

No such law exists in Toronto, the capital of the province of Ontario. On the surface of things, therefore, the people of this province have no special interest in the Manitoba case. But they are in fact peculiarly concerned. For the party now in power here is understood to be pledged to enact a law like that of Manitoba. It has so far successfully parried the demands of the prohibitionists by referring to the action of the Canadian courts nullifying the Manitoba act. But that excuse will no longer serve. Under the decision of the privy council the dominant party of Ontario is, in the expressive vernacular of the smoking-room, "plumb up against it." Its leaders must deny their pledges, or repudiate them, or skillfully evade them, or become responsible for a prohibitory measure. Whichever horn of this dilemma they choose, they are very likely to be gored.

Dominion politics have reached that stage, so familiar in the politics on our side, where the party in power and the party out of power are devoted, one to the vicious principle and both to the more vicious practice of protection.

The party in power, the Liberals, with Laurier at their head, were elected, as President Cleveland was the second time, upon the free trade side of the tariff issue. Laurier is himself a free trader. But, as President Roosevelt (see Poultney Bigelow in *Contemporary Review* for October) declared himself to be a Republican (with protection) first and a free trader afterward, so the Laurier government of Canada has turned out to be for the government and "vested interests" first, and for free trade some other time.

To a political reform which may prove, simple and modest as it appears, to be potent and far reaching, the legislative committee of the Toronto city council has become foster father. This is the system, familiar in Australia, which is known as proportional representation. It gives representation in public bodies to public policies in proportion to their popular strength. Having that system in view, the legislative committee of the Toronto city council has reported in favor of the following changes in the city government:

(1) That the wards be abolished, and the number of aldermen be reduced from 24 to 12, to be elected from the city at large on the Hare-Spence system of proportional representation.

(2) That the school trustees be reduced from 24 to 12, and be elected in the same manner.

This proposition has yet to be dealt with in the council, but it is strongly supported by the labor and social reform organizations, which wield no little influence in Toronto, and its adoption is hoped for with confidence. If put into operation, genuine minority representation in the council would be secured, and the example of Toronto would doubtless be followed soon on both sides of the line.

Toronto is distinguished as the home of Goldwin Smith. Once professor at Oxford university, where he was the special instructor in history of the present king of England, and later a professor at Cornell university, where he is the sole survivor of ten annual lecturers appointed early in the history of the institution, he is affectionately regarded as a personal friend by many men on both sides of the Atlantic who in their college days came directly under his ministrations as a teacher. A ripe scholar, he is respected wherever his name is known; and that is wherever good English is read. A man of broad but intelligent sympathies, of high ideals, and of democratic instincts, and withal a tireless worker, he has contributed to the development of democratic thought in a degree which under any circumstances would be extraordinary but which to a man of his lifelong environment is positively exceptional. Though now in his eightieth year, his writings are marked with the vigor of a man of forty. His intellect is undimmed, his physical powers are wonderfully preserved, his energies do not flag, and his interest in vital public questions is still afire.

The home of Goldwin Smith is "The Grange," a large, rambling house, surrounded by spacious grounds, where great old elms stand guard. This house is the first ever built in Toronto, dating back to 1817, when Toronto was Little York. In its cozy rooms the jolly good fellows of the old Canadian ring, the "Family Compact," corrupt product of London's Downing street, caroused and ruled. Prof. Smith's characteristic sympathies are emphasized by a collection in his dining-room here, of oil portraits, copied from various portrait collections, public and private, of the heroes of the Cromwellian revolution.

Among the activities of this democratic sage of two continents is a regular editorial contribution to a weekly paper — the Toronto Sun

—the general editorial writing for which is done by Mr. Gregory, a young Toronto lawyer, who is in thorough sympathy with his chief. Prof. Smith's contributions consist of a weekly series of editorial paragraphs on the serious side of contemporary history. Here he gives unrestrained expression to his views on public questions, under the pseudonym of "Bystander." Even those restraints of a magazine article which are due to limitations of subject, are absent from these products of his editorial pen. The Toronto Sun has a wide circulation and of course a great influence.

It need hardly be added that Goldwin Smith is too true an Englishman to approve the British invasion of Boer land, too friendly to America to be complacent over the American invasion of the Philippines, too sound a democrat to sympathize with the dominant plutocratic influences in British and American politics which have produced these two invasions, twin sisters of imperial iniquity, and too brave a man to evade censure by concealing his opinions about them. L. F. P.

## NEWS

When the news reports for our last issue were written, Judge Grosscup, the federal circuit judge for the circuit which includes Illinois, had issued a restraining order (p. 519) prohibiting the Illinois board of tax equalization from obeying the mandate of the Illinois supreme court with reference to the taxation of the franchise values of two Chicago street car companies. He had granted this order pending the decision of a motion for injunctions of like tenor in two suits which these companies had brought in the federal court, argument upon the motions to be heard at Springfield, before himself and Judge Humphrey, the district judge for the Southern District of Illinois, on the 21st. Prior to the argument upon that day, the city of Chicago made application to be allowed to join in the defense in these injunction suits. The reason it gave was that the plaintiffs (the street car corporations), and the defendants (the members of the board of equalization), were acting in collusion. The application was denied, upon the ground that no proof of collusion appeared; but with an intimation from the bench that if it should appear in the future that the city's rights were being jeopardized,