

has been established in that quarter, she will withdraw her troops, "provided the action of the other powers does not place any obstacle in the way of such a measure." Indefinite occupation might, under these conditions, find plausible excuses. The allies, if the utterances of their presses may be taken as evidence, lack confidence in one another. The most suspected of all is Russia. This state of mind does not augur well for the continuance of the alliance; but if it should fall to pieces, it may not have lived in vain. On the theory that Russia desires to acquire territory in China, there are now several nations to keep her in check. Russian semi-officials organs sometimes, in moments of candor, let the world know that Russia regards Asia as her special reserve, in which her aim is to become ultimately supreme. What more natural than that out of the present complications she should seek an opportunity to do something in the way of realizing this ambition?

In the official recount of the birth-rate in Montreal, one striking fact stands out prominently; the average birth-rate in French-Canadian families is 43.45 in the thousand; among Catholics of other origins, 20.81, and 22.29 among Protestants. When Mr. Tarte predicted that the time would come when the French-Canadians would form a majority of the population of Canada, people shrugged their shoulders in incredulity. But these figures demonstrate that, if the birth-rate in Canada were alone to settle the question, the eventual coming of this event would be a simple matter of arithmetic. From political or race considerations, no change need be expected. It is mere self-delusion to quibble about the causes; they are well known. Is this state of things to continue? There is high medical authority for saying that married women, of child-bearing age, not condemned by nature to sterility, who fail to become mothers once in three years, as a rule, pay the penalty of artificial sterility, in confirmed ill-health. When this becomes thoroughly understood, a change may come.

The Parliamentary Committee, which enquired into the alleged frauds and irregularities, in connection with the War Office contracts, found no evidence of bribery or corruption of government officers or officials, though this was not for want of temptation, several cases of attempted bribery having come before them. But they refrain from going to the extent of asserting a negative, in the matter of frauds and secret commissions, which they admit would be difficult to discover by the methods of examination open to them. Some inferior hay, shipped on board the "Manchester Port" was accepted, it seems, for want of adequate inspection. It will be remembered that some Canadian hay was not up to the mark, and that for that reason the War Office refused to accept more. The committee wishes to see the rule established that every contract shall contain a clause providing that no member of either House, and no firm or company, of which a member is partner, director, manager or agent, shall be eligible to tender for Government contracts. Much greater is the necessity for such a rule to be applied to the receivers of bonuses granted by the various legislatures of Canada. The correlative of this is also necessary; that no one interested in a bonus shall be qualified to sit in the Legislature by which it is voted.

THE TORONTO INDUSTRIAL FAIR.

It is no longer needful to dwell upon the importance of the Industrial Fair to Toronto; this is now universally admitted. But it is needful to insist upon what some people do not perceive, namely, that in order to maintain its importance, some of the buildings in the Exhibition grounds must be enlarged and improved. These are now more than twenty years old, and wooden buildings do not last forever. Besides, the growth of Canada and the progress of the nations, in the meantime, has caused demand for more space and better appliances. True, the sheds for horses, cattle, hogs and other animals are new and commodious, and for this very reason among others the Toronto Fair commands, year after year, an extraordinarily good array of what is interesting to farmers and stock-breeders. But what is needed is a larger main building, larger structures for hollow-ware, for machinery, for textile goods, for the hundred forms our growing industries take. And the Exhibition directors should have the support of every loyal Torontonians in their demand upon the civic authorities for \$100,000, or, if need be, \$200,000, to assist in making this great annual Fair what it ought to be.

There is no need to enter at length just now upon the disputed question of Grand Stand amusements; but we cannot forget that in addition to those who go to the Fair to study and to learn, there is an enormous number who attend purposely to be amused. On this point we are favored with the views of Mr. Heubach, manager of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition. His letter, written some weeks ago, says: "It is not surprising that manufacturers and other exhibitors should feel a little jealous, to put it mildly, of the attention devoted not only by the public, but by the management of large fairs, now-a-days, to the 'Attractions' features of our exhibitions. As is ever the case, however, people are most prone to look at things only from their own standpoint, and not from the standpoint of expediency. The great object, I take it, of manufacturers and breeders alike, who exhibit at the fairs, is to have an opportunity of interesting and addressing the largest possible number of people, and there can hardly be two opinions as to what brings the crowd to the exhibitions. It is probably quite as true that manufacturers reach only a proportion of those who attend, but take away the attractions features, and will matters be improved? For myself, I think not. Then, again, so far as the West is concerned, one of the greatest educational features of our Fair, in my opinion, is the fact that it provides once a year a holiday and outing for thousands of people in this province, who would otherwise likely have nothing but drudgery from the beginning of January to the end of December. Contentment is an important element of education and happiness that is too often overlooked, and it is to create this contentment that the board of our Industrial is striving. Of course, in regard to the Toronto Industrial, I am not sufficiently familiar with the circumstances of that territory, to say that what I have stated above is the case with you, but in our case here it is absolutely essential, and it is becoming more apparent every day. The general remark heard now-a-days throughout our Province and the Territories is that whenever people are making appointments, it is generally to the effect that 'We will meet you at the Fair.' I