

men of character and ability will have an enormous advantage over its opponents whose representation is of a less satisfactory character.

We have to-day in the Dominion Senate and in the Legislative Council of the Province of Quebec excellent illustrations of the truth of the theory that legislators who are selected for their personal qualities, whether it be of experience, ability, or education, belong to a higher order of statesmanship than those who are selected for their capacity to run the gauntlet of popular, sectional or personal prejudice. The party lash has fewer terrors for them, and the most independent men in Canadian politics to-day are the members of our much-abused second chambers. That governments always select the very best men for seats in the Senate or Legislative Council we do not contend. No doubt party conveniences are sometimes consulted to an undue extent; but to the credit of both parties be it said that few conspicuously unfit appointments have been made, and the result is that both at Ottawa and Quebec we have second chambers which command the confidence of the best minds in the community.

#### GOVERNMENT OF UNITED STATES COLONIES.

In the course of an interview with the Paris correspondent of the London "Times," during his brief visit to the French capital after the Queen's diamond jubilee celebrations, Sir Wilfrid Laurier was rather outspoken in giving his opinion as to why France is a failure as a colonizing nation. "In the first place," he said to M. de Blowitz, "France has no surplus population with which to colonize her foreign possessions; and, in the second, she always treats the people of her foreign possessions as inferior races." He had in his mind, no doubt, the causes which have made England's vast colonial empire so magnificent a success, the principal welding power in which is an enduring loyalty to the centre of imperial government.

With the British example before their eyes, it ought not to be difficult for the American Congress to solve the problem, which will shortly come before it, of framing one or more systems of government for the new colonies of Hawaii, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. The basic principle of the British system—even though, as the London "Spectator" remarked the other day, "it was blundered into rather than set up on abstract grounds"—may be stated to be "the interests of the governed." A shrewd American observer, a great soldier and a great statesman, General Grant, saw this clearly when he said: England governs her own colonies, and particularly those embracing the people of different races from her own better than any other nation. She is just to the conquered, but rigid. She makes them self-supporting, but gives the benefit of labor to the laborer. She does not seem to look upon

the colonies as outside possessions, which she is at liberty to work for the support and aggrandisement of the home government." A contrast is afforded in Cuba under Spanish rule, and Ceylon under British rule. Spain failed to make the Cubans happy and prosperous after possessing their island four hundred years. During the last decade of that long period, it took 200,000 Spanish soldiers to hold in subjection—not successfully either—a population estimated now to be 1,600,000. The island of Ceylon, which has a population about double that of Cuba, is ruled without any difficulty by 1,580 British soldiers. India, with its diverse races and tongues, its warlike peoples, and its 300,000,000 of population, has but 74,000 British troops. Save for an occasional famine caused by drought, and for an occasional uprising amongst ignorant border tribes, instigated doubtless by Russian intrigue and Russian gold, those teeming millions are contented and peaceable. Why? Because in Ceylon and in India all positions below the highest administrative ones are open to everybody who proves, by a competitive examination, that he is fitted to occupy it.

Whatever sort of government may be ultimately determined upon for them by Congress, it is hardly likely that the new colonies will be allowed to enter the Union as either States or Territories for a long time to come. Each colony has special characteristics, which will call for a special system of government. A strong military government will be necessary for the Philippines, in the case of the people of which the principle of "the consent of the governed" will have to be waived for some time in their own interests. They do not yet realize that their geographical position renders absolute independence on their part quite impossible. The Chinese question has entered upon such a phase that one of the Great Powers would feel bound to annex them if two or three of these Powers did not divide them up between them. Their lot under American rule will, therefore, be the happiest that could befall them. The trouble will be to convince them of this fact. The negro element in Cuba, which is the dominant element numerically, opposes a fatal barrier to its entry into the union. In Puerto Rico, on the other hand, the whites are largely predominant, and they are highly civilized as well; and it is more fitted to be a State than South Carolina or Mississippi. The population of Hawaii comprises a large proportion of Chinese; and the difficulty of making a State or a Territory of it lies in the United States Federal law, excluding Chinese immigrants.

It is clear, then, that methods of government, foreign to the American systems, and patterned after the British colonial system, will have to be devised by Congress if the United States' first experiment in colonial administration is to be a success.

"We ought not to look back unless it is to derive useful lessons from past errors and for the purpose of profiting by dear-bought experience."—George Washington.