

face of obstacles and disasters which might well have checked all growth and enterprise, it is to-day in proportion to its population one of the most prosperous cities in the world.

Manitoba's Finances.

Mr. McMillan, the Provincial Treasurer of Manitoba, delivered his budget speech on Tuesday. According to his statement the finances of the Prairie Province were never so satisfactory as they are to-day. There is a surplus of eight hundred thousand dollars in the treasury, a very creditable showing. The expenses have increased during the past year, but Mr. McMillan is pleased to note that the estimates for 1896 were practically the same as for the preceding year. It is evident that the Greenway Government has not devoted its entire time and energy to the school question. Some business has been done. In this it differs from the Bowell Administration.

Italy and Abyssinia.

When the British troops at Abuklea and Suakim resisted desperately and successfully the Arab attacks, their admirers said that no other soldiers in the world could have held their own against such hordes of savage barbarians. The troops of another nation have been going through the same experience as those of England, but the result has been sadly different. The Italians have been simply wiped out in a contest with the Abyssinians on very much the same lines as that of England in the Soudan. Africa has been an unlucky continent for Italy since the days of Carthage, and more than one Roman army perished in the sands of the desert in desperate conflict with the natives. The loyalty of Italians to the young Italian monarchy will be tested. It has up to this time lasted on the *prestige* obtained by Victor Emmanuel, and as yet has not been subjected to any serious strain. The defeat of General Baratieri and his army and the loss of life may create a very serious crisis in Italy. Napoleon said that in fifty years all Europe would be Cossack or Republican. If he had said Cossack and Republican he would have been somewhat nearer the mark. What the Italian statesmen have been aiming at in their African campaigns is very hard to understand. The solution is probably that like other European nations they felt bound to keep up an army, and, having that army, then felt bound to give it occupation. They seem to have caught a Tartar and not to have made choice of a sufficiently harmless antagonist.

Mr. Mansergh's Report.

The citizens of Toronto will heave a sigh of relief. They have heard the last of the Acqueduct Scheme. Mr. Mansergh has killed it. He has in a very delicate but pointed manner also disposed of the promoter of that scheme. Mr. E. A. Macdonald may have been animated by a sincere desire to benefit Toronto, and possibly, what nobody ought to object too, also ultimately to benefit himself. In season and out of season he has persistently advocated an acqueduct scheme. He has held up a kaleidoscope to the Council and whenever the Aldermen thought they had a clear view at last of the details of the proposals, then the manipulator turned the crank and the scene shifted. The Council were left gazing at something entirely new, and everything began *da capo*. For three or four years—it seems very much longer—this farce has gone on. Now, it is to be hoped it will end. If Toronto is going to be made rich it must be by some other scheme than the Acqueduct. The enterprising projector should now turn his attention to communicating with the planet Mars where his powers for canal building will have full scope. It may be discouraging to promoters of schemes for benefiting the public

that their tender of services should be refused, but perhaps in future cases the present lesson will not be thrown away. If projectors find that their proposals when submitted to the common sense of the public do not find favour they will have sense enough not to thrust themselves into notoriety. They will thereby escape reproof from competent authority such as has been deservedly dealt out in the present instance.

Toronto's Duty.

Mr. Keating, the able and honest City Engineer of Toronto, must be well satisfied with Mr. Mansergh's vindication of the proposals made by him last summer. The Council should take measures to carry out these suggestions as rapidly as possible. The tunnel scheme, the pumping station, and the filtering basin should be gone on with. If necessary, power should be obtained from the Local House to issue debentures so as to put the work into operation this summer. The money will be spent in Toronto, and will be a legitimate mode of assisting the poorer classes by providing honest and necessary work. Attention should also be paid to preventing the waste of which Mr. Mansergh speaks. It may be accounted for by the villa plan on which Toronto is built. Every house has its little or big lawn and these lawns are profusely watered. Here is an immense consumption of water. The result is a very much improved appearance of the town and an encouragement to build with spaces between the houses. Thus crowded and unhealthy districts are scarcely known in the city. Everything lies open to the inspection and control of the Health Office. Again, in the Canadian climate, a good deal of water is let run to save plumbers' bills. It may be quite wrong to do so, but when plumbers charge forty cents an hour and always call again, householders will break almost the whole of the Ten Commandments, to say nothing of three thousand city by-laws, sooner than see them inside their doors. Mr. Mansergh may not have known of these sources of waste. We are glad he has earned his fee so well by sending in a report which appeals to common sense as a fair and reasonable solution of a difficult problem. Now the active Mayor of Toronto has an opportunity to do the city a lasting service by putting stress on the Council to begin at once the carrying out of Mr. Mansergh's suggestions.

The Arbitration Meeting.

The English people are a curious race. They are at the same time the fiercest and the most gentle. They will submit to almost anything from some people and to nothing from others. They went into frantic rage over the German Emperor's message. President Cleveland and the whole American people on the other hand gave the English nation the most direct slap in the face of modern times. The stubborn and dauntless English race absolutely said nothing. They seemed to take the American bluster as the most natural thing in the world. Now they turn the other cheek and hold a mass-meeting in favour of Arbitration—Arbitration with a nation which has just told them from press and pulpit and platform that it hates them! The English and American flags are intertwined. *God Save the Queen* is said to be also the American National Anthem set to different words. When the promoters of this meeting find an American meeting where the Union Jack can be safely swung in sight of American citizens there may be then a time when the Lion and the Eagle may lie down in peace together. At present the harmony is on one side. Truly *c'est magnifique mais ce n'est pas la guerre*. We rather fancy that this French epigram will be America's answer to England's gush.