

logically sound, or as likely to be convincing to our American neighbours ; and whether the fact that the granting of a privilege which is now regarded as belonging to the comity of nations, threatens to increase seriously the cost and difficulty of protecting our property, can be regarded as a valid reason for refusal. It has long been evident that the fisheries dispute can never be satisfactorily settled save on some basis of reciprocity. As a matter of policy our query is whether the finding of such a basis, acceptable to both parties, would not be facilitated by a liberal construction of the provisions of the old treaty. The chief root of bitterness would be removed. Is it so clear that the traffic in bait and supplies, and the profitable employment for railways would not more than make up for any increased cost of protecting the inshore fisheries ?

AN outside observer, forming his opinions from the discussions carried on from day to day in the newspapers, would naturally conclude that Canada has very nearly reached a crisis in her history, or, to use the favourite metaphor, that she is approaching the branching of the roads and must shortly make her choice between Independence, Imperial Federation, and Annexation. Strange to say, however, the elections which are taking place from time to time give little or no indication that the people are greatly disturbed by any new considerations. The electors seem to cast their ballots pretty much according to their old party affiliations. The contest in East Northumberland the other day, for example, shows no change of votes such as would naturally have occurred had the people felt that they were in the presence of a new and vitally important issue. The increase or diminution of the ordinary majorities in such districts by a few votes may easily be accounted for by local causes. Had the great majority of the voters realized that the question before them was really that of Commercial Union, or any other radical change overshadowing all the old party considerations, it is in the highest degree unlikely that the totals would have accorded so very nearly with those of previous elections, when no such question was before them. It was, of course, to be expected that the papers opposed to changes should hail the result as a victory for their views and a condemnation of the agitators, just as the election of the other candidate, if but by a majority of half-a-dozen votes would have been claimed as a great triumph for the specific change advocated though it really would have proved nothing in particular. On the whole the most reasonable inference seems to be that the country is not as yet greatly affected in one way or another by the new discussions about trade and manifest destiny, but is running along pretty nearly in the old political grooves.

"We protest," say the hundreds of eminent legislators, clergymen, professors, authors, and others, who join in the remarkable protest in the *Nineteenth Century* against the English system of competitive examinations—"we protest against the common mistake of benefactors, anxious to help education, in founding new scholarships and thus intensifying the evil that exists, instead of founding local chairs and local courses of teaching." "One should not," says the old proverb, "look a gift horse in the mouth." It is certainly a delicate and somewhat ungracious task to criticise the form of a public benefaction. It needs, too, to be borne in mind that the aims of those who found prizes and scholarships are often not so much to promote the higher education of the many as to stimulate the few to greater exertion. They seek to develop talent, rather than to help mediocrity. Nevertheless, most educators and most thoughtful persons who have paid attention to educational methods, will, we have little doubt, heartily approve the view of the distinguished protesters. The mistake so strongly deprecated has been frequently made in Canada—has been made not long since in connection with the University of Toronto. By the persistent exertions of a number of educational reformers, an important change was made a year or two since by the Senate of that Institution. A certain portion of the funds of the University which had theretofore been bestowed in annual prizes and scholarships was diverted to true educational uses, no doubt to the advantage of all concerned. It is, perhaps, to be regretted that the moral effect of the reform has since been, to some extent, counteracted by the generosity of individual benefactors who have provided new inducements to the cramming and other evils condemned in the *Nineteenth Century* articles, instead of bestowing their gifts in aid of better and more extended courses of teaching. It is true that the sum which may suffice to found a scholarship would go but a short way towards establishing a chair. Nevertheless, it may be hoped that the discussion, now so well begun, will be so successful in establishing sound educational principles that liberal patrons of the University, when devising liberal things for it, will henceforth take especial care that their gifts are so bestowed as to make them aids to true teaching instead of goads to selfish ambition.

COMMENTING on the articles above referred to, a Toronto contemporary, following the lead of the London *Times*, assumes that the majority of young people are naturally averse to study, and that no other stimulus so effective as the competitive examination has yet been devised to take its place. "The road to learning," it is declared, "is a hard one, and few young people traverse it voluntarily. Some means of spurring them on is absolutely necessary, and if not examinations and prizes, what?" Is not this very much as if one should say, "The majority of young people are averse to eating; therefore, it is absolutely necessary to coax them with confections, or goad their appetites with stimulants?" or "The majority of young people are averse to bodily activity; therefore, we must compel them to take courses of football, or offer prizes for cricket and gymnastics?" The best and most successful educators will tell us, and we do not see how any careful observer of children can doubt the statement, that it is just as natural for the child to crave knowledge, as to crave food. The healthful boy has no less delight in the exercise of his mental than of his physical powers. The almost universal dislike to study is artificial rather than natural, apparent rather than real. It is the product of bad teaching from infancy onward, just as loss of healthful appetite is usually the product of injudicious pampering. Teachers are slow to learn this truth, or rather to apply it in practice, but progress is being made. The new methods of education are working wonders in the schools of the United States and Canada. Kindergartens are beginning the work of educational reform; and the introduction of inductive methods is carrying it on in public school and high school; to some extent, too, in college and university, though, strange to say, these last, which should be foremost in applying scientific methods to educational processes, are too often the last and slowest to move. No more effective aid can be rendered to the great educational reform than by doing away with all artificial stimulants, such as prizes and scholarships, and compelling the teacher to fall back upon other and better inducements. Nor is it one of the least of the gains to be expected, that, whereas the pecuniary reward offered serves as a stimulus for but the very few who have any hope of gaining it, the love of knowledge and mental power is innate and universal.

THERE seems little reason to doubt that the plan outlined by Congressman Ford, chairman of the Congressional Committee on Immigration, or some scheme following the same general lines, will be adopted at the next session of the United States Congress. The main feature of the scheme is the appointment of an inspector of immigration to be attached to every important consular station in those countries from which immigrants have hitherto come in large numbers. It will be the special duty of these inspectors to inquire into the condition and character of every proposed emigrant to the United States. Sufficient time to admit of such inquiries being made must elapse between the date of application and that of sailing. As a matter of course, when such a law has been enacted and put in operation after due notice, no immigrant from a foreign country will be admitted in any port of the Union without the certificate of the proper inspector. The method seems simple and feasible. While the effect need not be to prevent the incoming of any honest and industrious foreigner, it would be efficacious in keeping out vast hordes of the vagrant, pauper and vicious classes, such as are now to be found swarming in the lowest quarters of every great city. The people of the United States cannot be blamed for adopting a course so essential to the future well-being of their country. The facts brought to light by the investigations of Mr. Ford's committee shew that some such measure of self-protection is imperatively necessary. Canada is suffering from the same evil, though hitherto to a much smaller extent. It is evident that if our neighbours adopt such tactics Canada will be compelled in self-defence to follow suit, else a larger part of the unwholesome current will be pretty sure to be turned towards our shores.

FRIENDS of liberal culture everywhere will observe with regret that the colleges and universities of the United States are in danger of being drawn into the swirl of party politics. For causes which will be differently estimated according to the standpoint of those who undertake to assign them, nearly all the leading professors in the chairs of political science are ardent free-traders. This state of things has not unnaturally aroused the ire of the extreme protectionists. Many of the colleges of the country are, these declare, "hot-beds of free-trade." President Eliot of Harvard, notwithstanding, or rather in consequence of, his well-earned renown as a scholar and educator, comes in for the fiercest denunciations. The *Buffalo News* is outspoken and even violent in declaring that "President Eliot must go." The people, it declares, "are aroused over protection and Eliot will learn this ere many days. He cannot set himself upon a high