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WE are very glad to see in the *Globe* a generous article on the retirement of Mayor Manning. At the time of the election enthusiastic partisans of his rival told the electors that they had to choose between Christ and Barabbas. About their identification of their own candidate with Christ we need say nothing, except that we hope their expectations of a millennium will be fulfilled; but decidedly they were hard on the supporters of Barabbas. The city has lost in Mr. Manning a Mayor who thoroughly understood its interests, was personally bound up with them, and had them thoroughly at heart: he had done good in his first year, and he would have done more in a second. He owed his rejection partly to his having guarded the city treasury too well. Against transgressors of the liquor law he did his duty without flinching. He has lived under the eyes of his fellow-citizens, and his moral character nobody has ventured to impeach. Boycotting by the Trades Unions was, as we have said before, the main cause of his defeat, and of a defeat incurred in that way no man need be ashamed.

A NEW, or revived, St. George's Society was opened at Paris on Friday last with a dinner, which was signally successful. These societies are gaining ground in the United States as well as in Canada. It is not only in relieving English emigrants that they are useful. They serve also as rallying points for English feeling. No good citizen or right-minded person wishes the English to band together for political influence, much less for political plunder. But it is good for the country, as well as for themselves, that they should hold their own and not leave a British colony to the domination of the Irish vote, or allow its influence to be abused by politicians cringing to that vote for the dismemberment of the United Kingdom.

RUMOURS of a probable Indian rising are still rife; but it is difficult to find any real foundation for them. It will not do for this country to become involved in chronic trouble with her Indians, and it is to be hoped Government will keep a watchful eye on any symptoms of disquiet among them. This, there is every reason to believe, they are doing; so that no doubt the country may rely upon any sputter of revolt—should such arise—being promptly quenched. But, in fact, our North-West is much in the same circumstances as were once New Zealand and South Africa. While the British Government were willing to send Imperial troops there for the protection of the early colonists, with the advantage to these of the attendant large outlay of Imperial funds, Maori wars and Kaffir wars were perpetually occurring; but since the day the Imperial Government, adopting a different policy, threw the onus and cost of the defence of the colonists on themselves, there has been no trouble whatever with either Maori or Kaffir. It may, perhaps, be a good course for the Dominion Government to adopt a similar policy in the North-West. The Dominion already pays for a force of a thousand mounted police. If trouble should arise with the Indians there, it will spring from causes beyond the control of the Eastern Provinces of the Dominion; and it will be quite fair—and perhaps most efficient—to throw at any rate the cost of repressing any disturbance on the people for whose protection it is incurred. We speak on the supposition that the Dominion officials do their duty: if they do not, the Government by which they are supported and the people who support that Government are responsible.

WITH much of what Mr. Blake said at the London banquet last week we are quite unable to agree; yet there is a great deal that commands our cordial assent. If, as he states, flour milling has been destroyed by legislation, then a most important Canadian industry has been lost; for, as we believe, the time is fast coming when wheat can be profitably exported from this continent only in the shape of flour. The Tories cannot complain if they are taunted with causing the present ebb in the tide of prosperity: they foolishly claimed for their fiscal policy the whole credit of the prosperity that set in with it, and they must now therefore bear the discredit of the reverse condition. Yet, in fact, neither is due, except perhaps in a very small degree, to legislation: the depression here is but the distant swell of a wave that arose elsewhere; and to attempt to affect it by legisla-

tion is as the play of children on the seashore. That labour should not be specially protected is a doctrine we can cordially endorse, but the depression of trade the Tories are accused of intensifying is, as we say, in the main quite beyond the power of any Government to affect; and it is difficult to see how the Tory Government retarded the arrival, diminished the extent, or shortened the duration of the prosperous period. Rather, we should say, they created a short-lived prosperity that did not exist elsewhere. They, at any rate, kept the Canadian market for Canadian manufacturers, who, it is true, overdid their limited field. But would matters have been better if the Canadian markets had been thrown open to Americans in the hour of their distress from lack of outlets for their surplus commodities? Mr. Blake gives utterance to the sentiment of the whole thinking part of the nation when he denounces the extravagance of the present Government. The Liberal Party, when it shall supersede the Conservative Government, cannot indeed dispense with a heavy rate of taxation—that is incurred and can be diminished only through a great increase of population—but it may well better our present condition by wise adjustments and judicious relaxation, honesty, economy, and retrenchment in the expenses of Government. Great dissatisfaction certainly exists in the Lower Provinces. The National Policy is directly inimical to the interests of these Provinces; and the Tories, whatever their promises, are powerless to do a work forbidden by nature. They cannot overcome natural obstacles to interprovincial trade, and it is these that are breaking the Confederation into fragments. Mr. Blake's references to Reciprocity and the Fisheries are not, it seems to us, quite consistent. In the one case he laughs at Government for daring to put pressure on our powerful neighbour—which puny effort, he says, has resulted in *not* obtaining Reciprocity; in the other case he seems to blame Government for surrendering privileges to this same Power with a view to ensuring friendly relations and an extension of commercial intercourse between the two peoples.

A POTENT cause of the feeling of dissatisfaction within the Confederation is the granting better terms to Quebec, whose politicians have been able to obtain this concession by selling their votes to Government; and Mr. Blake most justly condemns this disturbance of the due balance among the Provinces, which, if persisted in, is most likely to split them asunder. The gerrymander, for such it was, of the Ontario constituencies is justly condemned by Mr. Blake, and a determination to undo the wrong expressed; but the evil example set by Sir John has been imitated by Mr. Mowat, and a reform of the Liberal procedure will have to follow the rectification of Tory work. The power lately enjoyed by the Provinces of settling each its own franchise may be, as Mr. Blake says, consistent with the federal spirit of the neighbouring Republic; but is it with the Canadian system? If a learned correspondent of THE WEEK be right—(Mr. Edward Douglas Armour, on *Dicey on the Constitution of Canada*, THE WEEK, Jan. 7.)—Canada is a Dominion divided into Provinces, whereas the United States are, what their name implies, a number of separate States confederated; and regarding the Dominion as such an independent political entity, it seems but reasonable that its Parliament should have the power of regulating its own franchise; for only so can every class, and the minorities in the several Provinces, be equally and surely represented. Still, to this view Mr. Blake may consistently be opposed. The country having once embarked on the C. P. R. enterprise, it was, we think, a wise course to get it completed as soon as possible. While incomplete there would always have been danger of a stoppage of the works; which, notwithstanding the great expense already incurred, would have deprived the whole of all available value. Millions of acres of arable land in the North-West were valueless without the railway, and whatever this may cost the country, against the cost must always be set the value the railway has added to the lands it has made available for cultivation and settlement. Mr. Blake very properly condemns the outside operations of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company—operations which should have been carefully guarded against at the inception of the undertaking; but he is somewhat premature in designating the loans made to the Company an expenditure of the taxpayers. He reckons the amount of burden on each head of a family. On that principle he ought *per contra* to credit each one's account with his share in the value of the railway. That the rich possessions of Canada in the North-West should be turned into "a happy hunting ground," as Mr. Blake says, for broken-down politicians, is indeed a public scandal; but the simple truth is, the whole business—the C. P. R. and the North-West lands alike—is a public danger to the well-being of the body politic. There can be little doubt that the interests of the country would in this respect be served by a change of Ministry. The railway is now built and out of danger, and a new Administration, not being entangled with its