

ernment is not to blame. The Senate, which will be satisfied with nothing less than a detailed examination of each claim, is responsible for the delay. The United States itself is suffering from a similar example of wrong-headedness of the Spanish Cortes in refusing or neglecting to pay an admitted claim for indemnity to an American citizen for wrong sustained by violence in Cuba.

Fifty cents a ton for silver ore smelted, in British Columbia, up to \$150,000, is the encouragement offered to silver mining by the Government. The bonus is the least objectionable of all forms of protection; but the form in this case is such as to make it for experiments rather than for results: fifty cents a ton for the ore smelted. If we are to pay bonuses for ore smelted in one part of the Dominion, why not for the same or other kinds of ores in other parts? It is the first step in such cases that counts. A heavy crop of demand is sure to spring up.

PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY.

If the 40,000 inhabitants of Alberta, in whose name there are people who wish to claim a Provincial Government, lived in the territories of the United States instead of being on the Canadian side of the border, they would not think of claiming Statehood until they had a population of 100,000, and if they did make a claim earlier it would not be listened to. There would be this advantage of having a fixed number of inhabitants in a particular territory before it can claim the rights of a province, that it would prevent premature demands to set off new provinces; in the absence of such restriction, there is nothing to prevent any number of people asking to be endowed with the governmental rights pertaining to a province. If we may credit the statement made in a pamphlet, which comes from Alberta, but which nobody in particular seems to father, a convention to consider the question of organizing Alberta into a province is shortly to be held. They want power to borrow money, incorporate railway, steamboat and canal, telegraph, irrigation, and insurance companies. The necessity of developing the anthracite coal beds is given as a reason for a grant of provincial autonomy. We would remind the pamphleteer that the capital for the enterprise must come from outside, and the temptation to advance it depends upon something else than provincial status. One thing this pamphlet makes clear, and that is that the people in whose name the demand is to be made are not an unit in favor of provincial organization; many are afraid of the taxation which the right to exercise the borrowing power, so prominently put forward, implies. There are among the 40,000 people who believe, reasonably, that this number is too small to form a province. If there be a convention, it will go hard with the managers and wire-pullers if they cannot get a majority to vote in favor of provincial organization. But that Parliament can be induced to give a premature consent, is in the last degree improbable.

PRACTICAL EDUCATION.

With reference to the letter from a correspondent in to-day's issue on Mr. Henry Clews' very practical letter about the best education for a young man of business in the present day, we beg to say that "Plain Dealer" appears to have misread Mr. Clews. That gentleman does not say that such young men as the former objects to are likely to apply for positions in counting-houses to do boys' work, but that they are unlikely. The views of "Plain Dealer" upon college education, however, need some modification. While we do not say that higher college training

is necessary to make a good business man, a successful manufacturer, a worthy citizen—for we all know instances of able and admirable men amongst us who were never at college—there is no denying the advantage of a university training. No university is likely ever to make much out of a dude or a dunce, but any man of common sense can be improved by it. His mental powers can be enlarged and he can be taught how to make use of his brains, much as in a shop one is taught how to use his hands. And here is where the practical use of higher education comes in, to help a man to make the most of his calling in life. On this subject the *Morning Chronicle*, of Halifax, which comments upon Mr. Clews' letter, says: "If this view be correct it emphasizes the importance of the common school education of the country being brought to bear more in line with the requirements of the manual callings of the masses of the people. The country requires well-educated and intelligent farmers, mechanics, miners, lumbermen and fishermen, quite as much as it does intelligent and well-educated mercantile and professional men."

THE BOOKSELLER.

How fares the intelligent bookseller now that a new order of things commercial appears to prevail? He ought to be among the first to perceive changes in the modes of Mercury, and ought to be cute enough to fit his policy to novel circumstances. Truth to tell, the average bookseller does not relish the new order of things. And what is more, he does not find trade improving with him as it has done within a few weeks or months past in other avenues of retail trade.

The fact is that the reduction in value of commodities hits the bookseller very hard. It has cut the volume of his trade in two, by reason of the enormous reduction in the price of books and the spread of cheap editions. "Dollar books" can now be had for a quarter dollar to a half dollar; two-dollar books are sold for fifty cents to seventy-five. Worst of all, the improvement that the month of June brought to holders of stocks of grain, of leather, of metals, of boots and shoes, in improved prices, does not at all apply to books.

It must not be understood that our people are ceasing to read, or ceasing to buy books. There are as many books imported as ever, but their value is reduced and the profit is reduced. A man who used to buy \$500 worth of books and make \$150 on them, now gets the same number of books for \$250 and makes only \$50 profit on them.

Then in the periodical trade things are not improving in any sense that can benefit the importer or retail dealer. The magazines, such as *Godey*, *Munsey*, the *Metropolitan*, *McClure's*, the *Cosmopolitan*, are reduced in price to 10 cents. It is no longer easy to sell 25 and 35 cent monthlies. And the *English Strand Magazine* will be down to the same price during the present month, the *Sunday Magazine* as well. Thus these goods, which used to form so considerable a proportion of every bookseller's sales, are no longer profitable to the dealer, except in a very small degree, for manifestly the profit on fifty magazines at 10 cents each is a poor substitute for what could be made on fifty magazines at 35 cents each, or 25.

The shrinkage is enormous—goods are cheapening and still further cheapening. As a dealer expresses it: "You buy a stock one month, next month it is lower in price, in three months lower still; and in the third or fourth month it is no longer new. Then where are you?" The dead stock of a bookseller is, for the most part, like the dead stock of a milliner, very dead indeed when the season is over,