

concerned. To say nothing of the course of argument by which Mr. Fitzpatrick sought to explain away most of the alleged evidence in support of the charges against Mr. McGreevy, the admission by the advocate that his client did receive contractors' money and apply it to political purposes, and that he was the real owner of the steamer *Admiral*, is sufficient to condemn Mr. McGreevy as unworthy of public trust and unfit to be a Member of Parliament. His refusal to give to the Committee the names of those to whom this money was handed, his attempted resignation, and his refusal to obey the summons of Parliament, and his consequent flight, have, of course, sealed his political fate. Mr. Fitzpatrick's statement that "there was no one in the Committee who would have thought better of McGreevy if he had betrayed the confidence of those who had given money for political purposes and revealed their names to the Committee," suggests a question of ethics, or rather of casuistry, which we shall not attempt to decide. The practical question is what should be done in the matter to satisfy the demands of public justice. The emphasis that has been repeatedly placed on the fact, or alleged fact, that Mr. McGreevy and others who received money improperly did not use any of it for other than political purposes, as if that fact lessened their guilt, seems of itself to indicate a low standard of public morality. Premier Mercier has permitted the results of several interviews to be published, but his statements are, in every case, devoid of anything in the shape of explanation or defence in regard to the very serious charges under which he lies. Some of his utterances are remarkable as revealing either a peculiarly guileless and childlike simplicity of mind on his own part, or a touching faith in the prevalence of these traits in the minds of other people, "especially the latter," as the reader will mentally add. In the Senate Committee Hon. F. Langelier seems to have utterly failed to establish his very serious charge of "misappropriation" against the members of the former Baie de Chaleurs Railway Company. The report, or more probably reports—for it is very unlikely that the members will agree—of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, will now be looked for with anxiety.

AN incidental result of the deluge of scandals at the seat of Government is that attention is largely diverted from the regular proceedings of the House, and the newspaper reports are correspondingly meagre. The Indian policy of the Government was up on Monday, in connection with appropriations asked for this service, and some facts were brought out which will be a surprise to many. In connection with a money vote asked for the removal of the Oka Indians, the Minister of the Interior stated that the dissatisfied Indians still refuse to go to the new reserve, and that the Government could not force them to leave, the courts having decided in favour of their claims to the lands they now occupy. Mr. Dewdney added that the Government did not wish to force them to remove. This is satisfactory, though it recalls the fact that on a former occasion the Minister did attempt to force them by a threat of withholding the Government allowance from those who refused to go. That injustice public sentiment would not permit. Mr. Dewdney further stated, in reply to Mr. Charlton, that compensation was given to those who removed, for the buildings and improvements they abandoned. This seems to require explanation, as the compensation ought surely to be paid by the Seminary for whose benefit the removal is desired. That which will attract most attention, however, is the fact that out of a sum of \$6,000 expended amongst the Indians of New Brunswick, more than \$2,000 have been appropriated for the payment of salaries of clergymen or missionaries, all Roman Catholics. The Minister had the impression that these missionaries were doing a certain amount of other Indian work, and promised to look the matter up. He further stated that in Nova Scotia most of the Indian agents were Roman Catholic priests. The matter may be thought a small one, but the principle involved is important, the more so as in the North-West large sums are being paid to missionaries of various denominations for educational work, in violation of a well understood and very necessary rule in Canadian politics. The question is whether the time has not come when the Government should make provision for the compulsory education of all the Indian children of school age in the North-West, leaving the various religious societies to carry on their missionary work on the purely voluntary principle, which commends itself to the people of Canada. This is the direction in which the Indian

Bureau of the United States Government is now finding it necessary to work, and it is doubtful if the Canadian Government can do better than to follow so good an example. The astonishing facts that among Indian expenditures were charges for beer and cigars, and that between 1883 and 1889 the expenditure for agricultural implements was under one treaty \$218,615, under three other treaties \$201,000 for the same purpose, and on a population of 12,000, and that during these years the total amount spent on agricultural implements and general expenses exceeded two millions of dollars, suggest the probability of a North-West Indian scandal at an early day.

PENDING the receipt of full reports from the International Workmen's Congress at Brussels it is impossible to form a reliable opinion in regard to the outcome of that great experiment. There is reason to believe that in some important respects it has been a failure, or at least has fallen far short of the results anticipated by the more sanguine of its promoters. Such meetings, nevertheless, suggest possibilities in the future which may well set serious people in all countries to thinking. Their great lack hitherto has been the want of unanimity. This seems to be due largely to the more sober and conscientious views of the British delegates. These must find it extremely difficult to work with the rabid Socialists and Anarchists of the continent. On more than one question it appears, from the meagre information to hand, that the Conservative counsels and votes of the British delegates prevented the international combinations which would have added tremendously to the strength of the revolutionary forces and tendencies of the Congress. In one respect only, it is said, was the necessity for international instead of national organization insisted on. This was with a view to the overthrow of militarism and the prevention of war. Of this few will be disposed to complain. Nor would it be surprising if the world's deliverance from these terrible evils should yet be accomplished through the medium of these international unions of workingmen. It is no wonder that as the working classes become more intelligent and more independent they should become the avowed enemies of the whole military system; for upon them its burden mainly rests. Theirs it is to suffer the hardships, to pay the taxes, to do the fighting and to pour out the blood, but their interests are, in most cases, but slightly involved in the results. Had the workingmen had their eyes open to their own true interests, and had they realized their own latent power and known how to develop and use it politically, wars would long since have ceased to the ends of the civilized earth.

TOUCHING the matter of workingmen's organization and influence, we are reminded of the new conditions they are introducing into the politics of the Mother Country. Late despatches tell us that in quite a number of constituencies labour candidates are to be brought out at the approaching election. To what extent this will embarrass the Liberal party, with whom they are naturally allied, does not yet appear. It is evident, however, that the presence in the ranks of any party of a number of members representing a special class, and pledged first and always to promote the legislation specially desired by that class, must give rise to considerable anxiety, and may at any moment become a source of weakness and danger. The condition is, however, unavoidable and will have to be faced. It is an inevitable result of the extension of the franchise, as that extension itself was and is an inevitable result of the spirit of the times, and the spread of intelligence among the masses. The only wise course for the so called "ruling classes," destined not much longer to rule, is to "educate their masters" as rapidly and as thoroughly as possible. As a matter of fact, one of the hopeful features of the situation is the rapidity with which the workingmen are educating themselves. Their unions and other organizations are most efficient schools, many of themselves are apt scholars, and some of the men who figure as leaders in these societies are becoming the equals in general intelligence and trained brain power of many who have long been accustomed to look down upon them from a height of fancied superiority. An illustration was afforded at the recent pan-Congregational Council in England. The reports of the papers which paid special attention to the meetings seem to be pretty well agreed that the most interesting and influential of all the meetings were those at which social and economic questions were discussed, and that at one of the most important of these meetings, when Ben Tillett was placed on the platform

beside such well-known orators and sociologists as Edward Everett Hale and Dr. Gladstone, the labour representative and late champion of the striking dockmen, delivered the most effective speech of the evening. But it can be readily understood and believed that labour representatives in Parliament can hardly be counted on as reliable party men. They may in fact yet prove as disturbing a force in party politics as the Irish Home Rulers have been.

WHEN the opium question was under discussion by the British Parliament and people a few months since, we did not hesitate to express our sympathy with Sir Joseph Pease and others like-minded, who were striving to induce the Government and nation to do what is now in their power to atone for the great national iniquity of having forced this destructive drug upon the Chinese, in spite of the most determined resistance, diplomatic and military, which that deeply wronged nation was able to offer. Recalling, probably, our remarks upon the question, some kind friend has sent us some marked copies of the *Allahabad Pioneer*, one of which has an elaborate article, of more than three columns in length, in defence of the policy and practice of the Indian Government. This article is devoted largely to pointing out the immense loss which would result to the Indian exchequer were the views of the British philanthropists to prevail. After describing somewhat fully the relation of the Government of India to the cultivation and sale of the plant, the main facts in regard to which have already been briefly set forth in our columns, the *Pioneer* goes on to picture the results that would follow from a surrender of this profitable monopoly. The loss of the six crores of net revenue now derived from this source would, it avers, plunge the Indian finances into hopeless disorder, if not the country into absolute insolvency:—

Every sort of improvement must be abandoned; railway construction must come to a check; popular education must stand still; roads and public buildings must be allowed to lapse into disrepair and ruin; the provision now made in prosperous years for relief in time of famine will of course be swept away; the military defence of the empire must be curtailed to danger point; in fact, India, instead of being one of the best administered countries in the world, must be brought to a standstill on the road to improvement.

This is, of course, a very serious question. But that sooner or later British statesmen in India and in England will have to deal with it is morally certain. The conscience of the nation is becoming so thoroughly aroused that it will not much longer consent to have its great Indian empire depending so largely on the proceeds of iniquity. It is becoming pretty clear, moreover, that, apart from the operation of the moral forces now at work, the loss of the greater part of the opium revenue is inevitable from economic causes. Chief among these is the growing cultivation of the drug by the Chinese themselves, now that their Government is permitting home production, on the principle, probably, that they may as well share the profit from the national vice which it is beyond their power to forbid or prevent. The *Pioneer* itself tells us that the revenue derived from opium by the Indian Government has fallen from eight and a-half crores estimated for 1891-92. "Inclusive of the excise on home-consumed opium," it says, "the revenue may be said to have dropped from nine crores to six, or thirty-three per cent." But from the point of view of those who are waging war, with so much determination and promise of success, upon the Indian opium monopoly, the main question is one not of finance but of ethics. However sentimental, Quixotic, or transcendental such a view may seem to politicians of the stamp of the *Pioneer* writer, there can be no doubt that to the better classes, including, it may be hoped, a large majority of the British people, there can be no counterpoise or compromise between the money and the morality considerations. The traffic which is wrong, degrading and demoralizing in its very nature, and in its whole tendency, cannot be justified to the national conscience by any considerations of expediency whatever. That conscience, once thoroughly aroused, will find a way out, or make one, as it did in the matter of negro slavery sixty years ago.

WHILE we refuse to accept the financial as an offset to the moral argument, there are other points in the *Pioneer's* article which deserve consideration. Amongst these the plea that the Government has taken "stringent measures to check the consumption of the drug in those parts of India in which it threatened to become excessive," with the result that not more than one in 500 of the popu-