

The territories concerned are Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. If these were formed into one province, Manitoba would be overshadowed, and the province would be too large for effective government. A way out of the difficulty would be to add a part of eastern Assiniboia and Saskatchewan to Manitoba, or to divide the three territories into two provinces. The latter would seem to be the preferable plan, though some of the western leaders, including Mr. Haultain, are advocating the one-province scheme. The valuation of lands is likely to prove still more difficult. It seems to be the purpose of the Territories to demand rather too much in the way of compensation for lands sold by the federal authorities or given to the railways. When these lands were given, they were at the sole and rightful disposal of the Dominion Government; the Territories had no controlling rights, as they will have so soon as they have become provinces, and what was disposed of under federal auspices was done in the interests of the country. Therefore, it is unwise of the Territories to assert their claims on too large a scale, as they seem inclined to do.

It is to be hoped, however, that the apportionment of this western country into provinces may be successfully arranged. It will be a step in advance which all Canada will be glad to see.

The First of our Navy

WHAT may, perhaps, be taken as the nucleus of a Canadian navy has recently been added to the fisheries protection fleet. A new cruiser, named the *Canada*, and built at the Vickers and Maxim yards in England, will at least give a greater visibility to Canada's claims upon the waters. The new vessel has been built as compact as possible and of such dimensions that she can pass through the canals, should necessity arise for her presence on the Upper Lakes. She has an average speed of $17\frac{1}{2}$ knots, and a maximum of 20 knots, and is fitted and armed with the most modern and effective appliances. The four guns with which she has been mounted are of the newest type of armament afloat.

Her total complement of officers and men will be about sixty.

The main purpose of this new cruiser is to protect the Canadian fisheries, which are more or less interfered with every year by the depredations of outsiders. Incidents have occurred within the past two years on both the Atlantic coast and the Great Lakes that have shown the necessity of some measure of protection for these important interests. During the winter, however, the *Canada* is cruising around the West Indies and may be attached to the British North Atlantic squadron for instructional purposes. The fact that all her officers have first-class gunnery certificates gives color to the theory that it is intended to make the new vessel the nucleus of a navy.

The Next Great Fair

THERE is to be another great exhibition. The fact that mammoth displays of this kind do not prove financial successes does not seem to discourage the promoters of new ones. Next summer the exhibition-goers will be asked to go to the Far West, to Portland, Oregon, where the centennial of the explorations of Captains Lewis and Clark is to be observed. The labors of these pioneer explorers are still remembered as a foundation step in the making of the great West. Crossing the Rockies, they went down the Columbia River to the Pacific in 1804-6, and were thus the real discoverers of that vast territory which has since been so marvellously developed. If expositions are to be in commemoration of historical events, there could hardly be a more worthy occasion than this.

It was at first thought that Canada would be represented at this centennial. As at St. Louis, the Canadian exhibit was to have been arranged with an eye to business, showing the opportunities and advantages for settlement in the great Canadian West, and an effort would have been made to direct a proportion of the resulting immigration into that territory. It has been finally decided, however, not to take part. Lewis and Clark did their part well and bravely, but Canada is more concerned with the future.