

IN CANADA.

At the open meeting of the Woman's Canadian Historical Society, held on the evening of March 13th, Dr. Parkin, in his address upon the relation of the society to the work being done by Historical Societies in the Motherland, remarked that Canada has little appreciation of the significance of the historical problems it is now working out. He asserts that the history of Canada will be referred to in the future as marking an epoch in the history of mankind.

Canada, he says, is falsifying the predictions of the keenest thinkers and philosophers along historical lines. The French philosopher's epigram, that "colonies, like fruit, drop from the parent stem when they become ripe," shows no sign of fulfilment in Canada. Rather is she proving that, under a monarchical system, a colony can establish responsible government superior to that of any republic.

Also, Dr. Parkin considers Canada is proving that, under a monarchical form of government, a number of loosely bound states may be united into a federation stronger than that of a republic, as instanced by the United States. And greater yet, she has assimilated a foreign state having religion traditions, and language of its own into this federation. When such historical problems are being solved, it is no wonder Dr. Parkin thinks that the students of national history are looking to Canada to discover the means by which these results are being effected.

In the Remedial debate, the speeches of the Minister of Finance and Hon. Mr. Dickey on the one side, Hon. Mr. Laurier on the other, rank ready firsts. The ability of the first and last named gentlemen has often been tested and is well-known; but in the Minister of Justice we have a comparatively new man, whose real force had not hitherto been tested.

Mr. Dickey's speech was calm, dispassionate, judicial; such an argument as Sir John Thompson might have uttered under the same circumstances. Mr. Dickey must no longer be looked upon as a "coming" man, but as one who has fairly arrived. Should the honorable gentleman remain in politics—and it is to be hoped he will, since he is an honorable gentleman—he will be a force to be reckoned with, none the less strong because of its reserve.

WHEN we read that "Mr. Laurier is not opposed to Remedial legislation, provided there is a grievance," and also that "the Dominion Government is most anxious for conciliatory measures," we are inclined to wonder what all the trouble is about.

The pity of it is that these asseverations, which are assuredly true, reveal that in reality the question is merely a football, tossed up and down the political field and skilfully warded from either goal.

The Canadian public are weary of the game and will be glad to see it ended—either way.

REV. Dr. Carman pronounces in favor of National Schools, since he asserts "it is a poor comment on both Church and home to say that they cannot provide all the religious instruction necessary without looking to the schools."

The reverend doctor is apparently not aware that whatever the Church *can* do, she shows no desire to provide religious instruction beyond her own church walls or mission.

It is a common recognition among the

teachers of our Public Schools that ministers, although they have a standing invitation to visit the schools and address the pupils if they desire, never avail themselves of the opportunity.

They are secured occasionally, by special invitation, to attend the half-yearly closings—when impelled by a stern sense of duty; or no available excuse can be found. But beyond this they rarely cross a school threshold.

We do not blame the reverend gentlemen; we are simply stating a fact. Our ministers—those of the city, at least,—are sufficiently taxed without being held responsible for religious instruction in the schools; and, again, the instruction of youth, especially young children, is a cultivated gift which few ministers possess.

As regards the home; surely Dr. Carman knows how little of religious instruction is imparted in the home, because of indifference, lack of time, or ignorance.

The Superintendent of Education for New South Wales, who visited Canada as a delegate to the Colonial Conference, in a personal conversation with the writer, bore strong testimony to the inefficiency of secular schools.

"We tried them, and found them an utter failure. Our children were growing up godless," he said. "We were compelled to adopt some system of religious instruction.

In the Ontario Public Schools the Lord's prayer and Scripture reading, without comment, are all that is attempted in the way of religious instruction.

Surely that is not much in a country acknowledging Christianity.

THERE are no more influential bodies in our cities than the Boards of Trade. The fact that their influence is, as a rule, quietly exercised, by no means minimizes their importance. The series of meetings of the local board, at present being held for the consideration of questions suggested by the London Chamber of Commerce, should prove of unusual interest, especially in view of the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire soon to assemble in London.

The value of such a congress cannot be estimated. Only two previous ones have been held—and their results have directly affected imperial commercial relationships.

These meetings held by the Toronto board will enable those representing it at the London Congress to correctly voice Canadian sentiment upon any of the questions presented, besides widening the scope of vision of all who listen or take part in the discussions.

Business men of to-day require breadth of vision, and firm grasp of existing commercial conditions if they would win the Midas-touch.

SURELY Nova Scotia can forego its old expression of unwillingness, and keep Dominion Day as a public holiday with the remainder of the provinces.

We are a confederated people; we shall always remain so, since even in national government the tendency is not toward isolation, but union. Nova Scotia has sent splendid men to the Federal Parliament; she has no small share in advancing the interests of this federated Canada. Therefore, let the little province by the sea put away her affectation of discontent, and share with us in celebrating that grand conception—Confederation.

THE case of the three Seventh-day Advent-

ists, at Darrell, Ont., who appealed the decision, given against them in December, for breaking the Sunday observance law, will be watched with interest.

There is no one more difficult to deal with from point of law than the conscience crank.

"Sunday keeping is not of true faith—whatsoever is not of true faith is sin—therefore Sunday keeping is sin." Thus they reason,—or choose to reason.

As the small boy remarked, "most things can be made out somehow, if yer want to." In cases like this, one is inclined to suspect that the "want to" exists.

The Christian faith still counts its martyrs, but they are not generally found in the public highways.

SEVERAL law-abiding Ontario towns have suffered an epidemic of serious crime during the past month; Lindsay, Barrie and Brockville in wanton shooting affrays, Gravenhurst in an alleged poisoning case, Wingham in lawless outrage.

It is not a pleasant record. In each case human life has been taken by violence, with little or no provocation.

When reputable citizens are shot down upon their doorsteps, or in the street, because of some fancied grievance; when a girl drops poisoned, within a few feet of her father's house; when a village becomes the scene of cowboy lawlessness and brutality,—it is surely time to inquire more closely into the conditions which make these things possible.

Ontario is earning an unenviable reputation in the matter of serious crime.

BETWEEN studying Abyssinian orthography and geography and following the Remedial debate, the average intellect is in danger of brain softening. "Dreibund," "Dervish," "Khalifa" and "Khedive," together with two hundred and fifteen Remedial opinions and a general election ahead,—it is too much. Even Roentgen rays will fail to discover the shadow of the man who endeavors to "keep posted."

THE first decree of divorce ever granted under Roman Catholic authority in Canada was recorded a few weeks ago, in Halifax; when a husband was given complete separation from his wife, with privilege of remarriage, under recognition and approval of Pope Leo XIII. This rare concession from Rome has excited much interest in the city by the sea.

A SOCIETY has been formed to erect a memorial to Huxley, which will take the form of a life-size statue to accompany that of Darwin in the Kensington Museum.

Women are taking active interest in the fund. Many women's clubs are contributing towards it, since Huxley was among the first to encourage the higher education of women. He lectured before their societies, and favored their political enfranchisement.

IN consequence of going to press earlier than usual this month, a number of the reports relating to women's work throughout the Dominion have not arrived. We decided, therefore, to carry over the department to next month, when double space will be allotted. Secretaries will kindly remember that the 15th is the latest date when reports can be received for the next month's issue.

The scholarships offered by this journal in the Wells Business College and Conservatory of Music in return for twenty and fifty new subscribers, continue to hold good. Details have been crowded out of this issue, but may be seen in the March number.