

bullets. To absolutely annihilate danger from target practice, however, seems to be impossible. A few years ago in Toronto a young man was instantly killed, while shooting at short range, by a bullet from the carelessly handled rifle of another man, whose position was farther from the target. Still more impressive was the death of a marker in New Brunswick. During practice he was killed by a bullet which had rebounded from the target in such a way that its direction was changed a second time by striking another impenetrable object. The official inquiry into the Niagara accident showed that if the young man had been in his proper place he would have escaped injury.

The Patron  
Renaissance.

Apparently as the result of the Patron Convention recently held in Toronto there is noticeable an effort to revive and extend the Patron organization. Something of this sort was to be expected as the outcome of its rather discouraging experience in the late general election, compared with the Ontario Provincial election of two years ago. It seems to be the intention of the Order to maintain its affectation of secrecy and its cast-iron pledge system. Of the expediency of this policy a majority of its members must be the judges, but to disinterested, and even to sympathetic, outsiders it is evident that both devices are hindrances to the success of the Patron political propaganda. If the Order were a society organized for social and commercial purposes only, this remark would, perhaps, not apply, but the political side of Patronism has become so prominent that the general public see little else in it, and people generally will never consent to tie themselves up to an organization which admits members by passwords and requires them to give inflexible and embarrassing pledges. Other political parties are made up of persons who may leave them whenever they please, and who are welcomed back whenever they choose to come; until the Patrons learn to trust their members in the same way they will never be strong enough as an organization to accomplish anything worth mentioning. It does not follow at all that Patronism is dead in Canada, or even that it is on the decline. It stands for certain ways of looking at economic and political conditions, and these ways fit in with the general point of view of the Canadian farmer. Patronism is far stronger than the Patron Order.

The Transatlantic  
Service.

A notable remark is attributed to Mr. Dobell, who is a member of the Laurier Ministry. Speaking of the transatlantic steamship project, he expressed the opinion that an eighteen-knot service from Quebec would give as short an ocean voyage as a twenty-knot service from New York; that vessels constructed for a speed of eighteen knots might have greater freight capacity than twenty-knot vessels; and that the Imperial subsidy might yet turn out to be available for vessels with the lower rate of speed. His advice, that the whole subject should be most carefully reconsidered before the country is irrecoverably committed to any scheme, will probably be acted on by the Dominion Parliament, which is expected to pay a liberal subsidy to induce some company to go into the project.

Party Splits.

Ex-President Harrison said a good thing the other day, when, in commenting on the split in the Democratic party, he made the statement that "a party which cannot be split is a public menace." The history of party government in Great Britain and the United States shows the truth of this dictum, and also that splits have been frequent as well as salutary. A split in the

Conservative party took place when Peel declared in favour of the repeal of the corn laws. A split in the Liberal party resulted from Gladstone's attempt to carry a Home Rule measure. The Mugwumps split off from the stalwart Republicans when Cleveland was elected by their support twelve years ago. The "gold" Democrats split off the other day from the regular organization, and nominated their own Presidential ticket. There was a split in the Conservative party here at the late general election, a considerable proportion of its members being unwilling to support the policy of their leaders on the Manitoba school question. Government by party has many inconveniences and some serious and apparently incurable evils, but these are mitigated by the actual occurrence of splits, and by the possibility that a split may take place at any time if the party platform becomes too uncomfortable for independent people to stand on.

Archbishop  
Langevin.

The Archbishop of St. Boniface has seen fit to submit to a newspaper interview on his return from Rome, and it is worth everybody's while to read his remarks as published in The Mail and Empire. He frankly admits that the Pope is not disposed to interfere in the Manitoba School Question, and adds that he is quite content to leave the settlement of the matter "to the ecclesiastical superiors of the Province"—which is another way of designating himself. It becomes important, therefore, to know what Archbishop Langevin's present attitude is, and this is made known in the interview. He says pointedly that he does not care whether he is consulted about a settlement or not so long as it is satisfactory and "the minority are accorded justice and fair play." When asked whether he would be willing to "accept as the basis of settlement the right to give religious teaching in the public schools," he replied "that if the question is, as reported, on the eve of settlement, he was unwilling to say anything that might retard that result." If His Grace had always been as reticent the school question would have given the politicians less trouble than it gave them during the past twelve months. The Archbishop thinks it "strange, very strange," that the Rev. Abbe Proulx, "a simple *cure*," should have been entrusted with a mission to Rome. He admits that the mission may have reference to ecclesiastical interference in elections, and concludes with this very admirable sentiment: "I only wish there were more frequent opportunities of meetings between Protestants and Catholics, and of calmly talking matters over. I am convinced much of the prejudice that now exists would vanish if such were the case." It is to be hoped that Archbishop Langevin, when he goes to St. Boniface, will meet Mr. Greenway half way and settle the school question within Manitoba. The rest of the Dominion will be glad to get rid of it.

Upper Canada  
College.

Mr. Parkin, the Principal of Upper Canada College, has acted wisely in publishing a frank statement of the financial position of the College as the ground of an appeal for funds. The institution has always occupied a very anomalous position in the educational system of this Province. Its endowment has a history which dates from Governor Simcoe's régime, while its own establishment as a secondary school carries us back to the year 1829. It was founded at the instance, if not actually by the order, of Sir John Colborne, when he was Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada. For a few years the Legislative Assembly used it as a means of blocking Dr. Strachan's way to the inauguration of a sectarian university under the charter granted to King's