

to the proposition and its refusal themselves showed, by internal evidence, that the transactions recorded had been preceded by other communications on the subject. The quotation we have made seems to show a remarkable change of opinion or attitude on the part of Secretary Bayard. Whether the causes of that change were in any way related to any position or action taken by the British members of the Commission is, in the absence of more light, merely matter for conjecture. Unless fuller information be forthcoming it is evident that the members of Parliament will be obliged to discuss the question largely in the dark. It would be unfair to assume that either Sir Charles or the Canadian Government is directly responsible for withholding the necessary information.

ALL supporters of the policy of protection to home industries will watch with special interest the course of the Government in the debate on Sir Richard Cartwright's unrestricted-reciprocity resolution, which will probably be under discussion by the time these notes reach the reader. To an onlooker the Government would seem to be in a dilemma, in which it will find it hard, if not impossible, to preserve its consistency. It is assumed that Sir John and his colleagues will oppose Sir Richard's motion, as indeed they are pledged to do by their own past words and record, and by good faith to all who have been induced to invest money under the National Policy. And yet, if Sir Charles Tupper, as the representative of the Ministry, formally offered to throw in the Canadian inshore fisheries as a make-weight in order to secure the boon of reciprocity, how can that Ministry now condemn a resolution in favour of such reciprocity without any special consideration? In view of the ostensible ground on which the proposal of the British plenipotentiaries was declined, it cannot be argued that the United States have refused reciprocity itself. The only reasonable inference is that in making the offer disclosed in the protocols, though no limit to the extent of the reciprocity proposed was indicated, the Canadian Government had no intention of agreeing to a free interchange of manufactured goods, unless perhaps in certain specified classes. It could have contemplated nothing like the unrestricted reciprocity of Sir Richard Cartwright's resolution.

THE North-West disallowance question has entered upon a new phase. The presence in Ottawa of Messrs. Greenway and Martin, the Premier and the Attorney-General of the Manitoban Administration, at the invitation of Sir John A. Macdonald, indicates that the time for negotiation with a view to the settlement of the difficulty has, in the opinion of the Dominion Government, at last arrived. To most thoughtful persons it has been matter of wonder that some such action was not long since taken. We have never believed it possible that the Dominion Government would attempt to enforce the arbitrary veto of Acts of a Provincial Legislation, which were clearly *intra vires*, at the point of the bayonet. Yet to this, as one of the alternative issues, matters have for some time past been rapidly tending. It is absurd to suppose that Sir John and his colleagues can have either interest or pleasure in thrusting an odious and ruinous railway monopoly upon an unwilling Province. Their action hitherto seems explicable only on the supposition of some private understanding with the Company, some promise, actual or implied, to protect its interests beyond the points indicated in the terms of the contract. Assuming the existence of such an obligation, it is easier to understand why Sir John should have waited for the affair to assume its present serious and even threatening aspect before making overtures for settlement. It may have been deemed wise or necessary to let the people of Manitoba prove that they were thoroughly in earnest, and would brook no further denial of their rights, in order that the fact might be used as a lever in obtaining the necessary concessions from the Company. The injury that would result to the Canadian Pacific Railroad Company from another insurrection, whether successful or unsuccessful, would far more than offset any advantage they could hope for from monopoly. It would be premature, however, to say the least, to assume that the Manitoba question is settled. It is not known, at the date of this writing, that any progress has yet been made towards settlement. Thus far the Manitoba ministers are said to be very emphatic in their resolves to accept no compromise. In fact, the state of feeling in Manitoba, as indicated by the recent elections and otherwise, seems to be such as nothing short of an absolute surrender of the monopoly can satisfy, so that the delegates have really no choice in the matter. Whether the Ottawa Government is yet prepared to yield anything remains to be seen. A respected correspondent of THE WEEK, writing from Brandon, argued in last issue that we were mistaking the voice of Winnipeg for that of the Province. The utterances of the Board of Trade in Brandon, the unopposed return of Mr. Smart, Minister of Public Works in the Greenway Cabinet, for that constituency, and the triumphant success of the three Ministers whose

elections have been contested, seem scarcely reconcilable with our correspondent's view of the case. Be that as it may, it can scarcely be doubted that a settlement on the basis of free railway construction would give a great impetus to the prosperity and progress of the Province.

THE effort that is being made to form a Prohibition Political Party in the Dominion is not likely to result in a very serious weakening of either of the existing parties, or a very great strengthening of the movement for prohibitory legislation. Experience has thus far shown pretty clearly that both Liberals and Tories are slow to renounce their party allegiance for the sake of their prohibitionist convictions. It is, moreover, questionable if the new party would receive many recruits from the ranks of the really independent. Meanwhile, apart altogether from the fundamental principles involved, those who are honestly, if mistakenly, striving to secure the enactment of a prohibitory law for the Dominion would do well to weigh calmly and thoughtfully the teachings of experience in other countries. Two very suggestive facts are just now before us. In Portland, Maine, a municipal contest of much interest was fought a couple of weeks since. General Dow, the veteran prohibitionist, was one of the candidates for Mayor, and his candidacy was understood to be solely in the interests of a better enforcement of prohibition in the city. He was defeated by a majority of over 1,600. And, strange to say, in this chief city of the State which has been under a prohibitory law for a quarter of a century, his crushing defeat was ascribed to the liquor and saloon interest! Another suggestive fact, with a different bearing upon a well known prohibitionist position, was that stated at a temperance meeting a week or two since in Brooklyn, by Mr. Seth Low, one of the advocates of the High License Bill now before the New York Legislature. Referring to his experience while Mayor of Brooklyn, Mr. Low instanced one police precinct, occupied chiefly by Germans, where the number of arrests for drunkenness in a given year was only one-half of one per cent. of the population, while in another precinct, where distilled liquors were the principal beverage, the number of arrests exceeded eleven per cent. of the population. These facts show the difficulties with which the whole question is beset, and point to the need of wise and dispassionate caution on the part of all who are sincerely devoted to the cause of temperance.

IT is gratifying to all friends of higher education in Ontario to learn that the spirited effort put forth by Principal Grant and the Board of Governors of Queen's University to secure an endowment fund of a quarter of a million of dollars for that institution has been successful. Queen's, which has already done much good educational work, will thus be enabled to enter upon a career of enlarged usefulness. Few, whatever their opinions may be in regard to the multiplication of feeble colleges, or the possible benefits to be derived from concentration and federation, will fail to see that it is eminently desirable, from almost every point of view, that this well-rooted institution, with so honourable a record and so well located, midway between Toronto and Montreal, in the old, historic city of Kingston, should be maintained in full vigour and efficiency. The many friends of Principal Grant will earnestly hope that after the period of rest and travel, to which he has wisely consented, he may be able to resume his chosen work with renewed strength and energy.

THE position of the Crofters of the Island of Lewis, or "The Lews," as it is commonly called, is most critical. The report of Sheriff Fraser and Mr. Malcolm MacNeill, the Commissioners appointed to visit the Island and inquire into the real state of affairs, has been published in a Parliamentary paper. The report shows that while some destitution and suffering at present exist, it is the hopelessness of the outlook, the certainty of coming famine, that makes the case of the wretched Crofters specially deplorable. The resources of the poor-law are already strained, and were it not that the meagre doles of the relieving officer are eked out by private alms many would be already famishing. But all available resources are rapidly becoming exhausted. The potato crop is nearly consumed. The cattle and sheep will soon have to be killed for food. Unless relief on a large scale, by means of emigration or some other wholesale scheme, is soon forthcoming, famine and starvation are inevitable. The present population of The Lews is estimated at 28,000. The present crisis seems to be in no way the fault of the Crofters, unless the increase of population beyond the possibilities of support be attributed to them as a fault. The people are able and willing to work, but since the successive failures of the kelp industry and the herring fishery, and the decay of the potato, there seems to be absolutely nothing for them to do. Hence dejection and apathy have taken hold upon them. "Strong men are to be