

at the earliest possible moment by its annexation to the Republic, is thrown into a state of perpetual wonderment by finding how little is really known of Canadian resources or institutions, and how small a place his beloved country occupies in the thoughts of her next-door neighbours. Hence we are glad to see from time to time in American newspapers articles like the one before us, adapted to enlighten the newspaper-reading American in regard to Canadian conditions and aspirations. While we are not of the number of those who regard any scheme of Imperial Federation yet projected, or hinted at, as possible or even desirable, we are glad to see the great question of the future of our country discussed from every point of view. While we do not propose here and now to argue the question on its merits, we may just observe in passing that the writer of the article avoids what has always seemed to us the chief and crucial obstacle in the way of the movement, by treating of Imperial Federation and Imperial reciprocity as two distinct schemes, instead of regarding the latter as the indispensable, if impossible, condition of the former. On one point which is, indeed, a matter of fact, we heartily agree with the writer of the article, viz., that the strongest impetus the Imperial Federation movement has yet received has been given by the new tariff Act of the United States, and that Major William McKinley, of Ohio, may therefore be regarded as one of its most powerful promoters. What Imperial reciprocity would mean to the United States may be summed up in a sentence quoted from the *San Francisco News-Letter*. "At one fell swoop we would (*sic*) lose more than half our customers." But they are even now losing a good many of them.

THE *London Spectator* of the 20th ult. has an article on "Home Rule for Scotland," which manifests considerable alarm at the strength which this movement is developing. Reference is had in particular to two documents which have lately been issued by the Scottish Home Rule Association. One of these is an Appeal to the people of Scotland for further support. The other is a Protest against the unsatisfactory place assigned to Scottish Home Rule on the programme of the Liberal party. The appeal points out that, largely through the influence of the Association, Home Rule for Scotland has become "a burning question," and argues that better organization is all that is needed to place it side by side with the Irish movement. The Protest takes exception to the Liberal proposal to secure the boon for Ireland before paying special attention to Scotland's claim. It maintains that to grant a Legislature and Executive to Ireland and withhold the same from Scotland would be manifestly unjust. It goes further and claims that as Scotland was first robbed of her independent Parliament, she has the prior claim for its re-establishment. "The granting of Home Rule to Ireland first," it is urged, "without any promise or guarantee that the claim of Scotland to a Legislature and Executive Government will be conceded, would be destructive of the national life of Scotland, an act of treachery towards the Scottish people, and a wilful throwing away of the support of the Irish vote, which in some small degree has tempered the overwhelming vote of the English Members on Bills relating to Scotland." The Protest proceeds to show, with reasoning which the *Spectator* pronounces "unanswerable," that while to withdraw the Irish Members from Westminster would place the Scotch more than ever at a disadvantage as compared with the English, to keep them there would not mend the matter, since, even if they were allowed to vote only on Imperial questions, they might still hold the balance of power, overthrow the Government on an Imperial question, and so retard legislation pertaining to Scotland. The Protest then proceeds to cite the respects in which, it is claimed, "the Incorporation Union of 1707, against which our forefathers protested, and which was passed against the wishes of the vast majority of the Scottish people," has been found, after ample trial, to work injustice to Scotland. It has done this, they claim, by altering Scotch Laws by means of English votes, against the wishes of the Scotch majority; by retarding Scotch business; by extracting from Scotland millions more than her just share of the Imperial burdens, and by depriving Scotland of the fame derived from the deeds and genius of her people. The indictment is a very serious one and is ably drawn up. In estimating the importance of this movement, the *Spectator* is forced to admit that, though its promoters are not as yet numerous, they could, if thoroughly organized, "hold the balance in many constituencies, and therefore do a great deal of mischief."

Undoubtedly the Scotch have much cause to complain of the way in which their interests are neglected, in consequence of the perennial congestion of Parliamentary business and the absurdly disproportionate amount of time given to Irish affairs. The Scotch have waited long and patiently for needed legislation and reforms, but if once they begin to move they will present a much steadier front than the Irish. Those who think local Home Rule for the Scotch would be a national calamity will do well not to content themselves, as does the *Spectator*, with deprecating and deploring the whole agitation and scolding Mr. Gladstone, but to set about devising some less radical means of removing well-grounded grievances and so forestalling the larger movement.

THE speech of the restless and energetic German Emperor on Educational Reform, delivered at the special Educational Conference in Berlin a few weeks since, has naturally attracted a good deal of attention. We have hitherto refrained from comment, chiefly because we felt that discussion of the speech, on the basis of the meagre facts given in the telegrams, was but shooting in the dark. A lengthy article in the *Christian Union*, by the Countess Von Crackow, throws some light upon the matter, though we still find it difficult to understand whether the Emperor has any very clear ideas in regard to education proper, and whether he is bent on reform mainly for the sake of the people's well-being or simply for the sake of improving the material of the army which he usually keeps so near his eye that it shuts out the greater part of the great world beyond from his field of vision. In other words we are not yet able to decide whether he insists on educational reform mainly for its own sake, or for his own sake. However, that there is ample room for reform is but too evident. Think for instance of a national system of high schools or gymnasia, in which the pupils, boys of say twelve to fourteen years of age, are in school for six hours of the day and devote five and a-half to seven of the remaining eighteen to preparation at home. That these hours are almost exclusively devoted to brain work, or what is supposed to be such, is evident from the further fact that while about twenty-five thousand hours are devoted to schooling and home study during the course, only 657 are given to gymnastic exercises—forty hours of mind-training to one of body-training. Is it any wonder that the statistical report of increase in so-called school-diseases is appalling, and that the Emperor could say from experience, that although he and his fellow-pupils had a very good room in Cassel, it having been furnished at the wish of his mother with "a fine, one-sided light and good ventilation," eighteen pupils out of twenty-one wore spectacles, and two of those eighteen could not see as far as the blackboard. We are accustomed to think of the methods of instruction used in the German gymnasium as of the highest class, but the Emperor's statistics are well fitted to dispel the illusion. Special stress is laid upon the Latin, and the Latin essay decides the pupil's standing, "yet it is certain that not more than one essay out of twelve is got up by fair means." German history is inadequately taught, as is evident from the fact that so late as twenty years ago the study ended with the French Revolution. The last ninety years were left unmentioned. Another error, akin to that which is but now being corrected in Canada, is the neglect of the national language and literature. The Emperor is wise in determining that German, not Latin, must be made the base of the curriculum in future. We have not space to deal with the methods of reform proposed. Indeed they are neither very fully detailed, nor do they seem comprehensive or adequate, though his views and wishes may be given effect to by men better fitted to reform an educational system. As we have already hinted, the main object of the Emperor seems to be to provide men of better physique for the army. He seems to think, too, that the school-training may be made better to subserve imperial ends, and scolds the teachers for not having prevented the growth of Social-Democratism. The outside observer, accustomed to freer institutions, will, we fancy, be convinced that in this the Emperor is reckoning without his host. An inside view of the gymnasia, such as he gives us, goes far, we think, to solve the problem which has been a puzzle to many—that a people so intelligent and so well educated should bow their necks meekly generation after generation to a system of Government with so much of monarchical and military despotism in it. The answer is, we believe, to be found largely in the schools. If the Emperor sets the German youth to studying modern history and to discuss-

ing questions of government, political economy, sociology, and other present-day themes, it would be risking little to predict that thirty years hence he will scarcely venture to make his *sic volo, sic jubeo*, the end of all controversy in regard to any great public question, as he did the other day in the matter under consideration.

#### THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND TUNNEL.

THE Terms of Confederation between Canada and Prince Edward Island promised that the Island should be placed "in continuous communication with the Intercolonial Railway and the railway system of the Dominion." Has this promise been kept? When it was made, probably only a steamboat service was meant, and yet it may fairly be contended that, inasmuch as the language was not so limited, other means of communication were ever then contemplated. At any rate, it has now been proved that a steamboat service cannot be continuous and is not efficient, and that a metallic subway is. The people of Prince Edward Island, therefore, argue that, if the promise is to be kept in spirit, tenders should be invited for a subway, with the intention of constructing it, unless the cost should be found excessive. Their argument seems to me to be conclusive, and I propose in this communication to state the case for them, as a volunteer advocate and at the same time as one interested in the general well-being.

Canada carried out its engagements, in letter and in spirit with British Columbia, though the difficulties in the way and the cost were enormous. Have we lost by so doing? No; we have gained. Besides how could we lose by keeping our word?

Prince Edward Island asks us, and has been asking for years, to carry out our engagement with her, and though it has been shown that the cost will probably be next to nothing, we have satisfied ourselves with makeshifts, instead of the only thing that would be satisfactory performance. What is the reason of the different treatment in the two cases?

It cannot be because British Columbia makes a rule of sending members to support the Government, while Prince Edward Island sends a solid delegation of six to support the Opposition, though that may be a partial or party explanation. The real reason is that in the one case the popular imagination was touched, and in the other case it was not and is not. To connect two oceans seems a small thing. I have never seen a reference to the subject in any but one of the great Toronto dailies, and in that one the reference has always consisted of a flout concerning visionaries or worse people, who propose to waste millions on impossible enterprises.

I have spent two winters in Prince Edward Island as well as one summer, and know something of the stagnation in business, and other evils connected with its annually recurring long isolation from the mainland. Few who live in Western and Central Canada know what a lovely country it is, the best in the world, perhaps, for the production of root crops, cattle and men. The militia are the tallest and stoutest in the Dominion. The people are almost entirely farmers, living, now that the land question has been permanently settled, on their own farms, a healthy, sober, intelligent and moral population of 120,000, who feel themselves as completely cut off for almost half the year from the body of which they are nominally a part, as British Columbians used to be for the whole year, and who notwithstanding have been singularly patient, as well as moderate, in stating their case and pressing their demands. Surely this very moderation should make us all the more eager to do them justice. It cannot be good policy to make such a population discontented or to allow the slightest shadow to rest on our national reputation for good faith. It is not right even to delay, unnecessarily, in such a case. The Prince Edward Island farmer hears that potatoes are selling in New York for the price of oranges, and that there is a market in Britain for turkeys and eggs, but in neither case is he any the better. Six miles and a-half from his coast is a Government Railway that does not pay working expenses, and that would be glad to take his stuff down to the open port of St. John, but that lolly-covered angry strait blocks him effectually. It took Mr. Laurier and his party seven hours the other day to cross it, though there were five boats' crews together. When half-way across, Mr. Laurier must have been in a good mood to consider the propriety of a metallic subway, and he must have felt the claims of Prince Edward Island as he never felt them before. What a pity that Sir John could not be induced to visit "the Garden of the Gulf" during the Christmas or Easter holidays, and try both the *Stanley* and the open boat that is the only alternative when the *Stanley* is disabled! He would be converted as effectually as I feel sure Mr. Laurier is. The sum required would be in the next estimates, moved by the leader of the Government and seconded by the leader of the Opposition.

All honour to Senator Howlan for what he has done to press this important matter on the House for years, and all honour to THE WEEK for its advocacy. Our duty must be done, and I would call the attention of THE WEEK to the fact that something more is needed than "a Competent Commission to enquire into the feasibility and cost of the subway scheme." The feasibility has been demonstrated over and over again, under conditions, too, less