, location and cost of the road, and the financial ability and good faith of its promoters and stockholders. The Bill should have lain on the table, at all hazards, until these were furnished to

the satisfaction of the people's responsible representatives. Seldom, we venture to say, has Parliament dealt so favourably with a measure concerning which so little detailed information was forthcoming, and sums of money so large voted. The precedent, if established, will be a most unfortunate one in this respect. The argument of the opponents of the grant, on these two points, viz., the present needlessness of the road for colonization purposes, and the lack of information in regard to the means, plans and intentions of its promoters and shareholders, were logically irresistible.

THE great Educational Convention is over but it is safe to predict that its effects will extend through generations. In saying this we do not refer principally to results educational in the restricted sense of that word, though even these may be easily underrated. Whatever may be the value of some of the more metaphysical and theoretical discussions, it is impossible that so many minds, all occupied more or less exclusively with different aspects of the same great questions, can have undergone the contact and healthful friction of the three days of the Convention without having derived much benefit in the process. To the sluggish must in many cases have been imparted a salutary stimulus. Those which are naturally active, but whose opportunities for culture have been limited, will have received thoughts and suggestions which will bear fruit before as well as after many days. All, save the most indifferent, must have gone away with larger ideas and deeper convictions touching the responsibilities and possibilities of the profession. But from the international point of view Canadians have every reason to be well pleased that the visit has been made by so many members of the profession from across the line. Almost every part of the great Republic was represented. Probably the percentage of those who had before visited Canada, or who had even tolerably correct ideas of the character of the country and its people, was much smaller than may be at first thought supposed. As we have often had occasion to observe Providence has placed these two peoples side by side, and side by side they must remain through all their future history. It is in the highest interests of both that the freest intercourse, social and commercial, the best understanding of each other's characters and institutions, and the most cordial friendship and good-will should prevail. History has probably no parallel case, in which two peoples descended from the same stock, speaking the same language, reading the same literature, permeated by the same democratic spirit, and having to a large extent the same interests and ambitions, have thus shared between them the greater part of a great continent. It is evident that nothing but a good understanding of each other's peculiarities, a proper regard for each other's rights and liberties, and a fair share of breadth of mind and generosity on the part of each, is needed to bind the two nations in bonds of perpetual friendship. It is not too much to say that a few days of kindly personal intercourse will go farther than anything else to promote such views and feelings in the individual. The manly and generous and evidently sincere sentiments to which the leading orators of both nationalities gave utterance were very gratifying to all rightly-disposed minds and will not fail to produce good results. The people of Toronto as well as their visitors owe a debt of appreciation and gratitude to the members of the local committee, and especially to Mr. Hill and Inspector Hughes, who gave so much time and care to preparation for the event, and to whose admirable arrangements the complete success of the Convention was so largely due.

THE passage of the Free School Bill through the British House of Commons will mark an epoch in the educational history of the kingdom. Though it was considerably broadened during its course through the House, and has thus become a much larger and more expensive measure than Mr. Goschen at first contemplated, it is yet quite evident from the tone of the debates and of the press that it is by no means accepted as a finality, even for the next decade. As first introduced the provision for exemption from fees included only public school children between the ages of five and fourteen. To most persons it would not seem a matter of great moment whether children under the age of five are charged fees or admitted free into the schools, as the number in attendance under that age, unless in Kindergartens, must be, we should hope for humanity's sake, very small. The fact of the smallness of the number told, however, as an argument equally well on the Opposition side in the debate, the