

would consent to the exchange, or accept the lower rates of interest, without recourse to every legitimate means of resistance. Surely, if not in the Provincial Courts, then in the Supreme Court, or, as a last resort, in the British Privy Council, justice could be obtained, and a way of escape from a deed of spoliation found. In the meantime the use of the veto in the disallowance of the Conversion Act, as urged by the *Canadian Gazette*, and by certain journals in the Dominion, would be an act of unwisdom, if not of usurpation, which the Canadian Government will hardly be so ill-advised as to commit. Such a use of the veto power is surely unwarranted by the principles laid down by Sir John A. Macdonald himself at an early stage in the history of the Dominion, and accepted by the Opposition leaders. It could scarcely be pretended that the Conversion Act, as passed by the Quebec Legislature, and expounded by the Quebec Ministry, is *ultra vires* of the Province. True, Sir John has, on a few memorable occasions, disregarded the limits he himself laid down, and interpreted and used the veto power in accordance with a much wider view of the scope of the prerogative. But his experiences in that line can hardly have been satisfactory to himself or his colleagues, or such as they would care to repeat. It is highly improbable that they will choose to engage needlessly in a constitutional struggle with Quebec similar to those in which they have already been worsted by Ontario and Manitoba. No one who understands the present temper of the Quebec people can doubt that the disallowance of the Act in question would precipitate such a struggle.

It is now morally certain that before these notes reach the eyes of our readers the Fisheries Treaty will have been finally rejected by the United States Senate. What effect the rejection, coupled with all the strangely unfriendly and unreasonable speeches that the discussion has called forth, will have upon the future relations of the two countries is a serious question. Things can hardly remain in the *status quo ante*, that is, if we can attach any importance whatever to the utterances of the American Senators, or suppose them either to represent or to affect, to any extent, public feeling in the United States. The first duty of Canada in the matter will be clear enough. The Government will be bound to put an end, as soon as may be, to the *modus vivendi*, and to resume the strict protection of Canadian territorial rights. Nothing less than this would be consistent with self respect. Every care should, of course, be taken to maintain only indisputable rights, and to avoid, as far as possible, all causes of irritation. But seizures and confiscations will undoubtedly be necessary, and President Cleveland may find himself compelled to put in force the Non-intercourse Act, or may even be tempted to do so for the sake of political effect. It is not easy to see how a proposal for new treaty negotiations could be made by either party, so long as the present Governments of the two countries are in office, nor can there be any hope of the acceptance of any possible treaty so long as a Republican majority rules the United States Senate. At the same time the idea of war, so freely entertained by fiery Senators, between two Christian nations over such a question is absurd, especially so long as one of the parties is ready and willing to submit all matters in dispute to friendly arbitration. The people, if not the politicians, may be relied on, in the last resort, to prevent so deplorable a result.

The presence of Mr. Blaine in the United States seems likely to prove a source of weakness rather than of strength to the Republican Candidate. It is always unfortunate for a party leader to find himself overshadowed by some one in the ranks of higher reputation and greater strength and influence than himself. When party managers and members are so ill-advised as to render to the lieutenant a homage which should be reserved for the captain only, the embarrassment of the situation is increased. But when the unofficial leader takes it upon himself to commit the party to propositions and views which either do not commend themselves to the majority, or which, for prudential reasons, it has been thought better not to avow, the situation becomes serious. Such, if newspaper report may be relied on, is the situation just now in Republican circles across the border. The great preparations made for Mr. Blaine's reception, produced an impression which their partial *fiasco* could not dissipate. That impression, the effect of which is to cause Mr. Blaine to be regarded as the real leader of the party and the man destined to become the power behind the throne in the case of Mr. Harrison's election, has been deepened as Mr. Blaine has proceeded from place to place in a kind of triumphal procession. But now that in his zeal for protection he is not only boldly advocating virtually prohibitory tariffs, but has declared that the "trusts," to which the party had in its Chicago platform declared itself opposed, are "largely private affairs with which neither President Cleveland nor any private citizen has

any particular right to interfere," he has greatly complicated the situation, and, as the *New York Times* observes, has done that which "not only diminishes," but, if persisted in, "will shortly destroy whatever chances remain of the success of the Republican ticket."

THE British tax-payer is truly a long suffering and much-enduring being. In a recent number of *The Fortnightly Review*, Mr. Lewis Jennings has an article on "Jobbery in Our Public Offices," which must come as a startling revelation to those who have fondly believed that a reign of economy and efficiency had at last been inaugurated in the Public Service. Mr. Jennings, be it remembered, is not a radical or a sensationalist, but a respectable Tory member of the House of Commons. Some of his statements are wonderful. Here are a few specimens culled by an English exchange: "Four or five years ago a new painting material was supplied by a Liverpool firm. It turned out worthless. Complaints were received from all quarters. 'As a matter of course, another contract was given to the same firm.' The Admiralty was at last stirred up to take some action, but even while proceedings for damages against the firm were pending, yet 'another contract with the same firm for the same paint' was entered into. The Admiralty and the War Office cost the country £563, 324 a year. 'The waste of labour that goes on daily is incredible. At the Admiralty the officials, sitting under the same roof, write long letters to one another on the most trivial subjects, just as if they were five hundred miles apart. An immense heap of correspondence may be accumulated about a stick of sealing-wax or a bit of string.' Sinecures and extravagant salaries abound in every direction. The most flagrant 'jobs' are constantly perpetrated. In order to make room for Ministerial *protégés* offices are abolished, their occupants receiving handsome pensions and bonuses, and the same offices are immediately re-established under a new name for the benefit of new comers. This is called 're-organization.'" Well may it be said that this Tory member is "making himself a thorn in the side of sin ecurists." But how much better, in its degree, is our own Canadian Civil Service?

DR. W. C. PRIME describes, in the *New York Journal of Commerce*, the reckless manner in which the lumbermen are destroying the forests among the White Mountains. Portable saw-mills are moved up and down the slopes, and the work of slaughter is carried on without the slightest regard either to economy of the rich but not inexhaustible stores, or the effects upon the climate, fertility, and beauty of the country. Another journal refers to the great evil which has been wrought in the New England States through the same destructive agency, and lays the blame in part upon the tariff tax on lumber, which is described as "a direct premium on the destruction of what forests we have left." In view of the probable removal of this tax at no very distant date Canada will do well to guard carefully those of its forests which have not been already extirpated against the same indiscriminate destruction. The success of the Joggins' raft experiment, cheapening enormously, as the method is likely to do, the transportation of round timber, is likely to stimulate the work of wholesale devastation in the maritime Provinces, unless some effectual means of restraint are adopted.

THE English papers, just to hand, comment with deep interest upon the great anti-slavery crusade which is just now being preached in England by a Prince-Bishop of the Church of Rome, Cardinal Lavigerie. This prelate has been specially commissioned by the Pope to lay before the British public the horrible details of the traffic in human flesh and blood as it is now carried on in the interior of Africa, and to arouse, if possible, the heart and conscience of the nation to more energetic action for the suppression of the untold and unspeakable barbarities which, despite the little that the cruisers along the coast can do, are perpetrated to an extent that has never been surpassed in the long history of "man's inhumanity to man." A subordinate incident, remarkable as a sign of the great change which is passing over Christendom, seems to have made a deep impression upon the journalists. At a great meeting held in Prince's Hall, at which Cardinal Lavigerie was the chief speaker, that prelate, with Cardinal Manning at his side, sat on the platform surrounded by bishops and clergy of the Anglican Church, and by Nonconformist ministers of various denominations. The sympathetic audience was largely composed of Nonconformists. The *Spectator* observes that thirty years ago, or even later, "the apparition on a common platform of two cardinals, specially commissioned by the Pope, with Anglican bishops and canons and representative Nonconformists, would have alarmed, beyond all bounds, the aggressive and obscurantist Protestantism, of which the Church Association is now the expiring champion."