

time alone can answer, as it will before many years are over. As one of the memorable incidents of the year, we name the appointment of Commissioners to further the Canadian International Exhibition, the successful carrying out of which project would so redound to the honor, the prestige and profit of Canada that it ought to enlist the enthusiastic support of all sections of the country.

POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

The first half of 1896 will long be remembered as one of the most controversial periods since Confederation. When the year opened, dissensions in the Cabinet were known to be serious. These became so acute as to lead to resignations of several ministers when Parliament had assembled. The question of leadership, which had caused no little trouble in the Cabinet, was settled by Sir Charles Tupper being appointed Premier, under whom the "bolters" as they were termed, gladly consented to serve, though no doubt the party in power had been damaged by ministerial dissensions. During February the House of Commons passed a resolution with enthusiasm, declaring the determination of Canada to stand by the Empire, should trouble arise needing her help. Although skilfully worded to avoid offence to the States, it was intended as a demonstration of the feeling of Canada in regard to the Venezuelan dispute. The Budget was not one to provoke much discussion. The temper of the House was now beginning to show signs of a movement inspired by the introduction of a Bill to remedy certain grievances of the Roman Catholics in Manitoba. This Bill declared that they were entitled to separate schools, and it made provision for their re-establishment. On this question both parties were divided, but the Bill was carried by a majority which was ominous of coming defeat to the Government. Negotiations were entered into by independent members of Parliament, with the government of Manitoba looking to a friendly settlement of the school question, but with no result. Emboldened by the open revolt in the Government ranks, the Opposition, aided by some of the anti-Remedial Bill party, commenced a systematic obstruction of the business of the House until the day came in April when Parliament expired by effluxion of time. When the House broke up, the Estimates for the year had not been passed. The date for General Election was fixed for 23rd June. For two months the country was agitated over the two questions upon which the late Ministry sought return to power,—one being the Remedial Bill, the other the Protective Tariff. The anti-remedialists included a large section of the most active supporters of Protection. The fiscal question was overshadowed by the excitement of the Schools question, which became so intense as to be practically the main issue before the electorate. The campaign against Sir Charles Tupper's party was conducted by the Honorable Wilfred Laurier with great energy, skill, and astuteness, being aided by one of the shrewdest politicians in Canada, the veteran Sir Oliver Mowat. The verdict of the electors put Mr. Laurier in power, but opinions differed widely as to whether the judgment was secured by the anti remedial bill move-

ment, or by a desire for reform of the Tariff, or a general desire for a change of government. Most probably all three factors were contributors to the victory of the 23rd June, which placed the Hon. Mr. Laurier in power, as a result of the defeat at the polls of the party lead by Sir Charles Tupper. In July a session of the new Parliament was held to pass the Estimates, during which determined efforts were made to force the new government into a declaration of their fiscal policy, of which effort many of the Opposition disapproved. A painful feature in the situation was a rupture between the Governor General and Sir Charles Tupper, in regard to appointments the out-going Premier desired to make before resigning. The question is too complicated for longer notice here. Immediately the Session closed, the efforts made by the new Government to settle the Manitoba School question were successful, although a large number of the French Canadian journals decline to accept the settlement as final. They contend that by the establishment of Separate Schools only can justice be done to the Roman Catholics of Manitoba, but the settlement only provides for the Common Schools being used at certain hours for religious instruction,—a privilege open to all churches alike—and for French teachers and the use of the French language in French settlements. As a party question, that of the Manitoba Schools is probably extinct, as is demanded by the general interests of the country.

During the year the question of a fast steamship service has had great attention, but nothing has been decided. Preferential trade between all parts of the Empire was brought prominently forward by sympathetic utterances from the Hon. Mr. Chamberlain. The general idea met with strong support in the House of Commons, Ottawa. The Pacific Cable scheme made head-way this year, and gives promise of being carried out. The Laurier government appointed a Commission to enquire into the working of the Tariff, and is now hearing the views of manufacturers and consumers in various cities. The visit of the great Chinese Envoy, Li Hung Chang, to Toronto, and his avowed preference of the Canadian route to China, were significant events in the closing year. The death of Sir Leonard Tilley, Sir John Schultz and Sir David Macpherson removed men who in their day had been very prominent in political circles.

The resignation of the Honorable Mr. Taillon to accept office on the Cabinet of Sir Charles Tupper, led to the accession of the Hon. Mr. Flynn, as Premier of the Quebec Government, and the acceptance by the Hon. A. W. Atwater of the office of Treasurer to the Province. Mr. Atwater's appointment was universally popular, his high character, legal attainments, business ability, and sound judgment being fully honored by political friends, and generally recognized by party opponents.

CIVIC INCIDENTS.

Early in January the proprietor of THE CHRONICLE had the pleasure of receiving requisitions signed by many thousands of his fellow citizens, who desired him to be a candidate for the Mayoralty, a demonstration