

candidate in only a single constituency, and must explicitly make known to the authorities in what constituency he desires to stand. Heavy penalties are denounced against the use of placards or the distribution of circulars in any circumscription for which one is not a legal candidate, and those who print, carry, or otherwise aid in disseminating such illegal documents, may also be punished. The only way in which the Boulangists can work against the Government now is by joining the Bonapartists and Loyalists, to make a strong Opposition and to complete their organization for a spirited fight at the polls on the basis of man against man. Till his trial is concluded and he is acquitted of the charges that hang over his head, General Boulanger can derive no personal advantage from the success of his followers save the satisfaction of beating the Opportunists. At present the chances of victory seem to be on the side of the latter, who have shown considerable vigour during the last six months.

The *Canadian Manufacturer* directs the attention of our agriculturists to the raising of flax, for which it urges that the soil of many parts of the Dominion is as well adapted as those European countries in which it has proved a success. Mr. Snellgrove, of Manitoba, is going in for hop-growing on a considerable scale and with apparently excellent prospects. A Prince Edward Island farming paper advises more attention to horse-breeding for the British market, and especially for the army. The same subject is discussed at some length in the last report of the Minister of Agriculture, where the opinion of a British expert is given some prominence. A New Brunswick report of a few years ago went carefully into the whole question, showing the good points of our Canadian horses and how they might be still further improved. In this province and Ontario a good deal has already been done for the betterment of the breeds. In British Columbia, as we pointed out some time ago, the beet sugar industry has received an impulse, and the results of the experiments, now being conducted, will be awaited with interest. Meanwhile, the Société d'Industrie Laitière of this province does not allow the enterprise of our farmers in that staple to flag. On the whole, the industrial movement among our rural population is keeping up well.

#### ANNEXATION.

Every now and then during the last thirty years or so an attempt has been made to make annexation to the United States a question of practical politics in Canada. It has generally originated in the ranks of the Opposition for the time being; but its avowed promoters have always been too few to form a party. For years after the Union of 1841 any tendency of the kind was looked upon with suspicion by the authorities. Certain Americans had played a part in the Rebellion of 1837-38, and appeals to the United States naturally came to be regarded as evidence of disloyalty. Besides, there was an understanding between the parties which then divided public opinion that the new settlement, with its accompanying boon of responsible government, should have a fair trial. The first exhibition of annexation sentiment made its appearance in an unexpected quarter, and under singular circumstances. Canada afforded the unwonted spectacle of a British Governor risking his life in defence of constitutional principles and popular rights, while a section of the people

thirsted for his blood. The secessionists of '49 lived to be ashamed of their impetuosity, and to do justice to Lord Elgin's foresight and firmness. It was Lord Elgin's tact that made the Reciprocity Treaty a reality. Shortly after it was concluded, our neighbours entered upon a stage in their history, on which the curtain did not fall till much of the nation's best blood had been shed. Meanwhile the British-American Provinces had also reached a new starting-point in their career. A *temps de malaise* was surely approaching a goal of deadlock. But the remedy proposed was not a new allegiance. The one selected out of the amplitude of suggested panaceas was not total disintegration and surrender, but a stronger union. The dropping of reciprocity, permitted Fenian menace, and even the threat of forceful occupation produced no appreciable movement in favour of annexation. Even before the Civil War was ended, able statesmen of all political parties (for there had been a tendency towards the French system of groups) had met to consult about the situation, and to devise some scheme of provincial federation. The idea (which was not new, for it had been broached as early as 1800, and repeatedly in the interval) found its realization within three years from the Charlottetown Conference. In the last year of the old régime another effort was made to have the Reciprocity Treaty renewed, but to no purpose. Notwithstanding that fact, temporary opposition to confederation in Nova Scotia and subsequent troubles in the North-West and British Columbia, there has never been any declared and definite annexation movement in the Dominion. No candidate for political honours has deemed it wise to appeal for support to the electorate on the grounds of an annexation programme. On the contrary, those who have espoused the cause of Commercial Union between us and our neighbours have taken pains to insist that such a policy, if carried out, would leave Canada's present relations to the Mother Country intact.

It may be said that this reticence, this shrinking from any open expression of opinion on the side of annexation, is the outcome of deference to popular prejudices, or is prompted by fear of the odium of disloyalty that would attach to annexationist professions. There is a section of our people which could, by no promise of advantage, be induced to forswear allegiance to the British Crown, for which their fathers fought and bled, and that section is certainly not the least influential portion of the population. The strongest element in it is, doubtless, composed of the descendants of United Empire Loyalists. Both in the Maritime Provinces and in Ontario, and in the vast thinly-peopled stretch of country west of Ontario, the U. E. L. element would resent the suggestion that Canada should be given up to the rebels who broke up the British Empire in the New World. Of the conduct and motives of Washington the U. E. Loyalists have not changed their opinion in a century, nor are they likely to do so after reading Dr. Goldwin Smith's lecture before the Canadian Club of New York. In the later immigration to Canada it would not be easy to say where the least anti-annexationist feeling has its home. As for the former lords of the soil, they are, in the main, contented to live under the British flag, though one political party has occasionally dallied with the question. Mr. Papineau, for instance, welcomed the short-lived movement of 1849. It is where self-interest clashes with sentiment that the possibility of annexation has been entertained, and, in

such a conflict, when it occurs, all nationalities have their share.

There is certainly no reason (apart from sentimental considerations) why the subject should not be discussed simply on its merits. This is what Mr. W. Blackburn Harte claims to have done in an article in the *Forum*, to which brief reference has already been made in our columns. He has even, he gives us to understand, suppressed his own sympathies, so as to have unhindered course in his exposition of Canadian public opinion. The title of his paper, "The Drift Towards Annexation," is virtually an assertion which, indeed, he does not hesitate to make explicitly in treating the subject. There may be such a drift, in the form of an undercurrent, but it has not come under our cognizance. We have heard people say now and then that we would be better off in some respects if Canada were part of the United States. But such judgments change from day to day. We would not trust even a plebiscite on the question—for a plebiscite only records a passing humour, and its most eager local affirmative might be a regretful but unavailing negative six months later. To take in the significance of a tremendous change, such as annexation would be, would require the old Homeric survey of the past, the present, and the future. Mr. Harte's vigorous essay contains much that is true, but also much that is misleading. Americans might infer from his comments that the constitution under which we live was imposed upon Canada by the Imperial authorities of their own mere motion, whereas it was of purely Canadian origin, and was thought out and elaborated in the Canadian Legislature. He is also astray in characterizing Imperial Federation as "an antithetical 'fad' born of the Commercial Union debate in the House of Commons in 1888." Mr. Jehu Mathews's work, "A Colonist on the Colonial Question," was published as long ago as in 1872, and the question was discussed for years before the League was founded under the presidency of the late Hon. Mr. Forster. To this day, moreover, no formal programme has been recognized, Lord Rosebery distinctly opposing, as premature, any binding declaration, and Lord Salisbury declining to give the Government's sanction to a convention. As a protest against disintegration the movement has not been powerless, nevertheless. Mr. Harte seems to think that no nation can exist without a common language. The British Empire still exists. So does Austria-Hungary; so does little Switzerland. We agree with Mr. Harte in laying slight weight on the impressions of every tourist who rushes through Canada on the C.P.R., and we rejoice (as he, doubtless, does) that our fellow-citizens of Manitoba did not declare war against the Dominion. We do not share his fears, however, for the integrity and independence of Canada. The experiment of Confederation is not yet a quarter of a century old. Those who can recall what these provinces were before 1867 will hardly despair of its success so soon, when they look upon the results already achieved.

DISTINGUISHED MEN.—The Governor-Generals of India have been, in order as they were appointed: Warren Hastings, Sir John Macpherson, Marquis Cornwallis, Sir John Stone, Sir Alured Clarke, Marquis Wellesley, Marquis Cornwallis, Sir George Barlow, Earl of Minto, Marquis of Hastings, Mr. Adam, Lord Amherst, Lord William Bentinck, Sir Charles Metcalfe, Earl of Auckland, Earl of Ellenborough, Viscount Hardinge, Marquis of Dalhousie, Earl Canning, Earl of Elgin, Sir John Lawrence, Earl of Mayo, Lord Northbrook, Earl Lytton, Marquis of Ripon, Earl Duferin, and Marquis of Lansdowne.