

adian trees": these are far more effective than the stereotyped departmental circular in convincing the masses of England that Canada is not for nine months in the year a land of snow and ice, but is a country of exceptional opportunities for those willing to seek a livelihood in cultivating a fertile soil. It is very evident that greater results even than a large increase in our export trade will follow the establishment of a fast steamship service, with cold storage facilities, between England and Canada; a project that originated with the late Government and which has received the hearty support of their successors in office.

Bright as is the outlook, commercial and industrial, at the commencement of this year of grace, there appears on the political horizon a shadow unpleasantly suggestive. It is the shadow of a struggle for supremacy between civil power and the powers ecclesiastic, and is the aftermath of that fruitful source of bitterness and recrimination, the Manitoba School Question, which we were all devoutly thankful to think had been settled for all time by a compromise between the Dominion and Manitoba Governments.

Such hope was surely reasonable. One party to the compromise was the same government that had brought about the abolition of separate schools in Manitoba six years ago; the other party to the compromise was a government practically placed in power by the French Canadian Catholics of the Province of Quebec, the leader of that government being himself a French Canadian and a Catholic and possessing in a remarkable degree the confidence of his compatriots and coreligionists. A compromise amicably effected between men so thoroughly representative of the clashing interests is the best possible guarantee that the imagination of man could conceive that the fullest possible measure of justice had been accorded to both sides. And in this light the country, as a whole, was prepared to regard Mr. Laurier's and Mr. Greenway's settlement of the vexed question of separate schools in Manitoba.

Without going into the merits or demerits of the school settlement, the maintenance of the principle for which the Catholic premier is contending against the Catholic bishops is absolutely essential to Canada's well-being as a nation. Without perfect freedom from clerical dictation or interference in affairs of states, whether the clerics be Catholic, or Methodists, Anglicans or Presbyterians, and without equal rights to all sects and special privileges to none, national unity is impossible.

We have no intention of asserting that the influence of any church should not be felt in the halls of legislature or should not leave its impress on the statute books of the realm; on the contrary it will be an evil day for Canada when the various Christian bodies cease to exercise an influence in shaping our legislation; but that influence must be the conscience of the individual Christian whom the Church has taught and nourished; not the demands of absolute dictatorship.

On January 7th, Mr. Ernest Heaton, B. A., a gentleman who has of late years given much attention to various phases of the agricultural problem in Canada, delivered an address at Goderich before the Farmer's Institute of West H. con., on the establishment of government colonies, whereby our farmers' sons might be induced to remain on the land, assistance being given them by the Government, similar to that which is readily afforded to bodies of immigrants from foreign countries.

Mr. Heaton instanced cases where such immigrants had, in addition to the grants of land, received considerable financial assistance, in the shape of a loan, from the Government. He also referred at length to the success which has attended efforts in this direction, in different countries, notably—Germany, Australia, Holland and England.

In taking the stand that the question of inducing our own native-born farm-raised sons to remain on the land, is of paramount importance, not second even to that of immigration—Mr. Heaton shows that he is fully alive to the need of the day; but, in our estimation, the

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