

public purse, no less than eight Lieut. Governors, all with good salaries, official residences, and liberal contingencies. When the whole of the sum total of expenses of every kind is added up, in connection with these nine officials for a single year, it nearly takes the breath away from a man of ordinary ideas. However, we are given to understand that it is all a noble system of government, for which all ought to be devoutly thankful. Perhaps it all is. It might look like meanness or disloyalty to say anything else. It might look like false economy to reduce the number of these officials or to reduce the expenses in connection with any one of them. It takes quite an amount of educating up, however, to convince some men of all these things, and TRUTH would rather not undertake the task. The gentlemen who strut about each year at the opening of our sessions of Parliament, in their gold lace, satin breeches, and Windsor uniform generally, have looked carefully into the whole thing and they assure the public that the "Father of Confederation," under whose wise guidance all these things have grown up and continue to thrive, ought to be the proudest man in the whole country.

Large as these payments may seem, it is not at all probable that the individual recipients have been able to have saved much out of the apparently large salaries. Every such official is expected to "maintain the dignity of the office, and to do so in a manner becoming usual ideas, great dinners must be given to a great number of favorites, and a vast deal of expensive official display of various kinds must be indulged in. So long as the "dignity" idea is kept up to anything like its present standard, the people must expect to foot up just such enormous bills as they have been doing these years past. Canada is trying to put on official style and Canadians must pay for it all. Days may come when more moderate and more rational ideas may prevail in regard to such matters, but there are not now any probabilities of them. The tendency appears to be towards additional extravagance and display rather than otherwise.

More Disallowance.

The "License muddle" difficulty so far as regards the conflict of authority between the Provincial and Dominion Governments, reached another stage last week by the act of the Dominion Government in disallowing the Act passed by the Provincial Legislature last session, requiring heavy fees of all those taking out Dominion licenses. As to the propriety of the act discriminating so heavily against the Dominion license holders there is a good deal of honest diversity of opinion. On the whole it does not appear probable that the Provincial authorities much strengthened their position in taking that step. The action on arbitrarily disallowing the measure will go towards intensifying the struggle about "Provincial rights." If the Ottawa Cabinet intend to disallow any and every act of any of the Provincial legislatures which may seem to them useless or unwise measures, or in any other way obnoxious, there will surely be some serious complications before long. The prospects now are that the issue in re-

gard to provincial rights will be a very serious political issue in the near future.

As matters now stand there is no law in force in Ontario requiring any Provincial fee to be paid by those taking out Dominion liquor licenses. The Confederation Act clearly states that the provinces shall have the authority to impose license fees, for revenue purposes, but the Ottawa authorities decide to disallow the only Act specifying the amount that shall be paid for the Dominion licenses. There is therefore now no law in regard to the matter. It is understood, however, that the Ottawa authorities have issued circulars to all their license holders to tender the same fee as they would have been obliged to pay for an Ontario license. Practically this is taking in hand to decide just what amount of tax the Province shall have for revenue purposes out of the license business. Probably this action was a good deal better than no action at all, but it has an awkward look, from a constitutional stand point.

It is now pretty well understood that a man having obtained a liquor license from either set of issuers will be allowed to sell during the year without hindrance, or at least until a final legal decision is obtained from the Privy Council. It was announced in the House of Commons on behalf of the Government, that the Dominion officers would not make any prosecutions under the McCarthy act, unless in a case or two out of which to make a good test case. It is pretty well understood that the Provincial authorities will pursue a very similar course. Probably no other would have been advisable on either hand as with all the "glorious uncertainty of the law," as interpreted by the Courts no man can tell just what decision will be reached, or who may have to back down.

The practical effect will be that a much larger number of liquor shops will be in full blast this year than would have been but for this conflict. The three licenses issued on the Island here at Toronto are evidences of the additional facilities for liquor in consequence of the system inaugurated. Probably there are a large number of others of a similar kind in other municipalities. The conviction must be strong with many that the Dominion authorities have taken a very serious responsibility in this whole matter. The provinces had exercised the unquestioned right of the issue and control of the license system for fifteen years and it was not to be expected that the authority would be yielded up, under the circumstances, without an undoubted necessity for doing so. The Dominion authorities proceeded, in the face of these facts, to issue a large number of licenses on the strength of a law which they freely admit is of doubtful validity. It is sincerely to be hoped that no greater evils will come out of all this than a considerable increase, for the time being, of the number of liquor shops, a large additional expense to the people in any case, a good deal of serious legal confusion, and a good deal of addition bad feeling. These evils are all great enough, but even more serious and additional ones may come out of opening up this difficulty before it can be finally settled.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Its Present Position and Prospects in Great Britain.

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In speaking of the prospects of Women's Suffrage in the old country, it would be an invidious distinction to specify England, as though that portion of the Kingdom alone were dealing with, and had any special sympathy for, this great question of the day.

Beginning about forty years ago, when the exclusion from the platform of the ladies who were sent to support Mr. Lloyd Garrison as delegates from the United States to the Anti-Slavery Union holding its meetings in London, had aroused the indignation, not only of the ladies themselves, but of lovers of justice throughout the country, the question of Woman's Rights has gone on steadily growing both in importance and gravity until it is the foremost question, with perhaps the exception of temperance, before the British Government to-day. Twenty years ago, it had come to be pretty well understood that the greater public right of a man—namely the franchise—was also the greatest public right of a woman, and that as a part of the governed body, it was her right as truly and upon exactly the same ground as it was that of man. Looked upon, as all marked departures from use and wont are looked upon by the prejudiced and unthinking, as a very radical—and consequently dangerous—measure, the right of duly qualified women to vote, or, as it has come to be called, Woman's Suffrage, nevertheless found strong and courageous friends who were not afraid to say what they thought, at the risk of social ostracism, in that great centre of independent thought and rapid action, Manchester. Women of intellect and social standing, like Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy, Miss Lydia Baker, and Miss Duncan McLaren, thought, spoke, and acted, and together with others of their sex, and many gentlemen of enlightened views, formed an Association,—the National Society for Women's Suffrage—now in its eighteenth year, and soon after started an organ—*The Women's Suffrage Journal*—now in its fifteenth year.

Working from these centres with that intense energy which distinguishes the true believer from the mere professor, the Association has thrown a network of influence over the whole of the British Isles and Europe.

Early in the history of the struggle a similar success attended their teachings to that which has lately been accorded the Canadian Women's Suffrage Association, on behalf of the women of Ontario, that is, duly qualified widows and spinsters were granted the municipal and school suffrages. This latter suffrage women have enjoyed in Toronto ever since the foundation of the Public School system, or nearly so; but until about twenty years ago there was no compulsory national system of education in England, though large provision for cheap and good education had always been part of what we may call the social government of Great Britain, and on many Boards connected with these trusts—royal and private—women sat, either in person or by proxy. Now, how-

ever, the London School Board, the largest and most important in the Kingdom, embraces among its members no less than seventeen ladies, all of equal social and intellectual standing with the gentlemen around them.

Influenced, undoubtedly, by the echoes that came to them across the bit of open sea that lies between them and the centre of so great a movement, the House of Keys passed an Electoral Reform Act for the Isle of Man, in the year 1880, which Act received the Royal assent on the 6th January, 1881, and became law on the 31st of the same month. This Act was for the purpose of giving women among others the parliamentary vote, and was the first success of the kind in the whole world. The general election under the new Act began on the 21st March of the same year, and so far from showing any indifference to their newly bestowed right, the Manx women came forward anxiously to use it faithfully. The woman's franchise in the Isle of Man is restricted to property owners, of whom there were at the time of the passing of the Act about 1,000 registered, but the friends of the full suffrage for women are looking forward to the addition of all women equally qualified with men, at no distant date.

Another gratifying and most esteemed success in the direction of Women's Suffrage also signalized the working year 1880-81 in the bestowal of the Municipal franchise on the women of Scotland. "A Bill with this object was introduced by Dr. Cameron, M. P., for Glasgow, and successfully piloted by him through the House of Commons. It passed without debate on division and was introduced in the House of Lords by the Earl of Camperdown. The Act received the Royal assent on June 3rd 1871, and came into force on the first of January, 1882." The result of this Act has been to put many ladies on various School Boards throughout Scotland, Miss Flora Stevenson going on to the Glasgow Board at the last election by acclamation, to the very great disgust of one nominee, who piously hoped "that if the lady put herself forward, or in any way interfered with the action of the gentlemen, they would promptly repress her." For which speech the gentleman was rewarded by the electors present with a derisive guffaw, and several well-aimed sneers.

That clever Scotland should, however, remain satisfied with only partial success in any matter would be a new thing, much less in so important and valuable a matter as the franchise for its duly qualified women, and therefore it can easily be understood how great was the impression made and how high the hopes rose of the women who listened to, and the friends of the cause who read the report of, Mr. Gladstone's Mid-Lothian speech before the general election of 1880, when he pointedly urged upon women their duty to their country and to the race. But time has shewn that in thus appealing to women Mr. Gladstone used the ambiguity of oratory, and when the opportunity comes for him to give women liberty to do that duty in the only legitimate manner, he refuses them it in fact, by omitting them from his new Franchise Bill.