

Some Newfoundlanders pretend to see in the hesitation of England to assent to the Washington convention a desire to coerce the island into union with Canada, a scheme which they pretend has been in existence for years. There is absolutely no desire in Canada to add Newfoundland to the confederation; on the contrary, the responsibility of the acquisition is something that would frighten all sober-minded Canadians. And as to England desiring to promote the union, our own belief is that she is strongly opposed to it. As a fishing and coaling station, Newfoundland is useful, and for other purposes it may yet be prized.

From Washington comes the statement that the Treasury Department will send the revenue cutters "Bear" and "Rush" to exercise police control in Alaskan waters, next season. It is added that a more rigid control will be exercised than heretofore. We have no doubt there is need for legitimate watchfulness, without supposing that any illegal exercise of authority is intended. The expression "Alaskan waters" may, in its indefiniteness, afford a refuge for practices which the law of nations does not sanction. It has been used by Congress in a way that leaves the greatest apparent latitude of interpretation; but when brought to the bar of international jurisprudence, the difficulty will be found to vanish.

Uncertainty as to the fate of the United States-Brazilian treaty of reciprocity has developed itself in a marked manner. In Brazil, Congressmen do not seem disposed even to listen to a defence of the treaty, for when that operation was being performed on behalf of the Government, a majority of the members left the chamber. The approval of the new constitution has precedence over everything else; and when this has been pronounced, if we may trust the telegraph, the treaty is likely to be dropped. General Deodore, its chief author, so far as Brazil is concerned, gets credit for many fanciful creations which die as soon as they are born, and to the common limbo it is thought the treaty will be consigned.—Just as we go to press the news arrives that Mr. Blaine has announced the ratification of the treaty by Brazil.

THE RESULT OF THE ELECTIONS.

In the new Parliament the Government is likely to have as large a majority as it had in the first session of the last. It will start with strength enough to carry out with vigor any programme which depends only on votes in Parliament. The tendency is always to increase the strength of an assured majority in a new House. Doubtful members pass to the stronger side, and by-elections, if they follow the rule of the last Parliament, will bring new accessions of force. There is no doubt about a sufficient majority; the questions arise, what has that majority cost in promises, if any, and what will the Premier do with it? We know what we have escaped, to some extent at least; we know that M. Laurier promised that, if he succeeded, he would

agree to Quebec getting an increase of \$400,000 to its annual subsidy, with a proportionate amount to the other provinces. What if the Government should take this promise as warrant for doing what M. Laurier promised to do if he obtained a majority? Fortunately it is, to all appearance, committed against this policy, which M. Chapleau openly opposed. Scarcely indeed, never in our recollection, has a province, even partially, resisted so great a temptation as that which was held out to it by M. Laurier. The wonder is not that there is an opposition majority there, but that it was not much greater. But sometimes there is good authority for saying the appearance of triumphant virtue is not to be trusted. Whether this will apply, even in a modified degree to Quebec, we may learn later on. Ministerial promises, if made, were not in the form of bargains in the open market. The considerable majority which M. Laurier got in Quebec is rather against the supposition of a large counter attraction in the form of promises; but the point is one on which conjecture would be very likely to be at fault.

The Government majority, though large enough for ordinary living purposes, will not enable it to do everything. It will not enable it to command success in the negotiation of commercial treaties, and perhaps it would scarcely enable it to make a considerable reduction in the tariff, say to the figures at which it stood before the legislation of last session. No treaty with the United States will be possible which does not include several articles of manufacture. The Government is committed against a policy that would discriminate against British and in favor of American manufactures. If this rule is to admit of no exception, it is difficult to believe that any treaty can be got. If the Americans have any particular articles in the manufacture of which they have an advantage, it would be to the benefit of both countries that these should be admitted free; and in that case non-discrimination against other countries would not be an obstacle to their circulation in Canada. Whenever any article costs more to manufacture in the United States than in some other country, its inclusion in a reciprocity treaty would be at the expense of the other party to the bargain. The national banking system has had one effect for which it does not get credit. By making the cost of currency comparatively high, it has saved the country from an inflation which would greatly have raised the cost of manufacture. If the currency were doubled in amount to-morrow, without any additional expense beyond the printing of notes, the nominal price of labor would rise in proportion, and exportation of manufactures would become impossible. But if the United States could show that it can manufacture any one thing, say cotton, cheaper than any other country, would the manufacturers of Canada consent to its inclusion in a reciprocity treaty? And if they would not consent, could it be done in their despite? Sir John Macdonald, in his efforts to negotiate a commercial treaty with the States, will

find himself checked, in two directions, and by two parties pulling against one another; the manufacturers of Canada and those of the United States. He will, if he desires to make a liberal treaty, be obstructed in the House of Commons and repulsed at Washington. The "old policy," as an election cry, was serviceable; can it now be virtually set aside by a bargain with the Americans? And if not, what are the chances of obtaining any treaty at all? There cannot be much difficulty in getting the necessary information on these points, if a little energy be used, even before the meeting of Parliament.

In the event of a failure of the reciprocity movement, not at all improbable, what have we to expect, to hope, or fear? An alternative to reciprocity is sure to be urged by self-interest, in the form of higher duties, with or without an avowal of retaliation. "The old policy," it would be said, was sanctioned at the polls, and ought to be carried out; and it would be explained to mean not merely the maintenance of present duties, but the imposition of new ones, if not the increase of those now in force. Can any one assure himself that there is no danger from this source? But it is not at all certain that the victory at the polls means neither more nor less than the "old policy": "the old flag" and "the old man" were thrown in. The old flag means the political element, and this element contributed to the victory. If the economic question could have been separated from the political, is it certain that the result would have been the same? Is it, on the contrary, not possible that if the issue had presented a choice between an approach to a revenue tariff or high protection, that an uprising similar to that which condemned the McKinley Act, might not have occurred? It would not be safe for the Government to act upon the assumption that the policy of higher duties or new protective duties would be acceptable to the country.

What has been put forth by Mr. Blake as a retiring speech, is really a pronouncement. He takes precisely the same ground, on the trade question, that he took a year ago; but he explains with more detail, and by connecting political and commercial issues, goes further. He did not consent to the change of policy by the Liberal party, and he was in no way bound to defend views which he could not accept. He was persuaded not to publish his letter before the elections, on which it could not have failed to produce great effect. Whatever may be his present view, it may be taken for granted that the public will hear of Mr. Blake again. His manifesto looks to ultimate annexation no doubt, but in the least objectionable way. An open annexationist may be respected, even by those who differ from him; but one who is unavowed in his views and secret in his practice, is regarded with suspicion in its deepest form.

—We learn that there were in Canada last year 1,564 medical students, with 361 graduates. In the United States there were 14,884 students and 4,492 graduates. No wonder that the Canadian Practitioner asks: "Whence come they and whither do they go? and will the supply soon meet the demand?"