

The two sides are well illustrated by the incident which occurred between Mr. Bryce, the British Ambassador to Washington, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Prime Minister, who is in addition the leader of a party. Speaking at Ottawa April 2nd 1907, the Canadian Premier said: "Mr. Bryce has been on this continent but a few weeks, and it is nothing but the literal truth to say that he has turned a new leaf in the history of the continent of America. We have to realize that John Bull has not always done his duty to his Canadian son. If we take all the treaties from the Treaty of 1783 up to the Treaty of 1903, we Canadians do not feel particularly cheerful over the way we have been treated by the British plenipotentiaries." To these remarks Mr. Bryce made a very direct reference in his speech in Toronto on the following day: "I will ask you to suspend your judgement upon all those questions in which it is alleged that British diplomacy has not done its best for you. In these matters you have only heard one side of the case; and I feel it is my duty to my country and to the Government which I represent to tell you this, and that I believe you are entirely mistaken if you think that British diplomacy has been indifferent to Canada or has not done the best it could for Canada."

It is a curious manifestation of the human mind that what it desires earnestly it becomes convinced in time that it really does possess. Mr. Bagehot gives an amusing illustration of this irrational conviction from his own experience. He stood for a borough in the West of England and was defeated by seven votes. Almost immediately afterwards there was a second election at which he was not a candidate, and a member of his party won. For years he had the deepest conviction that he should be the member, and no amount of reasoning could get it out of his head. The feeling was ineradicable and prevented him from taking interest in another constituency where his chances of election would have been at least rational.

With two main exceptions the Atlantic sea-board of Canada is ice-bound for six months in the year. A glance at