

the same time to put an end to the arrogant usurpation of the Alaska Company, backed up by United States vessels, will be welcomed. A remark of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries which is taken to imply that the Canadian Government has not been consulted in the negotiations, and has no knowledge of the shape the proposed international convention is assuming, has naturally caused some surprise and uneasiness. Possibly, however, the inference is unwarranted. If otherwise, the fact must, we suppose, be accepted as incidental to the colonial status, and we must console ourselves as best we can with the *Empire's* assurance that the Canadian Government will be taken into confidence before the final ratification of the treaty.

WITH regard to the other matter, President Cleveland says:—"It is much to be desired that some agreement should be reached with her Majesty's Government by which the damages to life and property on the great lakes may be alleviated by removing or humanely regulating the obstacles to reciprocal assistance to wrecked or stranded vessels. The Act of June 19, 1878, which offers to Canadian vessels free access to our inland waters in aid of wrecked or disabled vessels, has not yet become effective through concurrent action by Canada." The defence of the Canadian Minister of Marine against this implied charge is, in effect, that while the Canadian Government object to legislate by piecemeal on the question of intercourse on the Great Lakes, it has repeatedly offered to enter into negotiations for a reciprocity arrangement which should take in not only wrecking, but towing and other commercial privileges. It is difficult to see the force of this argument. We cannot compel our neighbours to exchange commercial privileges against their will. But the business of aiding vessels in distress and danger rests on a different basis from other commercial pursuits, seeing that the safety of both property and life is involved. Mr. Foster declares, it is true, that "in no instance has the Canadian Government refused to allow the fullest liberty to rescue and help in all cases where life was at stake or property was in immediate danger." Were it always possible to communicate with the Government at a moment's notice this might be deemed a satisfactory answer. But, this is, in the nature of the case, manifestly impossible, and, as a rule, the greater the distress and danger, the less likely is it that Ottawa can be communicated with and the necessary permit obtained in time to prevent the catastrophe. The question is one not of politics but of humanity, and should be so treated. It is satisfactory to learn that Mr. Kirkpatrick intends to re-introduce his bill for reciprocity in wrecking next session, and with, as he thinks, a good prospect of success.

WE referred on a previous occasion to the decline of the comparative power of the Irish vote in the United States by reason of the growing importance of the English, Scotch and Canadian elements in the population. Recent statistics rather strikingly illustrate this view. From these it appears that during the months of September and October last the number of emigrants from England and Scotland to the United States was very nearly three times as great as that from Ireland. Taking a somewhat larger view, it is shown that during the ten months of the years 1887 and 1888, ending October 20 in each case, the numbers of English and Scotch immigrants were 119,303 and 118,511 respectively; that of Irish immigrants during the same two periods, 66,248 and 63,531. A comparison of the two sets of facts leads to the conclusion that, while the immigration from all parts of the United Kingdom is decreasing, the falling off in Irish immigration is much more marked and rapid than that from England and Scotland. Commenting on these statistics, the *British-American* says: "As citizens of these States we may look on these facts and figures with great satisfaction, and feel greatly encouraged in our work of naturalization and organization."

CONSIDERABLE discussion has been called forth by the statement attributed to one of the leaders of the Mormon Settlement in the North-West, that the members of that Society do not propose to give up the practice of polygamy in Canada. As the delegation who recently came to Ottawa to interview the Government were prompt and explicit in giving assurances that the laws of the country would be observed, it is probable that the rumour is unfounded, or that the Mormon in question does not truly represent the sentiments of the community. The whole matter is, however, in a nutshell. Monogamy is the law of Canada. The law makes no exceptions and

neither Government nor people will tolerate any. The moral well-being of the country is, in the opinions of the whole people, involved, and no compromise can be made. So long as the Mormon settlers obey the laws they are entitled to all the rights and privileges of citizenship. Whenever they, or any individuals among them, transgress the law, they subject themselves to its penalties, and there is every reason to believe that those penalties will be rigidly enforced.

THE provisions of the proposed Extradition Treaty with Mexico, a draft of which was lately submitted to the Canadian Government by the Imperial authorities, seem to be eminently reasonable and liberal. Its clauses, as drafted, cover, it is understood, no less than twenty-three offences, including burglary, fraud, attempts at blackmailing, the destructive use of dynamite, etc. The wonder is that there should be any hesitation on the part of two civilized nations in refusing to harbour each other's criminals. A nation is very uncomplimentary indeed, when it implies that it cannot trust a neighbouring state to do justice to its own subjects. It may be hoped that with the advent of a strong Republican administration at Washington, some effective measures may be adopted to wipe out the stigma which now rests upon both the United States and Canada, in consequence of each having been made a refuge for the other's criminals. It is comforting to know that the fault does not lie with Canada. By the way, why should our Government not take the initiative and make provision for the surrender, under proper legal safeguards, of our neighbour's criminals, irrespective of their readiness to reciprocate. We can better afford to make the United States a present of our criminal refugees, than to retain and possibly assimilate the foul stream which is continually flowing to us across the borders.

THE *New York Nation* says that from every quarter of the land there are unmistakable indications that the clamour to spend all the surplus in one way or another is going to be tremendous. Not a doubt of it. A few hundreds of millions of dollars in the national treasury, for which there is no public use or need, must be a terrible temptation to the victors. It will require great strength on the part of President Harrison and his cabinet to resist the determined raids that are sure to be made. The question involves not only the disposal of the accumulated surplus, but the policy of the party in regard to tariff reform. If, as alleged, there is a large body of tariff reformers within the Republican party, they will need to be up and doing, or they may find the surplus speedily vanishing when the new administration comes into power, and so the ground which affords their best leverage for securing that reform slipping from under their feet.

WHEN England was threatened with war in the East some three years ago, a very pleasing incident was the voluntary offer of assistance, in men and money, by a number of Indian feudatory chiefs. Before leaving India Lord Dufferin took occasion to express in the presence of several Punjaub chiefs and a number of generals, the grateful sense retained by his Government of this mark of good feeling and liberality. The retiring Viceroy at the same time informed them that the Government had resolved not to accept the pecuniary aid so generously proffered, but that it would enlist the co-operation in other ways of those chiefs with specially fine fighting material at their command. They would be asked to reorganize a portion of their armies, making them thoroughly efficient, while each would remain a purely State force, recruited in the territories of its chief, and serving within them. These troops would be gradually raised to such a pitch of efficiency as would enable the Imperial Government to use them as part of its available resources to meet external danger. British officers would be appointed to advise and instruct the chiefs. The chiefs were, however, assured that no undue advantage would be taken of their loyalty or liberality, and that in no case would a native State be asked to put too heavy a strain upon its means for the maintenance of its military force.

THE British Government is placed in a most embarrassing position by the turn of affairs in Suakin. In justice to its present members, it must be borne in mind that the presence of a British force in Suakin is not the result of their doing. That force being there, besieged and hard pressed, and being, as it appears, quite willing to accept reinforcements, whether absolutely in need of them or not, the Government was forced to decide whether to help, or

not to help. In almost any event it is pretty sure to come in for a liberal amount of blame. Were help not to be sent and a disaster to the Suakin garrison follow, the national indignation would know no bounds. Should the reinforcements be sent and be successful in breaking up the siege, no permanent result would follow. A little time would be gained, nothing more, while the Government would merely be so far committed to further operations, which both parties wish to avoid. To withdraw the troops from Suakin would seem like a confession of defeat, and would be so interpreted by the Arabs, with disastrous consequences, perhaps, to Egypt. Thus the situation is beset with difficulties on every side. Meanwhile the Government has apparently resolved to meet the present emergency by reinforcing the Suakin garrison, leaving the future to take care of itself. It would be interesting to know what their critics would do if they were in power.

THERE is now not much room for doubt that Germany will shortly be driven to adopt vigorous measures against the natives of East Africa who have been making such short work of the German Colonization Company. The martial spirit of Bismarck and the Reichstag is being aroused. The old story, so familiar in the history of English colonization, will, it is not unlikely, be repeated. The enterprise begun by private individuals for commercial purposes will develop into a national expedition with conquest and domination as its results. The blunders of the Company and the insurrection thereby provoked have paved the way for military occupation and appropriation. Present indications seem to point to the Sultan of Zanzibar as the first victim. True, the loss of power and prestige among the native tribes which is among the first fruits of his German alliance, is a pretty severe punishment in itself, but it is not unlikely that to this will be added a sterner visitation by Germany, as a penalty for his inability to control his barbarian subjects under the provocation of German superciliousness and outrage. The end, however, is not yet. The climate is pretty sure to fight effectively on the side of the natives. Even Bismarck will hesitate long before he sends the German soldiers to the unequal contest with it, and operations by means of native mercenaries will require a skill and tact which the German colonizers have not yet exhibited, to ensure their success. Meanwhile, it will be a serious question for England, how far her co-operation in the blockade may tend to compromise her in the eyes of the natives. It would be by no means surprising should the native disaffection spread to the detriment of the English Company's enterprise. It will certainly redound greatly to the credit of the latter if by fair play and sagacity they succeed in peacefully carrying out their projects.

THE Floquet Ministry in France have committed one of their worst blunders in proposing to tax professional incomes and incomes from invested capital. Such taxes are always obnoxious, as involving inquiry into the private affairs of the subject, and the French people are said to be more averse than most others to having their privacy invaded by public officials. But the Ministry are hard pushed for money, and can probably find no alternative. Generally, all such taxes are objectionable, not only on account of the inquisition into personal affairs they involve, but also and especially on account of the facilities they give for fraud. In our own cities the income tax operates unquestionably as a premium upon dishonesty, a fine for conscientiousness, and an agency of injustice. If the system cannot be replaced by a better, some means, such as the publication of complete lists of incomes taxed and amounts paid, should be devised to correct the glaring inequalities in its working. This would increase the annoyance of publicity, but might go far to discourage undervaluation, and prevent petty evasions.

THE SACRIFICE OF EDUCATION.

WE have, on various occasions, drawn attention to the serious evils connected with our present methods of education, and more especially with the complicated system of examinations, involving, as it does, the fullest development of the system of cramming. It is, therefore, with the greatest satisfaction that we have read the protest, signed by nearly all the greatest scholars and teachers in England, and enforced by papers proceeding from some of the most eminent of them, setting forth the great and growing evils of various kinds connected with the present system, which they declare to be a sacrifice of education to examination.