

government statement—though it may be some months yet before the "paid-up" column shows material expansion. While the disposal of shares *en bloc* to British investment interests (as is being arranged for in the case of Molsons Bank) is exceptional, there is no doubt that considerable capital from abroad will be brought in by the issuing of new stock by other banks.

THE LONGUEUIL DEMONSTRATION AND THE NAVY QUESTION.

The Nationalist demonstration at Longueuil was an interesting revelation of the conflicting opinions of that section of the community which is, like Mr. Monk, opposed to Canada taking any share in the naval defence of the Empire; and it was not without features which must be most gratifying to Canadian patriots of every race and creed. Too often the speeches from a political platform come out like bullets from a single mould. The Longueuil utterances were characterized by individuality, and some of them were as remarkable for their sweet reasonableness and fairness as others were for their pettiness and lack of any spirit that could truly be called, in any sense of the word, "National." The fact that the speakers were all united in an unfortunate conclusion in no way militates against the fact that some of them gave the strongest possible evidence of good faith, patriotism and loyalty. For instance, Mr. Philemon Cousineau, M.L.A., like Balaam, the son of Beor, called to curse the enemies of Balak, the son of Zippor, King of Moab, altogether blessed them. Like Balaam, Mr. Cousineau spoke on behalf of the Lion and the Unicorn, so emphatically as to recall the words of the prophet of old: "God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn; he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce these through with his arrows. He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up? Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee."

Philemon, the son of Cousineau, said among other things; that he was as loyal to British connection as the strongest imperialist, and that if the Empire were seriously threatened with war he would favour Canada helping Great Britain. Whether we agree or disagree with Mr. Cousineau's conclusions, we are bound to rejoice in the large, broad-minded public spirit and common sense which appeared to actuate him.

Some of the other speakers who were invited to curse Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Borden and 'Imperialism' uttered their anathema in a perfunctory fashion, apologetically, and without much bitterness. One or two showed themselves to be sadly lacking in the gallic sense of humour, for instance, Mr. Fournier who attacked the Governor-General on the ground that one of his ancestors, Colonel Grey, a British officer, fought on the side of the English troops at Ste. Eustache, and that His Excellency's aunt was the wife of Lord Durham. We ought to have a statute of limitations with

regard to such references, applicable to people who are lacking both in humour and in good taste. On which side would Mr. Fournier expect a British officer to fight? And in the language of Mr. Bunthorne, we would ask Mr. Fournier: "Had you an aunt?" If Mr. Fournier ever had an aunt, we would conjure him by the memory of that aunt, not to blame other people for their selection of their aunts' husbands (especially when the ladies make as good a match as Lord Durham); and not to blame an aunt for the selection of a nephew, even when she chooses something about as good as Mr. Fournier.

Mr. Cousineau declared himself willing to accept loyally and faithfully the judgment of the Canadian people, no matter of what provinces. That is the true national spirit; but we will go a step farther. If it were possible to constitute the people of Quebec alone, a grand jury to decide this question of Canada's share in Imperial Defence, we believe their finding would be sound and righteous. As conditions exist, feeling themselves in a minority in the Dominion, some of them may be sensitive about being hustled into a position not of their own choosing. Left absolutely to themselves and feeling the responsibility of their choice, we believe that very few indeed would deliberately choose to abandon the shelter of the flag which renders inviolable all that they hold most dear. Having made that choice, very few would repudiate the responsibility—rather the privilege—of taking their part in the defence of the flag. We English-speaking Canadians have no right to expect our French Canadian fellow subjects to regard these questions from precisely the same point of view as ourselves. But we must remember that for every reason we have to prize British connection, they have ten reasons. They are not like the conies, "a feeble folk" by any means. On the contrary they possess a distinct national character, which is all their own, and which it would be a misfortune to all Canada for them to lose. But they are relatively a very small minority now of the people of this continent. They are in nothing like complete sympathy with the spirit of either the French or the American Republic. Their only hope of development upon the lines of their own natural choice is in the maintenance of their present status and we have the utmost confidence in their sensible determination to maintain that status at any cost. The charter of their liberties, the Magna Charta of Quebec, is the British North America Act. It protects them from encroachment alike from the United States, and from the people of other Canadian provinces. Mischief makers, Adullamites, men of parochial ideas, and sincere but misguided patriots, there must be in every community; but we are much mistaken if Sir George Cartier was not right when he declared that the last shot in defence of British connection would be fired by a French Canadian. Let us hope there may be no firing; that the battle flags may soon be furled for all time. In the meanwhile what is most needed in the interests of our common liberties and in the interests of universal peace, is the demonstration in the face of the whole world of a united Empire.