

will be seriously challenged. Prince Edward Island having already adopted Manhood Suffrage in local elections, if the other maritime provinces should follow suit at an early day, which seems not unlikely, it would be very difficult for the Dominion Government to adhere to its cumbersome, complicated, and most expensive Franchise Act.

AMONG the useful and practical measures passed by the Ontario Legislature two are perhaps worthy of special mention, that limiting the power of the municipalities in the matter of bonus-giving, and that providing for early closing of places of business and limiting the hours of labour of employees. Both measures as at first introduced were objectionable; as intermeddling quite too much with local and personal freedom of action. As amended in the House and in Committee their provisions seem in the main eminently reasonable and just. Instead of taking away, as at first proposed, from municipalities the right of granting bonuses for the encouragement of local industries under any circumstances, the Municipal Statutes are now amended so as to make a two-thirds majority of all those in the municipality entitled to vote, necessary to its bestowal. This affords a pretty sure guarantee of the rights of citizens, and will be found to approach practically very near to absolute prohibition, while it avoids arbitrary interference with local autonomy. The Early Closing Bill as finally passed consists of two parts, one permissive, the other compulsory. The permissive clauses provide that a certain hour for closing shall be fixed by the municipal councils if three-fourths of the occupiers of shops petition in favour of it; or a council may of its own motion close the shops in any line of business or in all, at any hour not earlier than seven p.m. The compulsory part of the Bill limits the hours of labour for boys under fourteen and girls under sixteen years of age—though the limit, seventy-four hours per week, is still a very wide one—and enacts, most mercifully, that "the occupier of any shop in which are employed females shall at all times provide and keep therein a sufficient and suitable seat or chair for the use of every such female, and shall permit her to use such seat or chair when not necessarily engaged in the work or duty for which she is employed in such shop." Such an enactment ought not to be necessary in a civilized and Christian community, but if necessary, as facts unhappily show, should be made by every Government with the least possible delay.

THE Legislatures of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, which are now in session, have lost no time in adopting the Quebec Resolutions. In the case of New Brunswick, after an animated debate, the vote for adoption fell short by only four "noes" of being unanimous. In the Nova Scotia Legislature, the resolutions were passed by about the usual party majority, and, strange to say, without debate beyond a two-hour speech made by the Premier in introducing them. This hasty action seems to have been the result of accident rather than design. In fact, it is said that honourable members on both sides of the House having elaborate speeches in preparation, were not a little chagrined at the unexpected turn of affairs. The motion was, it appears, put somewhat hastily by the Speaker, when, during a moment of hesitation, some honourable members, whether in jest or earnest, called for the "Question." At least such is one version of the affair. Manitoba may be relied on to give her sanction to the Resolutions promptly on the reassembling of the House. The next step, it is understood, will take the form of a deputation, consisting of the Premiers of the respective Provinces, who will go to England to lay the resolutions at the foot of the Throne, that is, of the British Ministry. What will be the final issue it is useless to conjecture.

CONSIDERABLE excitement has been caused in local political circles by the resignation of Hon. Mr. McShane, Minister of Public Works in the Quebec Cabinet. The result, which has long been expected, is due primarily to jealousies which have long been growing between the Quebec Nationalists and the Irish Catholics, who regarded Mr. McShane as their representative in the Cabinet. The affair is no doubt a source of serious embarrassment to Mr. Mercier, who is understood to have been personally loath to accept Mr. McShane's resignation. It is scarcely probable, however, that Mr. McShane's retirement will lead, as the Conservatives are predicting, to the upbreak of the Liberal Cabinet of Quebec. Mr. Mercier has, evidently, some heterogeneous and discordant elements to deal with in the party he leads, but he has proved himself to be a leader of large resources, and may be able to turn the difficulty to advantage by reconstructing his Cabinet on a more stable basis. His hold on the Province has, on the whole, been greatly strengthened since his accession to office. Yet the situation has in it many elements of difficulty and danger, which a well organized and

harmonious Opposition would have been able to make use of to its advantage. The absence of such an opposition is one of the circumstances in Mr. Mercier's favour. Some interest will attach to the account which it is said Mr. McShane will shortly render to his Montreal constituents.

SOME of the rumours concerning alleged dissatisfaction and unrest amongst the North-West Indians seem almost too direct to be utterly devoid of foundation. However, Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney, whose authority, as Indian Commissioner, ought to be good, scouts the idea that there is danger of trouble. If trouble results it is pretty evident that the Government agents and the Commissioner will be in fault; for it is in the last degree improbable that the Indians will go on the war-path except under pressure of starvation. Mr. Dewdney is no doubt right in the opinion that the present system of keeping the various tribes on various reserves is much better than any of the schemes talked of for placing them all on one reservation or territory. It is very satisfactory to learn that the health of the red man is improving, and the rate of mortality diminishing, since he has given up his nomadic mode of life. But few will agree with Mr. Dewdney that the Indian problem presents no difficulties. That problem is not simply how to keep the Indian alive, or to improve his health. It is how to make him a self-supporting citizen in the shortest possible time. It would be a fatal mistake to regard the reserve system as permanent, or as anything but a stage in the process of civilization. What people should ask and insist on knowing definitely is what progress is being made in the work of civilizing and educating both parents and children? How large a proportion of the Indian children are at school, and learning industrial pursuits, for the two kinds of education should always go together in their case at least? Could the work of assigning farms in severalty to the most industrious and hopeful families and young men be commenced with any hope of success? We ought all to know a great deal more about the North-West Indians than we do.

ACCORDING to present indications it would not be surprising if the Fisheries Treaty should be discussed almost simultaneously in the American Senate and the Canadian Commons. The discussion is still going on in the newspapers of the United States. Amongst others, the *New York Tribune* has recently published a long letter from Walter Blaine, a son of the ex-candidate for the Presidency. This letter has attracted attention, perhaps more because of the natural suspicion that it represents the views of the father than of any special weight attaching to the utterances of the son. Mr. Blaine writes from Chicago, and so represents to some extent what an exchange describes as "that broad Western view of this dispute which regards the interest of Maine and Massachusetts in the cod and mackerel of Canada as extremely small in comparison with the general interests of the country, and which holds it to be the utmost folly to sacrifice to a local interest the commercial intercourse of two friendly neighbours." He speaks with respect of the opinion that "our eternal bicker over the right to catch cod or mackerel is one unworthy the dignity of a great country." Mr. Walter Blaine says that there are but two ways of settling the Fisheries dispute: Commercial reprisals against Canada, or commercial union and reciprocity. The President, in his opinion, should use the power vested in him by Congress to "deprive Canada of all business relations with this country," or "to grant to her" a treaty of reciprocity "on the basis of unrestrained interchange of products." This is illogical enough, seeing that there is open to the United States the third plan, that of adopting the Chamberlain Treaty; unless indeed he considers this treaty as no real settlement. This treaty, according to Mr. Walter Blaine's own admission, contains some concessions beyond those which are, in his view, demanded in the interests of international justice. This is especially the case in regard to the question of bays and harbours. Referring to the decision of the Board of Arbitration in 1857, that bays ten miles in width were to be considered as the open sea, he says that this is "a principle reasonable in itself, founded upon the distinctions of international law as laid down by the older writers, and recognized and admitted by many statesmen in Great Britain and by nearly all those of other countries whose opinion is of value." This from a leading Republican is certainly a remarkable, though frank and honest, admission. "But what then," asks an American exchange, "will become of our claim to exclusive jurisdiction over Delaware Bay and Chesapeake Bay?"

THE agitation in favour of an international copyright law is being pushed with considerable vigour by many prominent men in the United States. It is a hopeful sign when speakers and writers on such a question cease to speculate on the effect which an honest recognition of the claims