

evidence in some cases, to settle the questions that will arise under this rule. Are we to take for a basis of calculation the whole of the tariffs, or only such parts as find, or are likely to find, application to the two countries concerned? It is obvious that, according as we proceed in this particular, we shall arrive at very different results. Frauds are guarded against by a variety of regulations, and these precautions may go far to prevent the sort of smuggling which is implied in getting in goods under a lower tariff than they are legally entitled to enter under; but when all that is possible is done, means of evading the maximum tariff will sometimes be found.

Emphasis is laid on the fact that Newfoundland is the only colony in which Mr. Goschen's plan of Naval Reserves is to be tried. The reason no doubt is that it is thought to offer some special advantages for the experiment. According to a despatch from St. John's, 500 fishermen are to be drilled by special instructors and then sent to England, which means, presumably, that not more than 500 will be under drill at once, though drafts may be made in succession as fast as they can be prepared or occasion calls for. If, as is stated, the pay of the men is to be \$50 a month while under instruction it will not be difficult to draw the requisite numbers from the allurements of the fishery. The despatch says that forts will be erected in connection with this service, though the necessary connection is not obvious to the unprofessional.

Sir Herbert Murray, Governor of Newfoundland, as the despatches between him and the Colonial Secretary show, offered strenuous opposition to the contract made between the colonial Government and Mr. R. G. Reid. If he was right in supposing the contract improvident, as we are inclined to think, he was not, as Governor, in a position, constitutionally, to oppose it after it had been ratified by the Legislature with a rare approach to unanimity, 28 against 5. The measure may be in the last degree improvident; in which case the folly of the Legislature has the right to judge what is best for the country. The Governor might have refused to give the royal assent to the measure if the contract had not been sanctioned by the Legislature. Or, carrying his objection further, he might have dissolved the Legislature, but to do so, under the circumstances, would have been prudentially unwarrantable, and great as he may have regarded the folly of the transaction, there was really nothing for the Governor to do but to accept the advice of his constitutional advisers. The measure itself appeared to us, as far as we could see, extremely improvident. It practically placed all the resources of the island in the hands of an individual to whom the transaction was largely speculative; the success of the operation must depend upon the combinations he could make. But in any case the province ran the risk of putting out of its own hands some of its most vital resources.

A meagre bill of fare is the natural accompaniment of a special session of the Ontario Legislature. The *piece de resistance* is the right of constables and owners of poll houses to vote, as they have done for many years without question. A new interpretation is now sought to be put upon the Ontario election law in these particulars, and the main object of calling an extra session is to declare that the Legislature did not intend to deprive these persons of the right to vote. Over this contention fierce war is likely to be waged. It is understood that the Government came out of the elections with a small majority—eight appears to be something like an agreed figure—but the majority

whatever it is might be seriously affected, if the courts should decide against the right of the two classes named to vote. Most of the precautions of the law are directed against the expenditure of money by candidates, and the distinction is noted that constables and poll-house owners are paid out of public money. It is probably true that a majority of these persons vote on the Government side; but as partisans, when they are so, they would vote on that side in any case, though it is conceivable that in the absence of the fiscal connection, there might be more abstentions. The real question is what the Legislature meant when it enacted the election law. This question the Opposition contend could best be settled by the courts; the Government apparently takes the ground that the Legislature best knows its own mind. That the Legislature meant to disfranchise these persons—the present contention—comes as a discovery after permitting them to vote for a long time. The proposed method of asserting their title to the franchise is not entirely unprecedented, though the precedent is not perfect and the accompanying circumstances are different.

On one only of the two other questions that may possibly be dealt with in the extra session need we look for much contention. On the fishery question the law merely requires to be adjusted to the recent decision of the Privy Council. And on the lumber question, as it will present itself, the fights are mainly in the past. It is clearly not desirable to do anything that will embarrass the international negotiations to take place at Quebec before the end of this month. To lumbermen the saw-log question and its accompaniments are doubtless the most important; but they are for Canada of relatively less importance than some other questions that will engage the attention of the International Commission, notably the adjustment of the Alaskan frontier. To Canada, at the present moment, the most important thing is that the International Commission should succeed in settling the differences between this country and the adjoining Republic.

DAIRY PROGRESS IN QUEBEC.

The establishment of abattoirs at the port of Quebec has been mooted, the project has been decried, its opponents alleging that the whole Province of Quebec does not produce beeves enough to keep such abattoirs supplied. Not sharing this belief, *La Semaine Commerciale*, the Quebec weekly trade journal, essayed to procure from the Provincial Government authentic figures showing the number of beeves and farm animals in the province. Unhappily, however, the Department of Agriculture of Quebec cannot give such figures, for a bureau of statistics, such as we have in Ontario, does not exist there. We are pleased to be told, however, that owing mainly to the efforts of Hon. Mr. Dechene, Commissioner of Agriculture, the Province of Quebec is likely soon to possess statistics of its farm animals, its acreage in crop and the annual products of its fields. This ought not to be a matter of great difficulty when we consider the network of farmers' clubs and agricultural societies that have of late years been formed, not only in the Eastern Townships, but in the north shore counties as well. And further, Hon. Mr. Dechene is not likely, we should think, to ignore the assistance of the curés in such a necessary and important work.

There has already been prepared, our contemporary reminds us, from year to year a list of the creameries and butter factories of Quebec. This list, which we must con-