

in millions, instead of as formerly in tens or hundreds of thousands, combined with the other fact that the spread of democratic ideas in free countries is bringing to the front questions formerly unheard of, touching the propriety of devoting the funds of the many to uses directly beneficial only to the few, is fast putting it out of the power of Governments and Legislatures to meet the wants of institutions of learning with adequate endowments from public sources. It will be observed that Sir Daniel Wilson appeals on the one hand to the Government and on the other to private munificence, and his mind seems—we say it with the sincerest respect—to vacillate between the two. May it not be feared that the case is one in which the homely adage of the two stools may apply? So long as there is a lingering expectation or hope that the Government may step in to supply all needs, the sense of obligation rests lightly upon private individuals. Why should they devote their resources for the benefit of an institution which is under the fostering care of this wealthy Province? Can it be doubted that if it were once for all clearly understood that the future of the institution is in the hands of its friends; that its possibilities of expansion are conditional by their liberality and by that alone, those friends would prove worthy of the trust, and that liberality be found equal to all demands made upon it? It is clear that voluntarism in higher education as a principle is rapidly gaining ground in the Mother Country, and may be considered as well-nigh established in America.

THE unopposed return of Hon. D. McLean, the newly-appointed Minister, by the constituency of Dennis, Manitoba, seems to indicate that the proposed abolition of the dual language and Separate School systems meets the approval of both parties in the Province. The election of a member of the Government to replace one who resigned on that issue, may, we should suppose, be regarded as a fair test of the feelings of the people of the constituency in question, at least, in regard to the radical reforms about to be inaugurated. It will be a happy circumstance, and will augur well for the future of the Province, should this interpretation of the failure of the Opposition to set up a candidate in Dennis prove correct. The influence of the practical unanimity of the people's representatives, should such be secured, in regard to these particular questions, could hardly be without great effect in determining the course of the Dominion Government and Parliament. Should the policy of the Manitoba Administration be sustained by a comparatively small majority, room would be given for strong opposition and, possibly, disallowance at Ottawa, on the ground that the majority in the Legislature might not represent the majority of the people, or that so important a change in the constitution should not be made at the demand of a bare majority. On the other hand the Dominion authorities would hesitate to set themselves in opposition to the demand of the whole people of the Province. We have never been able to see any sufficient reason why the settlers in Manitoba and the North-West should continue to divide on the old party lines, and it would undoubtedly have been better for their country had they from the first refused to do so. Their recent vigorous and united action, which secured their release from the pressure of an intolerable railway monopoly, and the apparent unanimity of the great majority in regard to the questions at present before them, seem to indicate that they have now reached a point at which they are resolved to bury dead issues and act with reference to those which are living and present.

ONE of the gravest obstacles in the way of the consolidation of the Canadian Confederation has been from the first, and must always continue to be in lesser degree, the great distances by which the extremities are separated from the centre and from each other. Whatever tends to diminish the time and expense of interprovincial travel and traffic tends directly to weld the separated Provinces more firmly together. Hence it is, so far as we can see, good news that the Grand Trunk Railway proposes to construct a new air line from Edmundson, *via* Moncton to St. John and Halifax. Connecting by means of the Temiscouata road with the Intercolonial at Riviere du Loup, the projected road will open up to the Atlantic Provinces a new route which, it is said, will be nearly or quite as short as that recently opened by the Canadian Pacific through Maine, and will have the great advantage of being wholly within Canadian territory. It has long been evident that owing to the unfortunate route which, for military reasons, was chosen for the Intercolonial, the large part of that road which skirts the Lower St. Law-

rence and the northern coast of New Brunswick will eventually be useless, save for local purposes. The route now proposed for the Grand Trunk is that which was originally projected for the Intercolonial, but was afterwards, for the reason above mentioned, abandoned in favour of the roundabout North Shore route. The Grand Trunk management is probably safe in assuming that no serious difficulty will be had in securing the charter from Government, inasmuch as the line will, when completed, afford a healthful competition with the Canadian Pacific, and stimulate that intercourse between Ontario and Quebec and the Maritime Provinces which it is so desirable to foster. It will also by passing through New Brunswick give railway facilities to a new region, presumably of considerable commercial capacity.

THE formal opening of the Ontario Law School at Osgoode Hall, on Monday, was marked by the brevity and directness of the addresses and other proceedings. The Hon. Edward Blake set the example in his short introductory speech, and it was followed not only by Messrs. Martin and Moss, who followed him, but even by President Reeve in his inaugural address. Opinions may differ as to the propriety of giving powers to any body of lawyers, or indeed to the members of any profession, to make attendance at a prescribed course of lectures compulsory upon others wishing to enter the profession. That is, however, but a part of the larger question of the propriety of constituting by law the members of any profession a close corporation—a question which may some day come to the front for discussion. But there can be no doubt as to the great advantage to be derived by law students from a regular course of instruction by gentlemen learned in the law and otherwise qualified to be teachers. In the absence of any powers of compulsion there can be little doubt that a few years of trial would so demonstrate the superiority of the students trained in such a school, over those relying merely upon office practice for the preparation that close, systematic study alone can give, that compulsion would be no longer necessary. Be that as it may the law students of Ontario are to be congratulated on the facilities now offered them for the study of the most profound and difficult of all the learned professions, under the direction of a staff of distinguished and able professors.

THE strange tragedy that took place in Hamilton a week or two since affords matter for a good deal of thinking on subjects connected with our civil government and police methods. No one would care to reflect too severely upon the conduct of the constable who, in attempting to carry out orders which should not have been given without further investigation, and, probably, in a moment of unreasoning excitement, took the life of a demented stranger, who on his part was probably conscious of no wrong-doing, and thought he was defending his money or his life in his own room. Perhaps the most important practical question is that which suggests itself concerning the proper place and use of the pistol, if it has any. The part played by the revolver in the daily tragedies of modern life is appalling. It is obviously the instrument of more murders and suicides than are perpetrated by all other agencies combined. There can be no doubt that the very possession of such a weapon in the pocket or within reach of the hand is often a direct and powerful stimulus to crime. It appeals constantly to the imagination already made morbid, perhaps, by the reading of sensational novels. In many cases the young man who carries one delights to conjure up some situation in which he may be called upon to use it in his own defence, or in that of his friends. When the moment of excitement comes, the impulse to translate into action the scenes which have been enacted again and again in the chambers of a diseased imagination becomes irresistible. The moral effect is clearly worse than that of the old custom, happily obsolete in modern civil life, of wearing swords. That the latter custom while it existed was responsible for myriads of maimings and murders is beyond question. But the sword was worn openly and for its effective use demanded a brave heart and a steady hand. The modern revolver is worn stealthily. One never knows whether the person next him carries one or not. Its use requires little skill or nerve, and is often the act of a coward. The question whether policemen should be entrusted with a weapon so dangerous and demoralizing is one upon which opinions may differ. But there is no room for two opinions as to whether every rough and rowdy, and every boy who aspires to be such, to say nothing of lunatics, should have it in his power to carry such a weapon. Of course the Blake Act forbids it

in Canada. But how ineffective is the prohibition every day's police-court record informs us; the very persons who should above all others be prevented are the parties who are sure to be provided with the weapon. The incident referred to at the commencement of this paragraph shows how easy it was for even a demented man to provide himself with one. It is clear that no law forbidding the carrying of revolvers can be enforced so long as their sale is unrestricted. Is it not time that the sale of this murderous implement should be subjected to some such restrictions as those which are enforced in regard to deadly poisons? We commend the question to the consideration of our law-makers.

CANON FARRAR'S project for the founding of a new monastic order within the borders of the English Church does not seem to be meeting with great favour. It would be strange if it were otherwise. We have not seen from Canon Farrar's own hand a description of the nature and duties of the proposed order, as they have taken shape in his mind, and in the absence of such authoritative statement random criticism would be somewhat unsafe. The impression at first conveyed was that he contemplated a seclusion and consecration which should be entered upon for a limited number of years, and be terminable at any time by the will of the individual. Such a society would certainly be free from many of the strongest objections which lie against the monastic order, as commonly constituted, but it would no less certainly lack the strength and efficiency of such an order. On the other hand, the plan which has been outlined and published, pursuant to Canon Farrar's suggestions, though not in his name, lacks none of the rigid features which give to the monastic orders in connection with the Catholic Church their potency as a part of the machinery of a great organization, and at the same time their objectionableness as depriving the members of the order of that freedom of will and choice, and that power of self-direction, which are the essential qualities of Christian manhood and womanhood. It is scarcely conceivable that the Church of England in this year of grace can be induced to take a step so retrogressive, and so contrary to the teachings and tendencies of New Testament Christianity, as would be the founding of a monastic order on the plan outlined by the Rev. C. H. Sharpe, of Southampton, with its threefold rule of obedience, celibacy, and poverty. Take the first requirement alone. What could be more out of harmony with that idea of personal liberty and responsibility, upon which Paul and other apostles were so fond of dwelling, than the vow of unquestioning submission to authority? It may, indeed, be doubted whether a body of men constituting a church have any more moral right to accept the surrender of a fellow-being to a state of voluntary slavery—for it is nothing less—for religious purposes, than any commercial society or individual would have to accept a similar surrender for mercenary purposes. Nor could the act of the individual, in taking upon him such a vow, or of the church in accepting it, be morally justified on any other ground than that of the infallibility of the latter. Ultramontanism occupies the only position from which monasticism is logically defensible.

THE simultaneous admission of four new States, the other day, was an event of no small importance in the history of the American Union. The occasion strikingly illustrates the marvellous speed at which the great Republic has been increasing in population and resources during the last ten years. That increase has made it now possible to admit at one movement, into the Union proper, considerably more than one million of citizens, occupying areas which contain in the aggregate not less than 366,000 square miles. Politically the incoming of these new states brings considerable strength to the Republican party, and will probably give it a safe working majority in both Houses of Congress. The election in Montana attracted considerable attention from the fact that the Australian or Canadian system of balloting was adopted, this being, we believe, the first instance of its use in the Republic. Reports are somewhat contradictory as to the working of the system. One statement alleges that, owing to the length of time occupied by illiterate voters in marking their ballots, many citizens were unable to vote. The weight of testimony seems, however, to show that the method proved on the whole eminently satisfactory, falsifying the predictions of its opponents. Any difficulty that may have arisen in respect to time was due, no doubt, to the inordinate length of the list of candidates for office. It is not unlikely that the admission of these states may have some effect in modifying the fiscal policy of the American Government.