

plead with reason that of the earnings of her people a hundred and fifty millions have been spent in the construction of military railroads in the supposed interest of the Empire, though for military purposes the roads are worthless, while the Intercolonial, which is one of them, is likely soon to become worthless for any purpose whatever. Only, in the name of common sense and self-respect, let a stop be put to professions made to the Mother Country, not by the people of Canada, or with their authority, but by professors of loyalty in their name.

LIEUTENANT GORDON of the *Neptune*, who took the corps of observation to the Strait and Bay of Hudson, is developing a turn for diplomacy. Finding that Hudson's Bay is a rich fishing-ground, which has been worked chiefly by American enterprise for twenty years, he proposes to turn this experience into a left-handed prescription under which the Americans will henceforth pay for a privilege which all the world has hitherto had the right to enjoy for nothing. Here is one of the equivalents with which our ambitious diplomat proposes we should purchase reciprocity from the United States. It is not easy to understand the ground of this suggestion. If it involves the claim that Hudson's Bay can be treated as a close sea, fishing in which may be denied to all but one nation; other nations need not be expected to acquiesce in their own exclusion. The riparian rights of the owner of the soil have a defined limit which cannot restrict the right of all nations to fish in the deep sea. Along the vast shallows of the western coast the fishing might be expected to be good; but as they extend a great distance from the shore good fishing could be found outside the three mile limit. If nothing more substantial than fishing in Hudson's Bay can be offered as an equivalent, reciprocity with the United States must be a long way out of reach.

M. LAUDRY's attempt to restrict the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court though rejected by a large majority in the House of Commons, probably served the purpose of the mover. He extracted a promise from the Government that, in the appointment of judges to this Court, special attention should be paid to the interests of French Canada. The proposal to abolish the jurisdiction of the Court in Provincial cases is too indefinite to admit of practical application; the Court itself being the authority which, more than any other, has to decide what are and what are not Provincial cases. But even if this could be done, the result would be an appeal to the Privy Council instead, no authority, not even the British Parliament, having the right to say that Her Majesty shall not in her Privy Council listen to the complaints of any of her subjects. To increase these appeals would be a doubtful improvement.

MUCH of what the Licensed Victuallers ask from the Dominion Government is just and reasonable. A sumptuary law which deprives men of personal rights, in obedience to the demands of their neighbours, ought not to go into effect unless sanctioned by a clear majority; and the resort to coercion, intimidation or bribery, when the vote on the Scott Act is taken, ought no more to enjoy immunity than they would in a Parliamentary election. As the working of the Act is subject to much dispute, it would not be unreasonable to attempt to arrive at the real facts by means of a Royal Commission. There can be no real doubt that the general tendency of the measure is to substitute the secret, unlicensed sale of spirits for the legal sale of light wine and beer. And there is much reason to doubt whether the quantity of alcohol consumed is lessened by the restrictions of the Scott Act. In the County of Northumberland, New Brunswick, the Act has been in force since September, 1880, and the county council, by a vote of seventeen to seven, expresses the opinion that the sale of intoxicating drink has not been lessened, but rather increased. This agrees with what the Licensed Victuallers affirm. Sir John Macdonald was not able to promise that the demand for compensation for the deprivation of business will come before the Legislature backed by the united support of the Government. The Government is not a unit on the subject. Speaking for himself, Sir John said that if Prohibition became general he should favour compensation. Until Prohibition becomes general, should it ever go so far, it would be difficult to measure the extent of the damage. So long as distilleries and breweries go on, the curtailing of their business would be only an imperfect measure of the extent of the injury which the loss occasions; if they were closed altogether, the difficulty of ascertaining the damage would not be insuperable. Sir John said the question of compensation had already been raised in Parliament; but a money vote can only be taken on the initiative of the Executive, and this initiative will not be forthcoming. The forms of Parliament provide for cases, where the Executive initiative is absent, by means of an address to the Crown. Should Parliament pass the address, the Government would have the duty put upon it of deciding whether it would introduce a measure of compensation; but

Parliament is not likely to place itself in opposition to the current of feeling which is running strongly in favour of the Scott Act. Compensation is a distinct matter; but the advocates of the Scott Act have given indications that they are prepared to disregard the justice of the claims which the Licensed Victuallers have put forward. To rely on the hope of compensation by Parliament is, apparently, to rely on a broken reed. What appears to be an immediate response to the liquor-dealers' claim comes in the form of a pamphlet, "The Liquor Traffic and Compensation." No light is thrown upon the controversy by the brochure, which consists principally of a reproduction of arguments and denunciations such as have been appearing for fifteen years past in the *Alliance News* and other paid organs of the Prohibitionists in England. To stifle the voice of equity, the pamphlet resorts, we are sorry to see, to the usual appeals to passion, comparing the case of a trade which has been licensed by the State, and is pursued by many persons of unimpeachable character, to the cases of slave-dealing, highway robbery, and prostitution. When people write in this style it becomes evident that it is on violence, not on justice, that they are bent.

IN the midst of wars and political conflicts the Land Law Amendment Association pursues the even tenor of its way in the promotion of an unobtrusive, but most important and beneficent reform. It manifestly gains ground. Legislation, simplifying titles to land and conveyances by the application of the Torrens principle, is about to be introduced by Sir Alexander Campbell for the North-West, and by Mr. Mowat for Toronto and the County of York. It has not been thought desirable to legislate at once for the whole Province of Ontario, because a cry of centralization might arise. When the measure is seen to work well, county councils will petition for its general application. The North-West is a clean sheet of paper which lends itself naturally to the introduction of the new system. Some parts of Toronto, on the other hand, are in urgent need of the simplification of titles: in the case of a sale, or mortgage of a small lot, the examination of the title sometimes bears a ridiculous and iniquitous proportion to the amount of the price or loan. When the reform is completed land will be dealt with and will descend like personalty, and it will no longer be necessary to search for the heirs-at-law, a process even more difficult and vexatious where the law divides the inheritance than it is in England where primogeniture prevails, and there can be only one heir. In the Old Country, though the Torrens system has been introduced in an optional form, the inveterate and jealous Conservatism of English landowners, which resisted even registration of deeds, stands in the way of its practical adoption. But agrarianism is spreading from Ireland to Skye, from Skye to other districts, and theories of land nationalization are rife. The only practical antidote is a system which nationalizes land by rendering its acquisition as cheap and easy as possible to every member of the nation. All our Loan Societies have the strongest interest in supporting Land Law Amendment, and even those who are professionally connected with the present system will not have much to fear, since the process of change must be slow, and there will be a great deal of work to be done in the transition.

A BILL is before the Senate of the United States, and seems likely in some form to pass, for the restriction of Labour Immigration. So the era in which the Republic opened her hospitable arms to the distressed and discontented of all nations appears to be drawing to a close. The measure evidently emanates immediately from the Trade Unions, and is an attempt on their part to close the labour market against imported labour. Their action can hardly be blamed. Monopoly for the capitalist, competition with freely imported labour for the working-man, has been the policy of Protectionist manufacturers. The Canadian Protectionist goes still farther: his policy is not only unrestricted but assisted immigration. But the working-man now begins to see that monopoly, if it is good for capital, is good also for labour, and that he is just as much interested in shutting out the competition of foreign labour as his employer is in shutting out the competition of foreign goods. Between the two, the community would be brought back to the industrial regimen of the Dark Ages. When things come to this pass, revolt against all monopoly will probably begin. The measure, however, has a political as well as an industrial aspect. The native Americans are becoming seriously alarmed by the growth of the foreign element. They have reason. Statistics of foreign birth give a very inadequate notion of the danger. The child of naturalized parents, while he is born to the privileges, seldom inherits the qualities of a citizen. The Irish especially, held together by their Church, remain Irish to the third and fourth generation. With the foreign element, Communism is on the increase; and recent events at Cincinnati and Chicago combine with the memory of the Pittsburg riots and the Irish riots in New York to fill