

EMIGRATION FROM BRITAIN TO HER COLONIES.

THE emigration movement from the old world to the new is increasing in volume year by year, and the indications are that there will be a very large influx of desirable settlers to Canada in 1884. There is much less hesitancy shown by the British people to come out to this country in the present day than existed a few years ago. The causes which have led to this, apart from dissatisfaction at home, are the extensive advertising this country has had in Europe, and the increased knowledge which has been obtained in later years regarding our Dominion, chiefly through the observation of travellers, the operation of the Immigration Department backed by the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Fisheries Exhibition, and the exhibits of Canadian products in England.

The writer, who has lately been on a visit to his native country, Scotland, has had opportunities of discovering some of the reasons why emigration from among the more desirable classes there has been retarded in the past, and of observing the causes which have given so strong an impulse to the movement westward in more recent years. The most extraordinary stories had, until recently, been credited in the mother-land regarding the life of the settler in Canada. Encounters with bears and wolves were represented as being of frequent occurrence, the severity of the winters was said to be beyond the limit of human endurance, and the productiveness of the soil was greatly underrated. But a new era has dawned on this question of emigration to Canada. For the reasons already stated, the claims of this fair land of ours to notice are now being well represented at home, and the advantages to the settler have been for some time made manifest to all. Our climate is properly understood, the productiveness of the soil—both as regards quality and variety—is now well-known; and the increased railway facilities and ready access to the best markets have reduced the settler's drawbacks to a minimum.

In recent years emigration has, as has already been pointed out, flowed in a largely increased tide to this country. This fact is clearly demonstrated by statistics from the Immigration Department, and it is confirmed by a sojourn in Britain, where almost every family misses one or more members who have gone to try their luck in the colonies. And there is every likelihood that the present year will show a still larger movement Canadawards. Emigration is a leading topic among the rural population. Both in England and Scotland—and more particularly among the middle and southern counties in the latter country—there is much discontent among the agricultural classes. The farmers have such heavy rents to pay that they have scarcely anything left after the landlord has been satisfied and the family expenses paid. Another effect of the high rent is that farm labourers' wages are on the decline. In some parts of England, too, many farms are without tenants, the occupants having been compelled, from an inability to meet the demands of the landlords, to give up their farms. These oppressed ones have all found new homes beyond the seas. Others are preparing to follow them, and unless the landlords hasten to make liberal concessions the movement will become even more general. There seems to be less dissatisfaction in the north of Scotland (the islands excepted) than in any other part of Britain. Rents are more reasonable in the north and the landlords have shown a better spirit in the matter of allowing for improvements. This was especially observable on the estates owned by the Earls of Seafield and Moray. The tenants on their lordships' lands seemed very comfortable and happy, and report has it that they are able to save something against the approach of old age. Some of the leading proprietors have taken numerous farms into their own hands, leaving the management to "grieves" (overseers.) This plan has been resorted to more from necessity than choice, however, and its profitability is very doubtful indeed. Before many years elapse the system will, beyond a doubt, be abandoned. And with its abandonment will be sure to come a downfall in rents and better times for the tenantry. But, meanwhile, many scores of farmers will have found new homes beyond the Atlantic. Anticipating a larger immigration movement this year, and with a view to facilitate the speedy settlement of Manitoba and the North-West Territories, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has made most liberal arrangements for the conveyance of immigrants desirous of settling in these Provinces. They will be carried direct through by the company's trains and steamers for the small sum of ten dollars. In this way, in addition to reaping the benefit of direct transit, new comers will escape the wiles of American agents and ticket-scalpers.

That there will be a large immigration movement to Canada this year is, as we have already pointed out, almost a certainty; that the Canadian Pacific Railway will see to the transit of the immigrants to the North-West, under the most favourable circumstances, is evident. It only remains for the Government to see that the settlers are not harrassed in

their quest after new homes; and when they have been located, that they are not disturbed in the possession of their lands by scheming speculators or grasping land companies. It will require some effort on the part of the Government to disabuse the English mind of the impression that settlers have, in many instances, been somewhat unfairly dealt with. No doubt such an effort will be put forth.

W. CAMPBELL.

PARTY MANŒUVRING v. USEFUL LEGISLATION.

INTEREST in the meetings of the Dominion and the Provincial Parliaments, we are within the truth in saying, is almost wholly centred in the political game. To prove this, we need only point to the time and attention taken up in our legislative halls with mere party manœuvring, and to the relishing, by the followers of faction, of the daily episodes in the party struggle, to the exclusion of any active and wholesome interest in the serious business of legislation. Only on a large scale does the game of party show to advantage. The smaller the theatre of strife, the more petty becomes the conflict. Even in the Dominion Parliament, seldom does legislation rise into statesmanship, and rarely do we see national questions debated in the nation's interest. Party-ridden as we are, this, we fear, is the fact we must continue to face, and public interest in legislation will soon only mean looking on at a dog-fight.

In this general scuffle of parties, what, it may innocently be asked, is the end of legislation?—what have we in view in summoning our Parliaments together? In putting this question we are here suggesting no inquiry, searching or otherwise, into the *raison d'être* of the Second Chamber. Our purpose is simply to call attention to the legitimate functions of Parliament, and to ask if those objects which legislation is designed to further are being kept in mind, in and out of the House, or if, in the confused fight of faction, they are being ignored and thrust aside altogether. To glance at the daily reports of the proceedings of our Parliaments, no one will affirm that the proportion of useful business taken up and despatched at each sitting bears any reasonable relation to the time consumed in fruitless talk on subjects which can hardly be termed public business. The few measures of importance that are daily advanced in either the Ottawa or the Local House are, in the main, matters fished out by the Opposition for the confusion of the enemy, or questions the discussion of which merely tends to the glorification of the party in power. When weighty matters of State are discussed, nine-tenths of the debates to which they give rise are taken up with objectless talk or mere faction wrangling. Commercial questions and measures of importance to the trade and commerce of the country are subjects that, if dealt with at all, are relegated to the closing days of the session, and even then, discussion, is too often clogged by selfish interests or it is unwholesomely influenced by the malign power of the Lobby. The latter is a dangerous, insidious, and ever-increasing evil. On the other side of the Line, legislation, it is well known, is in the grasp of monopolies. Railway rings, mammoth stock companies, colossal organizations having command of immense resources, which they do not scruple to use corruptly, exert a baleful influence alike upon society, upon legislation, and upon trade. In Canada, though the power to control legislation by corrupt means is as yet not as strong as the desire, the danger is quite as menacing, while resistance to the influence of the Lobby is manifestly on the decline. In Ontario, had the surplus which was expended in granting bonuses to railways held out, the morals of our legislators to-day would not be Puritan. With the growing hostility between the Local and the Federal executives, and the game that Party must needs play to hold its own in the fight, new dangers alarmingly beset us. The revelations of the bribery scandal unmistakably show to what depths faction is sinking the nation. It is possible, of course, in directing attention to these dangers and abuses, to out-Cassandra Cassandra; but that they are dangers and abuses, and that commercial and all legitimate and useful legislation is too often set aside for mere party manœuvring, are facts of grave significance and saddening reality. In the country's essential moral soundness we have some faith, but with each returning session of Parliament this faith suffers serious abatement.

G. MERCER ADAM.

A DAILY newspaper has just been started in Paris which will change its politics every morning. One day the political article will be written by a Bonapartist, another day by an Opportunist, then by a Legitimist, and sometimes by an Intransigent. Each writer is to be at liberty to say exactly what he pleases. In like manner the literary part of the paper will be surrendered upon alternate days to representatives of opposite schools. It is said that the journal is started with American capital.