

a third party which bids fair to become really a power in Dominion, or at least in Ontario politics, has been formed. The published platform contains a number of planks which will command the approval of many of the former adherents of both the old parties. Whether it contains others which will commend themselves to neither is a more difficult question. Its demand for such tariff reform as will relieve those now overburdened with taxation, destroy combinations and trusts, give the preference wherever practicable to the Mother Land and to such other countries as will trade on fair terms, especially the United States, will be approved by all Liberals and by a large and growing number of Conservatives. Its demand for a fair re-adjustment of constituencies with as near an approach as may be to equality of population, will also be echoed by many in both parties who have become ashamed of the old methods. The other planks of the platform consist mainly or exclusively of statements of principle with reference to dual languages and school-laws. These are the embodiment in a general form of the views of which Mr. McCarthy has now for some years been the exponent. Whether the League will be able to secure the assent of more than individuals from either of the old parties to these general principles remains to be seen. Probably they will remain the differentiating feature of the new party. Mr. McCarthy still regards himself, we believe, as a true Conservative. Most of the planks in the League platform approximate much more nearly to the Liberal than the Conservative policy. It will be interesting to compare it with the platform which may be adopted by the approaching Liberal Convention, i.e., if that Convention succeeds in agreeing upon a platform. It remains to be seen which of the two old parties will suffer most from the existence and operations of the new party.

If the bestowal of Imperial titles is to be kept up in Democratic Canada, one Knight Commander, one Knight Bachelor and two C. M. G.'s are not an extravagant addition to our list of the titled for the year. With reference to the merits of the respective recipients of these Royal honours, there is not, happily, much difference of opinion. Among the politicians there is probably no man in public life in Canada to-day whose claims to Imperial honours would be disputed by fewer detractors than Senator Carling. It is eminently fitting that personal uprightness and moral worth should count for at least as much in the bestowment of such marks of distinction as splendid abilities. The ex-Minister of Agriculture is one of the few men who have preserved, through the turmoil and temptation of a long term of Cabinet office, a reputation almost stainless. We say "almost" because Sir John Carling's political opponents will not allow us to forget, at such a moment, the one incident in his

career which his best friends might wish to recall and remove from the record, were the past not irrevocable. We refer, of course, to the disputed tenure by which he held his last term of membership in the House of Commons. We were obliged, speaking according to the best light we could get upon the question, to express our conviction that the transaction was unfair and immoral, yet we can well understand how "Honest John" might, without intentional wrongdoing, in a moment of weakness, and in the heat of a fierce party conflict, allow his own sense of right to be overruled by the persistent influence of colleagues and friends. If two or three Canadians occupying distinguished positions were to be selected for the honour of knighthood, few will hesitate to admit that the Chief Justice of Canada was by ability, integrity, and force of character, at least as well entitled as any other to the distinction. That the honours bestowed upon Senator Gowan and Mr. Collingwood Schreiber were in every way well deserved, no one, so far as we are aware, has denied or doubted, which is in itself a rare compliment. "Without prejudice," as the lawyers say, to any opinion we may have as to the desirability of transplanting trans-Atlantic marks of class distinction to Canadian soil, we tender our hearty congratulations to each of those whom Her Majesty has this year delighted to honour.

Why is it that the Great American Republic is never magnanimous, rarely even just, in its dealings with other nations? Theoretically it might not seem difficult to show that absolute self-government, involving the choice by the whole people of those who shall temporarily rule over them, from the highest officer to the lowest, is the form most worthy of free citizens. Practically there is much in the dealings of the greatest Republic on earth with other nations and peoples which compares unfavourably in point of neighbourliness, to say nothing of generosity, with those of even despotic nations. For instance, the warmest admirer of the United States can hardly fail just now to blush for its law-makers and rulers, when he recalls its attitude in several matters towards other peoples. There is, for instance, the Geary Law, which has just been pronounced constitutional by the highest court in the Union. Where in all modern history, apart at least from despotic Russia, can an instance be found in which not only the first principles of national comity, but the faith of treaties, has been so shamefully violated in legislation? Look, again, at the extradition treaty which has been concluded with Russia, a treaty containing provisions in regard to the surrender of refugees such as no Government of Great Britain would dare to propose, and, it is pretty safe to say, no king-ruled nation of Europe would consent to, knowing, as everybody knows, what is daily taking place under Russian tyranny. It is

scarcely open to us to refer to those matters in which Canada is interested, such as the application of the Alien Labour Act, and some of the positions which United States Counsel are trying to establish before the international tribunal, now sitting in Paris. The refusal of the managers of the award business at the World's Fair to have the juries constituted on an international basis has been re-considered, and would not, of course, have been a Government act had it been persisted in. Yet the very proposal was unpleasantly characteristic of a certain class of minds, influential in American public life. The withdrawal of the decision under the influence of foreign protests may perhaps be accepted as one of many indications that the influence of men of broader views and a kindlier spirit—and such, we are sure, are multitudes of American citizens—is making itself felt in international affairs.

A lurid light is cast upon one aspect of the European military system by the reports of suicides committed from time to time by desperate men as the only way of escape from the intolerable tyranny of their officers. One can hardly resist the conclusion that the position of the private in, e.g., the regular German army is little better than one of absolute slavery. This rigidity of discipline is, we suppose, to a considerable extent absolutely necessary to the efficiency of a body in which everything depends upon the ability of the commanding officer to move the whole army as a great machine. This can be attained only when each component part of it can be relied on in like manner to move as a lesser machine at the will of the proper subordinate officer. We often hear the military drill and discipline praised as an excellent education. An education for what? Can there be anything truly educative of the higher faculties of a man in the system whose main object is to train him to be a living automaton, surrendering will, judgment, and conscience to the absolute dictation of others. The man who in the midst of an engagement, or before entering it, should stop to ask himself whether it was right for him to shoot down as many of the enemy as possible, would be declared unfit to be a soldier, and very likely a court-martial would declare him consequently unfit to live. Much is said in such a country as Germany, where the military regimen seems to be, if possible, even more inflexible than elsewhere, in praise of the brave soldiers as the defenders of the national freedom; but one feels moved sometimes to wonder how much less of the real freedom which befits true manhood the soldier, whose life is such as we have intimated, could possibly have even were the country to be overrun by its hereditary foes.

The hairsprings for watches are made principally by women on account of their delicate handling required.