

with some uneasiness, did not disappoint the expectations of the Protectionists who elected him. Its reference to foreign questions was firm and at the same time cautious. It touched on the Samoa imbroglio, and on the Canadian fisheries question. On this last point nothing was said to discourage Canadian statesmen who hope for a peaceful and satisfactory settlement of the long-vexed problem. If, as the President promised, "calmness, justice and consideration" characterize the diplomacy of our neighbours, Canada has really nothing to apprehend.

On the 5th inst. the Parnell Commission resumed its sittings and the Attorney-General related the circumstances connected with Pigott's flight, discovery, arrest and death. Communications received from him bore the signature of "Ponsonby." The President of the Commission, Mr. Justice Hannen, made, on the same day, an important ruling relative to the League's connection with the *Irish World*. He decided that the fact of the Nationalist cause having been aided by money raised through that journal's influence did not make the receivers responsible for opinions set forth in its columns. Evidence was, however, admitted as to the distribution of the *Irish World* by officials of the National League.

Before the inauguration various surmises had been hazarded as to the composition of the President's Government. The following are the nominations which he submitted to the Senate and which the Senate promptly confirmed:— James G. Blaine, of Maine, to be Secretary of State; Wm. Windom, of Minnesota, to be Secretary of the Treasury; Redfield Proctor, of Vermont, to be Secretary of War; W. H. Miller, of Indiana, to be Attorney-General; John Wanamaker, of Pennsylvania, to be Postmaster-General; Benjamin F. Tracy, of New York, to be Secretary of the Navy; John W. Noble, of Missouri, to be Secretary of the Interior; Jeremiah M. Rusk, of Wisconsin, to be Secretary of Agriculture.

King Milan of Servia has abdicated in favour of the son of the lady who cannot be regarded otherwise than as his injured wife. The young King was born in 1876, and until his majority, which is fixed at his fifteenth year, the affairs of the country will be administered by a regency, under which it is understood the policy of the country will not be changed. This is but a pithy punishment for the King, who appears to have conducted himself as a husband and a sovereign in a most unbecoming manner. Princess Natalie was a Russian, and this abdication has, it is believed, been brought about under Russian influences, the Czar and his advisers apparently having nothing to fear from the triple alliance. King Milan continues in command of the forces and the ex-Queen returns to the country.

THE CHANGE OF PRESIDENTS.

Long before the arrival of Inauguration Day, the novelty of the situation brought about by the election of a chief magistrate has worn away. The retiring head of the nation has had time to resign himself to circumstances and has made preparations for the resumption of his ordinary business. For him and his family the change is certainly a momentous one. For four years he has been the supreme chief of 60,000,000 of people, has experienced a power which placed him on a par with the royalties of the old world, has lived in the

midst of an *entourage* which comprised whatever the nation contained of standing, wealth, talent, and beauty, and has been a centre of practical influence and authority, for which there is no exact parallel under any other *régime*. His ministers were of his own appointing and responsible to himself alone. Like the centurion in the Bible, he could say to one: Go, and he goeth; to another, Come, and he cometh; and to servants innumerable, Do this, and they obey. To be one day such a ruler and the next one of the 60,000,000 that owe allegiance to his successor, a lawyer looking for clients, or a merchant for custom, or the servant of a company, doing ordinary business and answering ordinary enquiries, is a revolution in its way, which only an equanimity, born of usage, could face calmly. Greater men than ex-President Grover Cleveland have, however, taken that step into obscurity, and it is no worse for him than it was for them.

What concerns us chiefly is the foreign policy of his successor, especially as it affects the vexed question of the Fisheries. If Mr. Harrison's own voice were alone to be heard on the subject, we might await the course of events with a measure of confidence. If he is the just man that report represents him as being, he will not deem it *de rigueur* to assume a tone hostile to Canada merely because his Democrat predecessor, before the supposed exigencies of popular sovereignty had constrained him to stultify himself, had dealt generously in our behalf. His inaugural address gave promise of a fair consideration of our claims. But, on the other hand, his Secretary of State, Mr. J. G. Blaine, has at times presented an attitude towards Great Britain which the most favourable interpretation could not pronounce friendly. On him, as the President's chief minister, a great deal will depend. It cannot be disputed that the relations between us and our neighbours have been unpleasantly strained for some time past. Setting aside what could be attributed to mere electioneering agencies, the controversies on the Fisheries, on Commercial Union, and even on Annexation, open and undisguised, have complicated the points at issue to an extent that justifies a certain amount of anxiety. The complications thus caused have, moreover, been aggravated by our own divisions, by political agitation, and inter-provincial jealousy.

At the same time we have firm faith in the loyalty and patriotic pride of our people, both French and English, and are far from believing that a policy of surrender would gain the support of any important section of our population. Our federal system is undoubtedly being subjected to a test and a strain more trying than anything of the kind which it has been called upon to undergo since the passing of the British North America Act. But the coming of such strain and test was not unforeseen. Such critical stages occur in the development of all nationalities, and there is certainly nothing in the present situation to justify us in taking a pessimistic view of the future of the Dominion. With the abatement of sectional feeling and the growth of the broader sentiment of patriotism, there is every reason to hope that our country will enter ere long on an era of assured strength, of permanent stability, and of that enlarged influence to which fruition at home and appreciation abroad of our vast and manifold resources justly entitle us. If that spirit prevails and we be only true to ourselves, we may await

without apprehension the result of negotiations which our neighbours, we are assured by the President, will resume with "calmness, justice and consideration."

DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIONS.

Something like twenty years ago the Council of Agriculture of the Province of Quebec made it obligatory upon the different agricultural societies of the province to hold competitions for the best managed farms. The object was to create a spirit of generous rivalry among the farmers of the different districts, and thus promote the general benefit. This idea met with some opposition, on account of unwarranted prejudices, which, however, eventually vanished, and since that time something like ten such competitions have been held within the limits of each of the greater number of the eighty-three agricultural societies existing in the province. It was stipulated that each of these societies should offer at least five prizes respectively, of \$50, \$40, \$30, \$20 and \$10. These prizes thus amounted in all to \$150, which the expenses of the judges brought up to \$200. These sums came out of the generous grant for which the law provides, the amount thus distributed being about \$12,000 every two years, or in all \$120,000 so far. These prizes, in each of the societies, have fallen to about fifty fortunate individuals, the wisdom of the Council providing that the same person cannot take a prize more than once, thus discouraging less fortunate competitors. Unfortunately, owing to the lack of the necessary appliances, the Council of Agriculture itself has no knowledge of those who are the best farmers in the province as well as in each county. This matter is discussed by "Agricola," in the columns of the *Illustrated Journal of Agriculture*, who dwells at considerable length and with very much force upon the benefit that it would be for the mass of the farmers to be made acquainted with the men who conduct what may be termed model farms and the manner in which they administer them. The establishment of a model farm would itself supply all the information that is desired, but its cost and the attendant risks are so great as to render the carrying out of the idea a most difficult one. Moreover, there are many localities of equal eligibility for the purpose, while, in all these localities, competitions among the best managed farms would afford all the information that is desired, they themselves being models for the districts round about them. They would also at once become objects of interest, while it would take some building up to establish a model farm and the incurrence of no small amount of expense. The idea of these competitions is not a new one, and would most certainly be beneficial if carried into operation. The Bill now before the Provincial Legislature to establish district farm competitions and confer power and distinctions, by way of reward, provides that five years may be taken in which to carry out the preliminaries, thus reducing the difficulties of organization to a premium and giving time to choose the best men available as judges. Nothing, however, need delay action in the most advanced farming districts of the province, viz., those of Montreal and Quebec, in which our best known and most scientific farmers have been established. Competitions among farmers like these would, moreover, bring to the front many of the best and