

will find, when Parliament meets, that he is in a minority, likely to be very small; when this happens he will have got his answer, and as a good citizen will know how to submit to the decision of the majority, in whom the right of rule resides.

It is reported that an American proposal will soon be made to Canada to agree to the damming of the Niagara River, above the Falls, so as to raise the water in the upper lakes some feet. Canada will be chary about agreeing to such a proposal. One result, certain to be injurious to her, might be expected: the lowering of Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River, through the driving back the water of the upper lakes through the Drainage canal into the Mississippi, where, according to some geologists, they originally found their way to the ocean, owing to the higher level of the water at Chicago than at the Falls, would not happen. But the lowering of Lake Ontario would lessen the utility of the canal system which we have perfected at a cost of \$80,000,000.

Predictions are made that, as a result of partizanship, many changes in the civil service of Manitoba will be made by the to-come-in new Ministry. Civil servants carry their official lives in their hands when they act as partizans; but if, in any instances, they be goaded into action by their superiors for the time being, and punished for what they involuntarily do, by the new comers, there fate will be hard. In the ranks of the inferior officers of the Provincial governments, partizanship has long been a crying scandal; its cure must come as a rude shock. If it is necessary to make some examples, that necessity should not be made an excuse for extending dismissals beyond the ranks of notorious and proved offenders.

THE MANITOBA ELECTIONS.

Contrary to the rule laid down by the Hon. Mr. Blake, that the true political relation between the Dominion and the Provincial Governments should be one of strict neutrality, special efforts have of late been made to make strong alliances between them. One of the results of such alliance is that in every provincial election the policy, merits, sins, and alleged crimes of the central Government comes under assault. There are some cases in which the policy of the Dominion Government is involved in a provincial contest; but most of the matters lugged in have no proper place there. The school question is one which touches Federal politics, but the extent to which it can be affected at Ottawa is one of the questions on which two parties have differed. If the extent of the right of the separate school party to appeal to Ottawa, in a certain contingency, influenced the local elections at all we should look for it in the Catholic constituencies, and there the Local Government was sustained, though not by large majorities. The leader of the Opposition, Mr. Hugh John Macdonald, happened to have at the time expressed an opinion adverse to the Remedial Bill, so that what was proposed on one side and done on the other, at Ottawa, could not resurrect the old Federal form in this local contest. Another question, which came up only in a historical form—which of two Governments had decided it correctly—arose out of the School Fund. The Local Government wished to apply this fund, by way of loan, with the duty of refunding the amount borrowed, and the Federal Government of the day, which was the trustee, refused to permit this to be done. It was the Conservative Government that refused. When the present Ottawa Government came into office the policy was changed, and

the province touched \$300,000 of the School Fund. Which policy was right depends upon how the grant of the loan will work out; if it should affect the integrity of the School Fund, an irreparable evil will have been done; if not, the venture may do no harm. Wait and see.

As if to emphasize the treaty between the local and the Federal Governments, Mr. Sifton went from Ottawa to Manitoba and took an active part in the elections. His presence there brought into prominence the remembrance of the Yukon railway contract, which was made without parliamentary authority, and which one of the two Chambers refused to ratify. Many people think that the Senate did the proper thing in throwing out the unauthorized contract; and though Manitoba was not directly concerned, it was indirectly, and what was put down to the demerit of Mr. Sifton in that unlucky venture would tell against the Local Government which he was there to support. In this way the interlocking of local and Dominion politics produces reactions, the reverse of what are intended or desired. Mr. Sifton could scarcely take the part he did without bringing in Federal politics, which he did, discussing Federal finance, tariff, canals and other questions. This raises the question whether the decision of the Manitoba electors is to be taken as a pronouncement on the Dominion questions thus raised. Here we see the inconvenience of those political treaties, which Mr. Blake could scarcely have been wrong in former days in denouncing. On the other side, appeared Sir Charles Tupper, Mr. Foster and others. They were asked why they had gone there and they said by invitation as well as in pursuance of their rights. In the United States, Federal politics enter into everything, and local politics enter into Federal, all politicians seeking the highest attainable positions. And, it seems, as if we must make up our minds to see a continuance of the same thing here, whether it is best or worst that it should be so, whether we like it or not. On the tariff question the Federal Government was on the defensive; as the tariff was attacked it was only fair that some one should be there to make a defence or apology for it. What have gone by the name of the Yukon scandals were rehearsed here, not, we may be sure, to the advantage of the local Government, which was not responsible for what was done there. Among the causes of defeat may fairly be reckoned the constant use of high sounding superlatives in praise of the Government, which all reasonable persons felt were beyond the deserts of mortal men, be their virtues what they might. This is a radical vice with heated partizans, who little think of the evil service they are doing to those on whom their disastrous patronage is showered.

BANKING REVIEW.

We give below a condensation of the figures of the statement of Canadian banks for the month of Nov., 1899. It is compared with the bank statement for the previous month, and shows capital, reserve, assets and liabilities, average holdings of specie and Dominion notes, etc.:-

CANADIAN BANK STATEMENT.

	LIABILITIES.	
	Nov., 1899.	Oct., 1899.
Capital authorized	\$76,108,664	\$76,808,664
Capital paid up	63,365,431	64,327,636
Reserve Funds	29,531,762	29,630,765
Notes in circulation	\$47,839,506	\$49,588,236
Dominion and Provincial Government deposits	5,225,266	6,277,471
Public deposits on demand	101,437,399	100,799,465
Public deposits after notice	174,437,445	172,087,773