

because he was a French Canadian and upheld his race and language. Ever since then, the Mercier party has stood on a platform the principal planks of which are the preservation of race, religion and language.

For some time charges of malfeasance in office have been pending against the Mercier ministry. What is known as the Bay Chaleurs railway has occasioned a good deal of scandal. The provincial parliament aided in the building of this road, and in the distribution of patronage and contracts it was charged that the ministry adopted New York and Chicago methods. A royal commission composed of three prominent judges was appointed to investigate. Two of the judges made a preliminary statement—in advance of the formal report—about ten days ago, saying that Mercier was guilty as charged. The third judge dissented, or at any rate did not sign the paper.

By virtue of the advanced decision Lieutenant-Governor Angers dismissed the Mercier ministry. Mercier immediately appealed to the people. He stated that the two judges who pronounced him guilty were bitter Conservatives, that Angers dismissed him in advance of the formal report, and that his action was autocratic and unconstitutional.

The Liberal party throughout the Province took the matter up, and at present political excitement is intense. There is talk of annexation to the United States, of rebellion and so forth. The Provincial Parliament, it is thought, will be dissolved. The new Premier cannot command a majority in either house, therefore his chances of transacting any business are doubtful. The excitement is spreading beyond the Province, and the whole Liberal party look on the action of Governor Angers as a political outrage.

COAL IN THE SPANISH AMERICAS.

In the last issue of *Bradstreet's* there is an article on coal in Mexico and in Central and South America. The article is based on reports from consular officers to the State Department at Washington.

The coal consumed in Chihuahua, Mexico, is received principally from Colorado, New Mexico and Indian Territory, all in the United States. It is bituminous, and costs at points of delivery in Mexico \$14 per ton, in Mexican silver, which is equivalent to about \$13 in American money. This coal costs at the mines about \$3 per ton. The consumption of coal in Chihuahua amounts to about 2500 tons per month. Coal deposits have been discovered not

alone in Chihuahua, but in various other parts in Mexico. Nothing, however, has been done to develop them.

Richard Guenther, consul general, writes from Mexico City, saying that nearly all the coal consumed in Mexico is imported from the United States, Mexican coal as yet not being mined to any great extent. Coal in the city of Mexico costs \$15 per ton. The United States exported to Mexico in 1888 about \$150,000 worth of coal. In Vera Cruz coal is received from England, but it is a patent kind made of coal dust, oil, and other ingredients. About 6,000 tons of this coal were received there last year. A sort of prospecting boom prevails at present for good coal fields in Mexico. In fact, there seems to be a greater desire to acquire coal than silver for mines. The Consul adds that if such are found "they will make a commercial revolution in this country."

There are some good coal lands at a place called Piedras Negras, on the line of the Mexican International Railroad. A company of Mexican and French capitalists has been formed recently to operate these mines. It is calculated that an output of 300 tons daily can be accomplished, and that Mexican coal will undersell United States coal in Western Texas.

In the Argentine Republic no coal has as yet been discovered. Most of the article consumed in that country comes from Great Britain and other European nations. The coal trade of the country is in English hands and can be bought at Buenos Ayres for \$12 a ton.

In Brazil, English coal controls the market. In Rio Grande do Sul it is delivered in prices ranging from \$11 to \$15 per ton, the latter price being rather exceptional.

Chile receives the bulk of her supply from her own mines. Australia furnishes a limited quantity. Ecuador receives her coal from England and Australia. It costs delivered about \$18 a ton. The Republic of Columbia is entirely supplied from England. So are the republics of Uruguay, Venezuela and others.

Bradstreet's recommends United States bituminous coal miners to investigate the possibilities of a South American market for their coal. It is of opinion that they have facilities that would ultimately enable them to displace the British article in the South.

BOMBAY, Dec. 30.—The Indian national congress in session at Nagpur adopted a resolution declaring the necessary establishment of a legislature in India to which the Indian people shall elect representatives.

CENSUS DATA.

ACCORDING to the figures of the Eleventh Census, Texas had a population of 2,235,523 in June, 1890. In 1880 the population was 1,591,749. These figures show an increase for the decade of nearly 45 per cent. There are 244 counties in Texas, sixteen of which show decreases since 1880. There are 33 cities and towns with a population each of 3000 or more. Dallas is first in point of inhabitants with 38,067. San Antonio is next with 37,673. Then follows Galveston with 29,084, Houston 27,557, Fort Worth 23,076, Austin 14,575, Waco 14,445, Laredo 11,319, Denison 10,958, and El Paso 10,338. All the other cities and towns are below 10,000. El Paso shows an increase of 1.304 per cent. since 1880, Dallas 267 per cent., Fort Worth 246 per cent. and Laredo 221 per cent.

In 1890 the population of North Dakota was 182,719, in 1880 the population of that part of the territory which is now North Dakota, so far as can be ascertained was 36,900. There are in all 56 counties in the State. There are eight cities and villages having each 1,000 or more inhabitants. Fargo comes first with 5,664, Grand Forks next with 4,049, Jamestown 2,296, Bismarck 2,186, Grafton 1,594, Wahpeton 1,510 and Mandan 1,323.

STAR SPANGLED BANNER.

A rather small audience assembled Christmas afternoon at the Tabernacle to witness the presentation of American flags to the school board of this city. The ceremony was conducted under the auspices of the P. O. S. of A., to which society the flags were entrusted for presentation by the *Youths Companion*, an Eastern publication desirous of displaying its patriotism, and probably of advertising itself.

On the stand were Mayor Scott, President of the School Board, Bishop Leonard, Dr. Iliff, Dr. Thrall, Dr. Jacobson, Dr. Utter, Judge Zane, Judge Powers, Professor Dolliver and others.

AT 3:30 P. M. MR. TERPENNING of the P. O. S. of A. called the meeting to order. He said that the Choral Society would be present to sing "America," but the melodious choristers did not appear. They, possibly deemed the day and the occasion more fitted for the American turkey than for the American eagle. Professor Stephens was on hand, and ready to conduct the strains of the national anthem, but he could not do it alone.

The exercises opened with prayer by Dr. Utter, followed by a beautiful rendering of the Star Spangled Banner on the organ.

The Rev. Mr. Lane made the presentation speech. He said: "There are some people who sneer at every effort to elevate the masses, but they compose the majority and must be lifted up. Good government means intelligence, and universal suffrage, demands uni-