

tively easy way to deal with strikes, which are hardly the dilemma that some people take them to be. He may dally a while with his employees, so long as there remains a fair and reasonable margin for his profits. If these profits dwindle to a mere nominal figure, he has always the option of withdrawing his capital. What happens then? Competition being lessened, prices rise, and capital as bulk increases. A and B may be temporarily incommode, but capitalists, as a class, are benefitted. It is almost always noticeable that certain stocks rise and are much sought for after a strike in some branches of trade, which are depressed a little, to be soon inflated, while others droop under the same influences. Thus the equilibrium of capital is always maintained. The operatives may be shrewd men, but the masters are just as shrewd. In this country, however, it is hardly necessary even to withdraw capital, because there are always plenty of labourers to step into the place of strikers.

The only real sufferers by the struggle between labour and capital are the public. This is so very obvious, that we wonder everybody does not see it and act upon it. Strikes do not change the relative position of the operative, as we have said; they work little or no injury to the employer or master; when they do produce mischief, which is not always the case, that mischief is done to the general public. If the price of commodities is raised by the increase of labourers' wages, and even the necessities of life rule immoderately high; if capital is withdrawn from the markets by the action of employers, and rates go up in proportion to the lessening of competition, it is the people's business to see to it, since they are solely interested. If they allow it, if they are willing to bear the burden, well and good—it is their lookout. If, on the contrary, they regard the result of these strikes as unjust and ruinous, they have the remedy in their own hands. Surely in a country where the people pretend to be king, the people must be able to manage their own interests.

MINISTERS AT THE MANSION HOUSE.

One of the institutions of England is the annual dinner to Her Majesty's Ministers by the Lord Mayor of London, and this year Mr. DISRAELI was the orator of the occasion. His speech, although remarkable for his usual eloquence, was equally so for studious elimination of those exciting politico-religious questions which are now so much dividing—if they are not in fact breaking up—the old parties in the United Kingdom. The fact we have noticed is the more remarkable from the circumstance that Mr. DISRAELI himself did, about a year ago, and during the last session of Parliament, pitch the key note of the great controversy into which Mr. GLADSTONE has rushed with so much vehemence in his recent pamphlet. It is quite beyond our purpose, in these columns, to enter at all into the merits of that controversy. We must content ourselves with this reference to the political fact.

Mr. DISRAELI stated that he should not venture to prophesy what the next session would bring, but would leave the fact to be narrated after the event. On the general home questions he claimed that the country was in a state of profound prosperity, and also that the fact of a Conservative Ministry holding power was proof of the very great political contentment of the masses of working men. He said the working man was more secure in his political and personal rights in England than in any other country of Europe, and especially in that he was not called upon to enroll himself against his will under an iron military system.

Mr. DISRAELI laid especial emphasis on one other topic, and that was the determination of the Government to maintain intact, at all and every cost, the Colonial Empire of Great Britain. So far from desiring to contract it, and to shirk the obligations of Empire, their policy, he said, was rather to extend it, as was proved by

the fact of the recent accession of Fiji. The reference of the Premier to the Colonial policy of his Government was the most marked political expression in his speech; and, it may be stated, was received with great enthusiasm.

There were many other speeches and many congratulations and complimentary expressions; but perhaps the most noteworthy of these was the speech of the French Ambassador, who stated in substance, that the class of British statesmen themselves, and the institutions which produced them, might justly be regarded, politically speaking, as the pride of the world.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

No man at all observant of the ebb and flow of the youthful population in a great city like ours, can have overlooked the fact that, notwithstanding much has been done, a great deal more remains to be undertaken in behalf of the mental, moral, and mechanical training of the children of the middle and lower orders. The Industrial School system is growing more and more into favour, and must soon become a necessity here, as in other countries. Hitherto, we have had only two distinct kinds of education—the classical and the commercial. Of these, the latter has attained far greater perfection, as was to be expected from the business character and mercantile tastes of our countrymen. Indeed, classic education among us is deplorably low-levelled, from the causes just mentioned, and not precisely owing to deficiency on the part of the teaching body. It will take time to place it on even ground with our commercial systems in efficiency and thoroughness. Still its deficiencies are less to be deplored than our almost total want of Industrial Schools. It is very well to have Classical Colleges for those whose means and position in society enable them to prosecute a thorough course of study. Commercial Colleges are necessary, too, for such as desire to engage in business. But there is a third class of youths who are precluded from entering either of these institutions, and who, nevertheless, should not be deprived of the means of education. They are the children of mechanics, journeymen, and the poor generally. For these, Industrial Schools ought to be provided. By Industrial Schools we mean schools in which there is a proper distribution of study and handwork—so many hours for the one, so many hours for the other. In Europe, as well as in some Eastern States, we have had occasion to examine these schools, and we have invariably formed a very favourable opinion of them. They combine two things which are not combined in our colleges at present—the love of study, and an appreciation of the dignity and usefulness of manual labour. It often happens now that poor boys are educated above their station, crammed with Greek, Latin, and science for which they will have no use, and brought up to condemn the hand labour to which they must naturally owe their subsistence. Industrial Schools prevent all such anomalies. Boys there learn grammar, history, geography and arithmetic—just what they will need in after-life—and at the same time become familiar with the trade and work which they or their parents may choose. In manufacturing centres which we have visited, we have seen them familiar, at fourteen and fifteen, with the innumerable and intricate details of machinery; and, at one establishment, perfectly up to the scientific requirements of agriculture.

One objection to our Common Schools and Free Schools is, that they take a young boy at an early age and keep him on the forms for several years, without requiring him to do any work. The lad grows up to adolescence without mechanical skill, and with other tastes than those of manual labour. He sooner learns to loaf about the streets, after class hours, plotting mischief and forming bad habits. There are thousands of boys, in a city like ours, whose social condition requires that they should learn to work from the age of

twelve. These should have Industrial Schools to go to. There, while their minds are softened to receive the impressions of learning, their hands must be gradually hardened to toil. The dignity of labour must be taught them. The Industrial School is a remedy against two social evils. If a poor boy is apprenticed or engaged at too early an age, he grows up without education, which is a huge wrong. Or he goes to school all the time, and grows up without a knowledge or love of work, and that is an anomaly. The Industrial School provides the poor boy with a double blessing—suitable education and proper dispositions for work—makes a man of him, and sets him in his right place in the world. When we reflect that by far the greatest portion of our population belongs to this class, the question of Industrial education assumes an importance even superior to that of our colleges and academies. Indeed, if we look at things aright, it is a greater honour and service to provide thus for the educational wants of the ten thousand poor, than to lecture to a few hundreds from a University chair.

There is considerable excitement in the Maritime Provinces over the change in the freight tariff of the Intercolonial Railway. It seems that the rates have been largely increased under the provisions of a general tariff, the object of which is naturally to draw as much money out of the traffic of the railway as will go to repay the expenses of its working. The tariff, however, appears so high that a host of exceptions will have to be made to it, and, of course, some of the leading journals express the fear that these exceptions may be secured by personal or political influence brought to bear on the superintendent or members of Parliament, thus laying the basis for no small amount of political corruption. To prevent such abuse, a moderate tariff is advocated at rates decided on and enforced by the Government. That the Intercolonial can be made at once a commercial success is not expected. Until such a desirable consummation is reached—and it will be reached in time—it is manifestly not fair that the railway should be converted into a burden on the people, or be carried on so as to bear with unequal hardship on certain classes.

One result—perhaps the principal result—of the late Democratic victory in the United States will be the prompt and efficacious settlement of the currency question. Nearly all the Eastern States and a large proportion of the Westerns have declared themselves in favour of an immediate return to specie payment, and the latest intelligence from Washington is, that the President is disposed to advocate the scheme. Financiers are divided in their views concerning the best mode of reaching the desired consummation, but perhaps a law allowing holders of greenbacks to fund them in five-per cent. gold bonds would be as simple and effectual a way as any. The five-per cents. are nearly at par, and greenbacks exchanged would soon be quite so. The funding would take some little time, and would be just gradual enough not to interfere materially with the business of the country. Paper thus funded could not be recovered to the circulation, but being always maintained at par, occasional deficiencies in the currency might easily be supplied by redeemable bank notes.

In writing last week on the representation of minorities, we insisted on the principle that the parliamentary division of members in both the Federal and Provincial Legislatures should be in the direct ratio of the popular vote. In Canada, representation by population was long a bone of popular contention, and, after a hard struggle, it was embodied in our institutions. At the establishment of Confederation, the distribution of seats was made in accordance with this doctrine, but since then the number of inhabitants has greatly

increased, and Ontario, more especially, finds itself entitled to a larger number of seats. The Government of that Province has now taken the matter up, and a scheme for the redistribution of parliamentary seats is now before the Legislature. Among the several constituencies which claim an augmentation in this respect, Ottawa takes the lead, and, we believe, with reason, for no city or county of the Dominion has done so well within the past six or seven years.

The fourth and last session of the second Parliament of Quebec met on Thursday, the 3rd inst., with the usual ceremonial. Among the clauses of which the speech from the throne was made up, there are two measures which claim more than ordinary interest. The first is a Parliamentary investigation of the recent Tanneries Land exchange, and the second points to the passage of a stringent election law. The first two days of the session were consumed in explanation of the reasons which led to the downfall of the late Ministry. Mr. OUMET read a long memorandum relating his personal share therein, and lengthy statements were made by Messrs. ROBERTSON, IRVINE, and CHAPLEAU. There is much speculation, at this initial stage of the session, about the relative strength of parties, and the prospects of the DE BOUCHERVILLE Government, but the rumours are so various and conflicting, that nothing positive can be forecast for some days to come.

Winter need not be a period of inactivity and isolation, if we know how to meet the difficulties which it presents. The chief of these difficulties are the roads. Farmers complain that they have to stay at home, because they cannot get into town. Produce lies hoarded from autumn to spring, to the loss of the farmer, who loses the interest on his money, and that of the purchaser, who has to pay the high prices of scarcity—and all because there are no roads from the barn-door to the market-stand. The simple remedy is to make roads, and to make roads means to make them double-tracked. For this purpose neither spade nor plough is needed. The cross-shaft or crooked sleigh is all that is required. With the first snowfall, let this double-track be traced out, and it will last all winter. Several years ago the Legislature of the Province of Quebec passed a law to this effect, but as it applied to only a limited area in the Eastern Townships and the Iberville district, its results were comparatively meagre. The law should be extended over the whole Province, and within one winter after its enforcement, we would hear of its decided advantages.

In consideration of the prevalence of typhoid fever in Montreal, and other parts of the country, we may add to a paragraph published by us, last week, on this subject, some of the precautions laid down by the well-known Dr. LIONEL BEALE. He affirms positively that fever germs will not be developed from filth, but allows that by permitting people to live, year after year, in open defiance of recognized sanitary laws, the generation of fever poison in their bodies is favoured, and that its full growth and multiplication, if imported, is reduced to a certainty by such mode of life. In many cities and towns, it is to be feared that hundreds of organisms are slowly preparing themselves for invasion. Bad air and sewage water, the adjacent dung-heap and dirt-bin may be all perfectly free from fever germs, but nevertheless, they will bring about changes which will render many of those exposed to their influence the ready victims of disease. However desirable it may be to destroy existing fever germs with all possible speed, it is far more important that we should do our utmost to press upon the authorities the necessity of providing pure water and efficient drainage wherever men congregate.