

promise. The province of Ontario is intensely Protestant. In fact it is Orange, and if Premier Abbott should compromise with Chapleau, then this province would antagonize his government.

On the other hand, Quebec demands, as a provincial right, representation in the Cabinet, and Chapleau is named as the most fitting person. He is leader of the French Conservatives. He is said to control twenty-two votes in the Dominion House of Commons; and as he is a railroad expert, therefore it is urged that he be given the portfolio of railways. The French Canadians claim that the charges of malfeasance in office against him are all preferred because of race hatred. They also assert that they will not stand the sacrifice of their champion to the fanaticism of Ontario Orangemen.

Annexation is being talked of, not alone in Quebec but among the British Canadians on the border at Windsor and Stony Point. The Springfield *Republican* thinks that at present there is possibility of political annexation with the United States; that there is no discontent in Canada with the English connection. The Dominion practically rules itself and has few if any grievances against England.

There is another obstruction to annexation which deserves consideration. In Quebec the Roman Catholic church is virtually a State institution. In fact, it is an integral part of the provincial government, and is subsidized from its treasury. Should Quebec become a State of the American Union this condition could not hold. The Roman church would have to take the same plane as all other denominations, and it is not likely that under these circumstances the church will advocate annexation, no matter how earnestly the politicians may desire it.

At the formation of the Dominion, Quebec and Ontario started on an equal footing. Now the latter province has a surplus of \$7,000,000, while the former has a debt of \$20,000,000. This indicates that the Orangemen are the best statesmen. Besides, their province is better governed, and public works are abreast of modern improvements.

The Dominion debt has grown from \$78,000,000 in 1870, to \$288,000,000 in 1890, and with scarcely any comparative increase in trade or population. Quebec, even now, is endeavoring to effect a loan of \$10,000,000. So that matters are quite complicated among our northern neighbors.

Michael Davitt can not sit in the English Parliament until a special act is passed enabling him to do so.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN ILLINOIS.

CHICAGO has on its hands a woman's suffrage question which is attracting the attention of the press of the whole country. The last Legislature of Illinois passed a law conferring suffrage on women so far as the election for school superintendents and other local officials is concerned. On the first Tuesday in November next a school superintendent will be elected in Chicago. The women, thinking that the new law entitled them to vote for candidates for that office, flocked to the registration offices to be qualified. But to their intense chagrin they were refused registration.

It appears that this law as a literary production is something like the response from a Delphic oracle or from a priest in the temple of Isis: it can be construed many ways. Even its constitutionality is questioned. However, the Election Commissioners in their instructions to the judges and clerks of registration say:

"Only such women as have received a certificate of naturalization from some court of record in this State prior to January 1, 1870, are entitled to register."

A woman's suffrage law that admits even in the remotest way of this interpretation must be a curious document. One commissioner dissented, holding that the law entitled all women having the qualifications of age, citizenship, residence, etc., the same as males, to register. In some cases a few women were registered, but in the vast majority registration was refused.

There is no doubt that the intention of the Legislature was to do justice to all women in the matter of voting for school officers. But the statute was loosely drawn and in specifying how women of foreign birth could become entitled to vote it failed to make specific the qualification for native born women. The result will be that the courts will have to determine the matter, and meanwhile the lady citizens of Chicago like many others of their sex will have to wait.

A NEW YORK POLITICIAN.

THE *New York Mail and Express* announces that "General Husted is opening up all his guns and stores of ammunition on the enemy and making a rattling good fight from headquarters."

We are not particularly surprised to learn of this prodigious effort of General Husted, but it is a little comical nevertheless. It was not very long ago that this gentleman sent to his favorite newspaper for a reporter, in order to announce with as little trouble to himself as possible

himself that he was going out of politics forever. He had fully satisfied himself with office, he said, and henceforth he was going to live for himself and let his constituency do the best they could.

We are not sufficiently conversant with his fame to recall the positions within the gift of the people which he named on this occasion as having been honored by his good offices; at any rate, he had always got the best of his desires without much effort on his part; in other words the people had been all his life thrusting greatness upon him, and he thereby enjoined them from further aggressions of that sort.

His remarks upon himself in this connection were very elaborate and very emphatic, if not peremptory, but somehow, here he is again, helping the people with all his might to force him back into the New York legislature for another term. The quality of self-sacrifice attributed by the politicians to the men who serve the people in office was never so well vindicated before.

WILL IT BE WAR?

THE government of Chile treats the demand of the United States for reparation for the murder of American seamen, in Valparaiso, quite cavalierly. The answer almost amounts to a refusal. Should the Chilean rulers decline to change front and comply with the reasonable request of this country, we will have a small war on our hands. It is hardly probable that the Junta will maintain the present attitude on the question for any length of time. Unless the demand is satisfied it will be a chilly day for the little South American Republic.

Should our government be forced into hostilities by the contumacity of Chile, the result of the conflict would amount to a foregone conclusion. It would not, however, add much to the naval or military prestige of this great nation, as a giant, even if he be good natured, obtains no credit for whipping a dwarf, no matter how much the little fellow may deserve the castigation. We hope that the diplomacy brought to bear on the issue will be of a character to obviate the necessity for resorting to the arbitrament of the sword.

RAILWAY STATISTICS.

THE census office will publish a series of ten bulletins, giving in statistical form the operations of the railways of the United States for the years 1880 to 1889 inclusive. The first is devoted to the New England States, and was