

IN THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT a strong party advocates a defensive tariff as regards the United States, and a vigorous protection of the fisheries. The American policy has greatly deranged trade, thrusting it from its natural courses. Their policy is selfish, and at the same time hurtful to themselves. It is a pity to imitate such folly in any degree, but it may become necessary in the end. Of one thing we may be sure, namely, that the Americans will never tamely submit to any restriction of their fishing liberties. To the fisheries they attach a high value; though, it seems, they will give nothing in return. It is to be hoped that nothing may ever produce war between Britain and America. They are sister nations, notwithstanding their bitter rivalries and mutual recriminations.

THERE is much depression of trade in Nova Scotia, and no apparent improvement. The contracts on the Intercolonial have broken down, as was expected: the prices being far too low. This mismanagement is far from excusable in a matter of such paramount interest. In Nova Scotia the great topic has been the dismissal of Mr. Rand, Superintendent of Education. Much eloquence has escaped and overflowed the pages of newspapers for about a month. The dismissals of Messrs. George and Rand are *political*. That is about all that can be said about them *per se*. They show the folly of entrusting education to a Board of politicians, *as such*. They have not fitness, but much unfitness, for the business. They must leave all to the Superintendent, who manages school affairs despotically. He must ride every hobby he pleases, while they interfere only when some political necessity urges. They can dismiss officials, but for all things else they have the worst possible qualifications. The management of education, the protection of teachers and all school interests, require a Board of enlightened and impartial business men, who will look sharply after the Superintendent, and be as unbiassed as possible by politics. The last three weeks discussion has had the dismissals for its theme,—a matter not nearly so important as the fact that the Arichat schools remain as they were. There is no change in *that* respect, and Protestants pay for Roman Catholic tuition. We have much reason to be concerned at repeated attempts to destroy our school system, and to employ our resources in the service of those whose rule has ever been attended by social misery and national degradation.

WHILE it would not be hard to show that in politics we are cursed with Roman Catholic ascendancy here, it does not seem so clear that Popery increases so fast in Britain as its organs allege. Ritualism has given to the Pope a few noblemen and a large number of clergymen. At the beginning of this century, the Roman Catholics were 27 per cent, and now they are 18 per cent, of the population of Great Britain. Yet they make as much noise as if they were the only Christians in the land. If mischief-making gives importance, then they are truly important.

The Commission of the Church of Scotland has shown a considerable amount of dissent from the Report of the Committee on Patronage. Dr. Cook denies that it has always been unsatisfactory to the church. This is not surprising, as the document in question adopted the Free Church sense of the whole matter far too strongly. In fact, very few churches have taken scriptural ground upon this question. No man can find in the New Testament any instance of *lay*-patronage, and none of a *popular* call. It is to be hoped that when these matters come up for adjustment, the Church of Scotland will not follow in the wake of other churches, but strike out a scriptural course for herself. Were she disendowed, she has nothing to fear either in point of revenue or numbers. Dr. Candlish is to bring up the Union question before the Free Church Assembly this year, and the opposition are organizing themselves into a society for the preservation of the distinctive principles of the Free Church. The Irish Presbyterian Assembly is organizing a Sustentation Scheme.