

MR. BLAKE'S address to the young Liberals of Toronto was a disappointment in spite of its eloquence. This was evident from the apathetic manner in which it was received by an audience evidently desirous of being enthusiastic, and from the small importance attached to it by the local press. The Liberal Leader's speech had evidently been carefully prepared; it was delivered with a clearness and power perhaps not possessed by another Canadian publicist; yet it was funereal in tone and depressing in effect. The orator was "on guard," and he consequently failed to reach the hearts of his hearers. A "programme" was wanted by the young men and their friends—a distinctly-formulated Reform platform—a clear expression of opinion on the merits of Independence and Imperial Federation—a Shibboleth for the next election—but no such assistance was vouchsafed. They asked for a fish and Mr. Blake gave them a stone. His close criticism of the National Policy and general fiscal arrangements of the Government was able, but it lacked novelty: it was killing the slain. Neither was it followed by any tangible proposal for the relief of the oppressed taxpayer. He indicated the acknowledged desirability of Canada's being empowered to make her own commercial treaties; but he carefully steered clear of any suggestion which might be construed into a demand for the necessary concessions. A good point was made when he indicated the confusion of judicial powers in the Province and Dominion. The manner, however, in which he pleaded for an administration of the constitution in its original spirit was a greater testimony to his forensic gifts than ability to victoriously lead a party depressed by the cold shades to Opposition.

THE latest demand of Manitoba on the Federal Government, report says, has been settled by a compromise. The Local Government asked to have all the public lands in Manitoba recognized as the property of the Province. One half of the swamp lands the Federal Government had previously permitted to pass under the control of the Local authority; now it gives up the other half. The balance of the lands the Federal Government retains; and Manitoba is to receive an increased annual grant of \$55,000 a year. Henceforth the Confederation will pay annually to the Province, under the different heads of subsidy, interest on capital account, legislative grant and compromise of land claims, \$146,000 a year. If compensation has been formally given in lieu of the lands claimed by the Province, the precedent is one by which new Provinces which must hereafter be formed in the North-West will know how to profit. Whatever else may happen one thing is inevitable: the North-West must be governed in the interest of its resident population and not in that of the older Provinces in the east.

It is a relief to find, as pointed out by a correspondent, that the hanging of the horse-thieves took place on the Montana, not on the north, side of the parallel of 49°. We are very glad to be assured, on what we deem good authority, that as regards Canada the report, for which we did not make ourselves responsible, is not correct. That the lynching of horse-thieves has been going on on the other side of the line is not denied; but Canada has so far been able to dispense with the services of Judge Lynch in the punishment of crime; and unpleasantly near as these irregular executions have been to Canadian soil, it is to be hoped that the arm of justice may continue to be long enough and strong enough to protect life and property on this side of the line, even in the loneliest and least settled parts of the North-West.

THE scheme agreed on by the University Conference is now before us. It is, as it purports to be, a scheme not of amalgamation, or of affiliation, but of confederation. Each of the colleges retains its individual existence, its internal autonomy, its domestic control over its own students, its own endowments, its own governing body, its own religious character and connections, its own associations and traditions of every kind. Each also retains its teaching functions in respect to the more elementary work. But they all enter into federal union for the purpose of the higher or professional teaching, and for the purpose of holding examinations and conferring degrees. There will be a body of University Professors for the more advanced instruction, and a staff of teachers in each college for the more elementary. The existing graduates of all the colleges alike become graduates of the same rank and standing in the common University of Ontario. The University Charters now held by the denominational colleges are not surrendered; but it is agreed that they shall, during the continuance of the federation, be held in abeyance, except as regards the granting of theological degrees, which, the functions of the University being secular, each of the colleges reserves to itself. In this respect alone does the constitution embodied in the plan materially differ from that of Oxford and

Cambridge, both of which are federations of colleges. University College will be, as a member of the federation, exactly on the same footing as the rest. Representation on the Senate is secured to each of the colleges, and will be their guarantee not only for their just share of general influence but for the observance of their rights and their immunity from any religious molestation. Thus college life will be combined with the teaching advantages and the intellectual wealth and activity which can be found only in a great university, and religious education will be reconciled, in the only way in which under our circumstances it seems possible to reconcile it, with the free pursuit of secular science. The value of degrees cannot fail to be enhanced: indeed they could have but little value under the "one-horse university" system. As a provincial institution, embracing all the great religious bodies, the University will be able to approach the Legislature, if ever the necessity should arise, with a hope of success which was out of the question so long as the academical interests of the great religious bodies remained separate and antagonistic. Private munificence, which generally shrinks from institutions under Government control, will find its natural objects in the colleges, as it has in the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge. The happy issue to which, in spite of the complexity of the question, and amidst so many difficulties of negotiation, the labours of the Conference have at last been brought is in the highest degree creditable to the academical patriotism, temper, moderation, and business qualities of the eminent men who have been engaged. Their platform seems in its broad outlines to be thoroughly intelligible, sound and workable. Difficulties of detail of course will present themselves during the first years of operation; but they may be smoothed away by the mediation of a wise and trusted head of the institution, if he will show the same zeal in his office which has been shown by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Toronto in furthering the work of the conference. Hesitations and deliberations there are still, as it is natural that there should be: but the main difficulty has been surmounted, and there is now the fairest prospect of our having a Provincial University.

WE have positively renounced further discussion of Imperial Confederation till the Federation Committee in London shall have produced its report, and we should be breaking faith with our readers if we allowed ourselves to be drawn again to that romantic theme by Mr. McGoun's address on the subject.\* Mr. McGoun has satisfied himself that England is more closely connected with America than with Europe, and that sea unites two countries more than land. If sea unites, we should like to know what divides. It is clear at all events that a political architect who has annihilated the Atlantic Ocean can have no serious difficulties in accomplishing the remainder of his task. With perfect facility he induces committees scattered over the globe and differing widely in their commercial circumstances to consent to the same commercial policy, and engages them all to bear military taxation for objects with which most of them have no concern. His double legislature, his double budget, and the whole of his complicated apparatus work with all the smoothness of theory, notwithstanding the divisions of parties, British and Colonial, and that difference in structure and tendencies between British and Colonial society which must be apparent to every one who knows both well. Mr. McGoun's views do not take in the whole of the English-speaking race, for he leaves out the United States; but, in honour of the French Canadians, they are extended to France. The French Canadian members of the Federal Parliament will be always running over to France, and they will morally annex that country to the Federation. A French Canadian will be Imperial Minister of Public Works, and the absurd prejudice of Lord Wolseley and other weak-minded persons against the Channel Tunnel will at once disappear. But when salt has thus been put upon the bird's tail, and France has become a fast friend, where will be the military uses of Confederation?

PROFESSOR TANNER'S pamphlet, "Successful Emigration to Canada," ought rather to have been entitled, "Successful Emigration to the North-West," for it is to that region exclusively that its contents relate. The North-West is not, nor will it ever be, Canada, and the circumstances of the two countries are totally different. The North-West is really a new country and welcomes emigration of every kind, provided the emigrants are of sound body, industrious habits, and provided with the means of subsistence on their arrival and while they are breaking up their land or looking out for employment. Canada, though historically new compared with the nations of Europe, is economically old, and she has now room for emigrants only in special lines. In truth, so far as she is concerned the

\* Federation of the Empire: an Address before the McGill University Literary Society. By Arch. McGoun, Jr., B.A., B.C.L. Montreal: Dawson Brothers.