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All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any other person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

LORD LANSDOWNE'S statesmanlike speech at the Ottawa farewell banquet will be read with attention by all those in either hemisphere to whom the future relations between the colonies and the Mother Country is a subject of anxious thought. For Canadians the speech possesses additional interest as reminding them of the important events in their history which have occurred during His Excellency's administration. The North-West Rebellion and the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway are two incidents of very different character which will make the period memorable. The effects of the latter in hastening the development of the resources of the Dominion, and in strengthening the bonds which unite it to Great Britain, have, as Lord Lansdowne intimated, scarcely begun as yet to manifest themselves. The fact that he was making his farewell address gave the Governor-General a freedom which he could otherwise scarcely have used to express his views upon the two questions which are just now the most prominent in Canadian politics. It is noteworthy, and perhaps significant, that at a time when most of the public men of the country are in sympathy with one or the other of the two great projects to which he referred, Lord Lansdowne is unable to regard either with favour. Unrestricted Reciprocity with the United States would be condemned, he thinks, by British, Imperial Federation by Canadian public sentiment. The one would be taken as a "moral affront" to the people of the Mother Country, the other would involve a diminution of the power of self-government, which would in the end be deeply resented by the people of Canada. His Excellency's views on both those points are entitled to much weight, as coming from one having special facilities for independent observation, though they will no doubt be unacceptable in their turn to the advocates of either scheme.

It is not wholly unfortunate that the Report of Mr. Clarke Wallace's Committee on Combines is submitted too late to admit of legislation during the present Session. The whole subject is a most difficult one, and is likely to become, at no distant day, the *bête noire* of legislators. In this case, though prompt and vigorous action to put a stop to a few of the

grosser abuses may seem desirable as much good as harm may result from a year's deliberation upon the evidence presented. Some of that evidence is certainly startling, or would be, were not the facts already, to some extent familiar. Much weight is added to the strong expressions of opinion with which the analysis of the evidence is accompanied by the unanimity of the members of the Committee. It is possible that the Report itself and the publicity it gives to the workings of the various combinations, may anticipate in some degree, the effects of the proposed legislation. The matter may, perhaps, appear in a new light to some of the more conscientious of the members of the combinations, and lead to a voluntary modification at least, of the more objectionable methods. Others less scrupulous may still profit by the warnings conveyed in the Report of the Committee and the tone of public discussion.

A SLIGHT study of the Bill which Mr. Clarke Wallace has submitted in pursuance of the recommendations of the Committee of which he was Chairman, will serve to show the difficulties in the way of legislating upon the subject. The Bill, which is admirably short and pointed, enacts penalties for offences which it constitutes and enumerates under six subdivisions. The first two of these are directed against different forms of the boycott, and will probably occasion little discussion as the principle involved is already pretty well established in legislation. The third and fourth, which forbid "unreasonably enhancing" the market price of a commodity, and "unduly restraining" traffic in it, are obviously and perhaps unavoidably vague, and open up the way for any amount of litigation, to determine the proper meaning of the terms "unreasonably" and "unduly," in the connection. Numbers five and six, which make it unlawful to limit, lessen, or prevent the production, manufacture, sale, or transportation of any article, or to prevent or restrict competition in such production, manufacture, sale, or transportation, open up a wider field of debate in regard to the principle involved as well as to the just application of that principle. It is probable that the framers of the proposed Act purposely and wisely avoided attempting clear definitions and limitations, leaving these to be determined by the courts in specific cases in which actual circumstances, causes, and effects can be taken into the account. In this way a set of precedents might soon be established which would largely guide future action. Still the need of careful consideration before the enactment of an Act so indefinite and so sweeping in character is obvious. There is otherwise, danger lest in guarding the rights and interests of consumers, those of producers and traders may be unjustly affected.

ONE or two of the more glaring defects in the North-West Territories Act were remedied on motion of the Premier, on the second reading of the Bill in the Commons. The forcible objection arising out of the absence of any Executive responsible to, or in any way representative of, the people was partially met by an amendment providing that the Lieutenant-Governor is to appoint four members of the Assembly to constitute with himself an advisory Committee, without whose consent no money vote can be initiated in the Legislature. As these advisers are in no way responsible to the Council, it is evidently within the power of the Lieutenant-Governor to make such selection as may still enable him to maintain, for the Ottawa Government, virtually absolute control of the expenditure and policy of the House. Mr. Watson's proposal that the Members of this Committee should be elected by the Assembly is rather un-English and was, perhaps for that reason, rejected by the Premier. In other respects it commends itself as reasonable and would have removed an objection which may at any time prove serious. If, as appears to be the fact, the people of the Territories shrunk from the ordinary form of responsible government through dread of its expense, this simple expedient would have given them the substance of responsibility free from that serious drawback. It seems a pity that North-West voters alone should be deprived of the ballot in elections. It is obvious that the circumstances under which the prairies are being settled, place the settlers in a position in which they specially need the protection of secrecy to render them independent of Government influence. Striking evidence of the truth of this statement was afforded by a document used during the last election, which was read by Mr. Watson in the course of the debate. The ballot too, was rejected on the score