

colonists, and of the Island as a British Colony. Perhaps the occasion has arisen to put the new Colonial Secretary to the test. It certainly is time the question was finally settled in one way or another. But it is also time that it was clearly seen—and Mr. Chamberlain is, one would hope, the man to see clearly—that if the British Governments do not in the least concur in France's interpretation of her claim, and have been yielding point by point for the sake of peace, such a policy can be pursued no longer. The motive may be noble and generous, but the effect is evidently lost on France, as at present constituted. Every fresh concession but increases the difficulty of the final settlement, which cannot be much longer delayed. The case may be a proper one for arbitration, but if arbitration is refused, it is surely one in which England's plain course is to stand on a reasonable interpretation of the treaties, and quietly but firmly uphold that interpretation by protecting the Colonists in the enjoyment of their undoubted rights.

#### Manitoba and the North-West.

The bountiful wheat crop which has been matured in Manitoba and the North-West may now be regarded, it is hoped, as safe. It has, it is believed, now practically escaped danger from frost and is being cut and garnered as rapidly as many thousands of willing and skilful hands can accomplish the great task. It is computed, and the computation is, we presume, based upon the most reliable statistics available, that the wheat crop of Manitoba and the Territories will this year amount to about thirty millions of bushels, or nearly double the product of the large and renowned wheat-growing Province of Ontario. Reckoning this crop at the low price of fifty cents per bushel, it means the distribution of fifteen millions of dollars among the farmers and those with whom they deal, in that part of the Dominion. What this will bring to thousands, in the way of relief from debt and the realization of hope, only those who know something of the life of pioneer farmers in such a land can adequately conceive. Many, who have in previous years surmounted the initial difficulties, it will place in positions of independence and comparative affluence. Its effect upon the future of the Province and the Territories can hardly fail to be most salutary. The one need of that great land of promise is population. Many are crying out for a vigorous immigration policy, but no expenditure of money in the way of extraneous inducements can be compared with the effect of the announcement of this grand crop, spread abroad by the letters and other communications of those who have taken part in the results and can speak from happy experience of the rich reward of their toil. So far as we are able to see, it is safe to predict that from the present year will date a new era of prosperity and growth to our great Western inheritance. So mote it be.

#### The Copyright Act.

"Some of our own authors think that by the proposed Act [The Canadian Copyright Act] the pledge would be repudiated by which American authors have copyrights throughout the British Empire, and that our Government would have a just right to warn the British Foreign Office that the sanction of the Canadian Act must lead to the abrogation of our present international arrangements. We must not forget, however, that in the manufacturing clause of the American Copyright Act there was a distinct departure from the Berne agreement, not unlike the proposed departure of Canada."

The above sentence, which is the closing one of an editorial in the current number of *The N. Y. Outlook*, sustains the reputation which that paper has so well earned for being able to look on both sides of even an international question. The fact noted in that sentence, viz., that the

provisions of the Canadian Act to which so much exception is taken, are not unlike, are in fact very much like, the corresponding provisions of the American Copyright Act, which has been accepted with so much satisfaction by the English Government and by English authors, is one which makes it very much harder for Canadians to bow with equanimity to the wishes of that Government and those authors in the matter. If the British author or publisher finds it to his advantage to publish in Canada, he cannot, we think, find much to object to in the terms of the Canadian Act. True, he might make more money out of the Canadian market, if he could have the right to treat it simply as a part of the American market, but the same principle would hold good in regard to the American market itself. It would be greatly to the British author's pecuniary advantage if he could sell his English editions under copyright protection direct in the United States without any troublesome conditions as to time and mode of publication. Why should Canada, because she is a colony, be placed in a worse position in regard to a matter coming directly within her own jurisdiction, than a foreign country? The fact that every independent community has a right to legislate with a view to its own interests rather than to those of producers of any class in another country, may be constructively a source of loss to such producers, but it can hardly be a cause of complaint. The first and main point in this discussion is the right of Canada to legislate for herself in regard to matters belonging to her jurisdiction under the Confederation Act. Once let the precedent be established of interference by the Colonial Office within these bounds and the way will be paved for endless friction in the future. It is hard to get the British author to pay any attention to the peculiar position of Canada by reason of her proximity to the great nation on her border. A good deal has been made of the supposed smallness of the number of Canadian publishers and printers whose interests are involved, but it is probable that these bear as large a proportion to the whole number of citizens of Canada, as does the number of British authors affected to the whole population of the United Kingdom.

#### The Exhibition.

Toronto's annual exhibition of the products of Canadian industry and enterprise is at the door. We, as citizens, are naturally proud of the dimensions and the excellence in other respects which this affair has attained. We shall, we believe, be well within the mark, the people of all Canada being judges, in saying that the Exhibition is increasingly a benefit, as well as an occasion of interest, to the Dominion, as all parts of the Dominion are being more and more fully represented in it from year to year. Toronto has the great advantage of being more centrally situated, geographically, for such a purpose than any other city. It has the further advantage of being situated in one of the richest portions of the Dominion, agriculturally, and as a consequence richest in every other respect. We know not what a score or two of years may do in shifting the centre, in all these respects, to some point much further West. For the present Toronto's duty to the whole country, both East and West, seems clearly pointed out by nature and by her present position. And may we not be permitted to say, without boasting, the history of the annual Exhibition thus far shows that her people have recognized their duty, and have done it, at least, fairly well. On the many points of excellence in the management of this great event in previous years we need not dwell. They are generally and generously recognized. To acknowledge that there have been defects, and not only defects but faults, in the management, is but to admit that