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editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to
any person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

WHETHER Mr. E. B. Osler is the most eligible of the candidates for the mayoralty or not, and whether his chances of election are better or worse than those of any of his competitors, the meeting held on Friday last for the ratification of his candidature afforded cause on the most public grounds for peculiar satisfaction. It did what has hardly been done in any of our municipal elections for many a year. It called out the quiet ratepayer. Previous municipal contests have been battles of political parties, political, national or religious fraternities, special interests, different churches or the adherents of philanthropic crusades and their opponents, forming by their intersections and collisions a chaos of intrigue, dickering and cabal, the temporary paradise of the wire-puller. The broad interests of the city have been nowhere: lip homage has always been paid to them; but in fact they have given place to any bait or allurements that could catch this or the other sectional vote. The quiet ratepayer, the man who only wants good police, good water, good streets, good drainage, good city government generally and moderate taxation, while the party and sectional meetings were vexing the air with their declamations, sat at home desponding and silent. He voted, when the polling day came, not for a man of his own choice, but for the man whom it pleased the wire-puller to thrust upon him. But he has been at length aroused to activity by the state of the city affairs and by a growth of taxation which, in some cases, threatens him with ruin. At the Auditorium on Friday last he unmistakably appeared in force. His pre-eminence was manifested not only by the aspect of the meeting and of the platform on which members of both political parties appeared, but by the tone and tenor of the speeches. There were no party or sectional appeals, no personalities, no electioneering claptrap of any kind. The speakers evidently felt that their audience had come in a serious mood, not to be tickled by platform rhetoric, but to be informed about the affairs of the city, and to learn who was the best man to set them right. This, we repeat, is a sure gain. Should Mr. Osler be elected, whether he proves able to fulfil all the hopes of his supporters or not, his election will be an omen of good because he will unquestionably owe it to the quiet ratepayer.

COL. DENISON'S lecture in the Auditorium, in this city, on Thursday evening last, was an able and eloquent vindication of the martial spirit, by a soldier. That the views he enunciated with so much warmth and with such evident sincerity of conviction are acceptable to a large class of our fellow-citizens was abundantly evident from the applause with which they were greeted by the large and enthusiastic audience which listened to them. Even those who may be disposed to dissent from what they cannot but regard as the undesirable tendency of such addresses to stimulate the belligerent spirit, always sufficiently active in the breast of the average man, must yet admire the intense loyalty of the gallant Colonel. We do not propose just now to enter into the merits of the question as between Col. Denison and Mr. Goldwin Smith, to whose lecture on "Jingoism" this was the answer, though we regard it as a very interesting and important question and one which Canadians, in the present formative stage of their coming national character, would do well to ponder very seriously and dispassionately. We do not of course refer to the subject of political union with the United States, which Mr. Goldwin Smith advocates, but to the question what general policy in respect to armies, armaments, and the cultivation of the military spirit, is best adapted to promote the highest well-being of our nascent nation, and to develop in its future citizens the noblest type of manhood. But while reading Col. Denison's address the law of association brought to our mind the many points of contrast in all the conditions of life and citizenship which distinguish the modern state from those of antiquity, to whose deeds of prowess on the battlefield the lecturer referred with so much admiration. For instance, how widely different is the very conception of citizenship which now prevails in those states which we reckon as free, from that of the great nations of antiquity. Even the Sparta, whose little band of heroes fell so nobly at Marathon, was in reality an oligarchy in which the citizens proper were but a handful in comparison with the wretched Helots who had no rights or privileges of citizenship, and so no basis for patriotism, no country, no liberty worth dying for. How different, in such a state, in which, as in many others of the olden time, war was the occupation of the real citizens, and the only profession deemed worthy of them as such, and the modern democracy, in which citizenship is the birthright of every man. Then, again, we remember how different were the causes and conditions of war, even a few centuries ago, from those which operate in free states at the present time, and thank God that the day is gone, never to return, when sanguinary wars were brought about at the will of despots, or were waged on behalf of dynastic quarrels, while the common people, those who did the actual fighting and poured out their blood like water, had really no voice, and often little interest in the matter. All these circumstances, at which we can but hint, suggest the changed conditions under which we now live and which make it pretty certain that war in the future will be a comparatively rare event. And then there can be no doubt that the sense of justice, or, where that is less operative, a feeling of respect for what we may call national public opinion, is becoming influential among modern civilized nations to an extent unknown and undreamed of in the days of old. Might no longer makes right in the estimation of the enlightened statesmen of to-day. And to these considerations a dozen others which readily suggest themselves, such as the vast and ever-growing expense of military armaments, the tendency of the enfranchised workingmen to disregard international lines in their organized efforts to improve their status, the growing favour with which arbitration as a substitute for war is coming to be regarded, and above all the mighty power of Christian sentiment in creating a horror of war as a violation of the highest law and a practical denial of the great Scripture doctrine of human brotherhood, and it will be seen that the chances of such a people as the Canadian ever being called upon to defend their country against foreign invaders are very small indeed. At the same time we do not wish to be understood as arguing that even a country so peacefully situated as our own should completely ignore the maxim: "In time of peace prepare for war." This position is by no means inconsistent with the

true spirit of patriotism and with relations of perfect amity with our neighbours as well as with the contingency of safeguarding the State from danger within.

IT is no undue disparagement of the speech of the Minister of Marine, delivered a few days ago in this city, to say that it was the speech of a young politician. It would, no doubt, be unfair to hold the orator responsible for all the grammatical and rhetorical faults which marred the *Empire's* report. Many of those we can well believe to be due to the pressure under which reporters and printers must necessarily have worked in order to give so lengthy an address in full in the morning edition. Still there is a clearly marked tendency to lengthy adjectives and to a general redundancy in expression which marks the Minister as the son of his father. Turning from the form of the speech to its substance we find everywhere abundant evidence of courage and vigour, though the effectiveness of these qualities would, it must be admitted, be materially increased by clearer indications of carefulness and self-restraint in statement, and a deeper sense of statesmanlike responsibility. The part of the address which was of greatest interest and value was naturally that which was most closely connected with the official duties of Mr. Tupper's Department. While we have never been able to conceal from ourselves and have never attempted to disguise the fact that the intervention of the Dominion Government to prevent the ratification of the draft treaty between the Island Government and that of the United States, however necessary such intervention may have been to protect the interests of Canada, was to some extent a just cause of offence to the people of Newfoundland and would have been deemed such under similar circumstances by the people of Canada, or of any other nominally self-ruling country, we were never quite able to account for the very prompt and peculiar bitterness with which our fellow-colonists resented the affront. Mr. Tupper's speech has thrown light upon the matter. The head and front of the Canadian Government's offending lies, it appears, farther back. It comes from a time when the latter was obliged to refuse to take a part in the dispute with France, and as we might also say, with Great Britain, in the French Shore difficulty. No other course was possible for the Ottawa authorities than a decided negative. To have entered into the quarrel would have been the height of folly for Canada and could not have helped Newfoundland. But, according to the statement of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the Island Government has not been able to forgive or forget what it probably regarded as a selfish and cowardly refusal to come to its aid in its hour of need. Hence the violation of good faith in the enforcement of the Bait Act, and the generally unfriendly course which has since been followed and which has now culminated in an unseemly war of tariffs which is injurious to both parties, but in which the Islanders are pretty sure to get the worst.

THE announcement that the Dominion Government has entered actions in the courts against those merchants who paid commissions or bribes to Senecal in connection with his purchases of goods for the Government Printing Bureau is a surprise. The cases will be of peculiar interest, not only to the dealers who find themselves thus called upon to atone for their liberality to the Government's purchasing agent by duplicating their gifts in favour of the Government itself, but to the general public, who, probably, have never suspected that an action of this kind could lie. We had almost said that it would be a still greater surprise if the public prosecutor should be able to make good his claim, and recover for the Government a sum of money equal in each case to that improperly exacted by their own official. But, in view of the fact that this action has no doubt been taken after the fullest consideration and on the highest legal advice, such an expression of opinion by a journalist would be gross presumption. The Government can have nothing to gain by an abortive prosecution and would lose something by having the peculiar methods of their trusted but unfaithful servant again laid bare to public gaze. It is, therefore, pretty clear that the prosecution must have been com-