

of expense, but surely the cost of distributing ballot boxes need not be so enormous as to prove an insuperable obstacle. North-West emancipation has, it would seem, to be wrought out by piecemeal.

Not much harm can result from the determination of the Dominion Government to hold over its Copyright Act for another Session, and it is possible that important modifications may yet be made without detriment to the just principle which underlies the measure. The passage by the United States Congress of the International Copyright Act now before it would materially change some of the conditions of the problem, and as that Act has passed the Senate with a large majority, there seems good reason to hope it may be accepted by the other House, and so become law. Apart from this contingency and its bearing upon the question of the importation of foreign reprints of British works, which is forbidden by the proposed Canadian Act, there are others of its provisions open to discussion on their merits. It may be questioned, for instance, whether any principle of equity makes it incumbent upon Canada to guard the copyrights of British or foreign authors for a longer period than that for which it grants the same right to its own subjects. Not much, perhaps, can be said on the grounds of abstract justice in favour of making it a condition of protecting a foreign author's property, that the work be printed or published in Canada, however desirable such a condition may seem from the point of view of the Canadian printer or publisher. That is, perhaps, one of the circumstances that might safely be left to adjust themselves. The whole question demands fuller discussion than it has yet received in this country.

THE very grave charges brought by the new Provincial Treasurer of Manitoba against the defunct Government demand, and it may be hoped they will receive, strict and impartial investigation. If substantiated, they reveal a state of affairs worse than could have been thought possible in any provincial administration. It is to be hoped that Premier Greenway's very violent denunciations of his predecessor, in bad taste under any circumstances, will be found unmerited so far as they impeach the personal honour of the late head of the Government. Those who had faith in Mr. Norquay's honesty of purpose will prefer to believe, until the contrary is proved beyond possibility of doubt, that he was beguiled and betrayed, rather than that he was consciously unfaithful to the high trust reposed in him, and a partner in crime with embezzlers of public funds.

On the grounds both of public policy and of humanity the question of the future of the North-West and British Columbian Indian merits more attention at the hands of Canadian statesmen and philanthropists than it has yet received. The reservation system cannot surely be contemplated as permanent, or a few industrial schools as the goal of effort for the amelioration of their wretched condition. The report of the late Minister of the Interior expresses the opinion that the Indians will not succeed as farmers or stock raisers. This is, it may be hoped, a needlessly pessimistic view. It was hardly to be expected that the nomadic habit, or the nomadic instinct, could be eradicated in a single generation. The simplest dictate of wisdom would seem to be to do the best possible for the adult Indian without expecting too much, and to take vigorous and comprehensive measures for the training, especially the industrial training, of the children. To this end provision should be made for the education, voluntary if possible, compulsory if necessary, of every boy and girl on every reservation. If white parents are compelled to send their children to school there could be no great hardship in requiring Indian parents to do the same. Probably with judicious kindness very little compulsion would be necessary. Every Indian school should, as a matter of course, be largely occupied with manual training. Under present circumstances the Government and the teachers are afraid to have the few children educated in the Industrial Schools return to the reservations because they are almost sure to lapse into barbarian habits. This is no doubt largely due to the fewness of their numbers. Make the training of the young the rule, not the exception, and they would soon become the majority and civilization would predominate. Many adults might be induced from time to time to avail themselves of the means of instruction provided for the children. And all should be done with a direct view to the early breaking up of the reservation system. A few of the Senators have discussed the Indian Question with interest and intelligence, but it does not seem to be thought worth mentioning in the Commons. Can it be because the North-West Indian has no vote? An influential body of voters might soon be trained up. Would it not be a grand and worthy object for some talented Commoner, desirous of serving his country, to take up the

question, study it thoroughly, and devote his energies to working out a much needed reform in the Indian policy?

IF, as is possible, the British Government either needed or wished to have a popular warrant for largely increased military expenditure, it may consider itself as having received it. It is not, however, at all likely that the armaments of the nation which expends so large a sum annually for military purposes are in so dilapidated a condition as some of the sensational statements, even of men in authority, would imply. No doubt a good deal has been done, and is constantly being done, which is not published to the world. To fail of a reasonable vigilance and energy in keeping up the national defences would be a crime of which no Government, and least of all a Tory Government, with some Jingoistic tendencies, is very likely to be guilty. At the same time it would be a calamity, not only to the nation but to the world, if through the professional enthusiasm of her generals or any other influence, England should catch the contagious militarism which has turned the territories of the Great Powers of Europe into vast military camps and recruiting grounds, and is constantly grinding their people between the upper and nether millstones of taxation and drill. The day is, it may be hoped, past when British soldiers can be marched to the shambles of European battle fields, in support of any visionary "balance of power"; and the day will be long in coming when Britain will fail either to maintain her supremacy on the high seas, her native element, or to repel any invader who may have the temerity to attempt a landing upon her soil. Probably sober second thought will convince her people that the latter danger is far too remote to justify any very elaborate precautions at present.

AN important discussion recently took place in the British House of Commons, on the subject of Secondary Education. Mr. Ackland, a distinguished Oxford don, who was formerly a clergyman, introduced the question in a speech, full of facts and quotations, showing the defects and the needs of English middle-class schools. Mr. Ackland reckons that there are in England and Wales over half a million of middle-class children, and that to give them a proper schooling would cost £10 a piece annually. Of this the parent has to pay at present nine-tenths. Mr. John Morley, who followed in a very effective speech, quoted the late Matthew Arnold's declaration that "the English middle-class is the worst schooled in Europe." Mr. Morley affirms that in England all good secondary education is intolerably dear, and all cheap secondary education is intolerably bad. There is perhaps a good deal to be said in favour of his appeal that the State should aid the middle-class as well as the working-class parent in bearing the cost of the child's education; but it is to be hoped that Mr. Morley would not advocate, nor other representatives of the middle-class for whom he speaks support, any proposal even glancing in the direction of an imitation of Germany, which, as he told his hearers, entirely inverts the English system, by giving no State grant whatever to elementary education, but only State supervision, and reserves all her pecuniary assistance for the higher education alone. The German plan is evidently designed to perpetuate the classes, the English to elevate the masses.

MR. BRADLAUGH'S article on "The Civil List," in the *Contemporary Review*, is likely to attract a good deal of attention amongst English taxpayers. Even the most ultra Loyalists will hardly deny that it would be a right and proper thing for the people to be enabled to know exactly what amount is annually paid to members of the Royal Family. This, it appears, there is at present no means of ascertaining. There are various items scattered throughout the Estimates, which can only be discovered by the aid of skilled knowledge and official guidance, and no unofficial member of the House of Commons can do more than guess at the gross total. We are told, for instance, that some members of the Royal Family, who are in receipt of definite annuities, also "receive emoluments from the amounts voted for the forces." Mr. Bradlaugh combats what he terms the "widespread delusion" that the grant for the Civil List is in lieu of certain crown lands, or their income, surrendered to the public by the sovereign. Mr. Bradlaugh's extreme radicalism will no doubt cause his views and statements to be received with a good deal of caution in many quarters; but, as an English contemporary observes, "it is against the interest of the Royal Family themselves that so much mystery should surround the matter, for it encourages exaggerated speculations as to the cost of maintaining the Monarchy."

It has not often happened in modern times that a once independent nationality has been forced by stress of circumstances to sign away its