

great national questions can generate. In Canada the inauguration of a national scheme of defence, the discussion of treaties, the establishment of communication between places thousands of miles apart, the development of the vast resources of a vast and varied territory—all questions of national import that would be impossible in a petty State—have produced statesmen of the calibre of Sir John MacDonald, Mr. Howe, Sir Charles Tupper, Hon. Edward Blake, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, while the individual Australian Colonies have, until recently, produced scarcely a statesman who will be remembered by future generations for his political wisdom. I say recently, because the Federal Conventions have proved that there is latent in many of our public men a high order of statesmanship that can only be fostered by the discussion of questions elevated above the plane of parish politics. Had not the question of Australian unity, and the framing of the Federal Constitution, afforded them a field for the exercise of their fine intellects and superior political abilities, men like Parkes, Griffiths, Barton and Turner would have languished in the obscurity of provincial politics, and gone to their graves unknown, unhonoured, and unsung, whereas the Federal Enabling Bill will be a perpetual monument to their patriotism and genius. The scholarly and statesmanlike debates that characterised the proceedings of the various Conventions, at which were assembled the chosen of the colonies, give us some faint idea of the greater wisdom and dignity that will characterise the Federal Assembly. The higher tone of the Federal Assembly will be reflected in the Parliaments of the States, and Federation will usher in a new era, when national and local affairs will receive that broad and scientific discussion they at present so lamentably lack. The statement that centralisation is fatal to efficiency is disproved by the example of the United States. That States, 3,000 miles remote from Washington, are governed as efficiently as the contiguous States, in spite of imperfect constitution—for under the cast-iron Constitution of the United States, the

House of Representatives has practically no control over the Executive, and is powerless to remove it, however inefficient, by a vote of censure or no-confidence—is a sufficient rejoinder to such an imaginary evil.

The commerce of a country is so inextricably bound up with its natural resources that these two themes cannot be separated for discussion. New Zealand is endowed by nature with a wealth of resources that must make her in the future a great manufacturing, as well as pastoral and agricultural, country. She has an equable climate, subject to no extremes of heat or cold, of drought or flood, vast undeveloped deposits of iron ore, as well as the limestone and coal required for its reduction, forests containing hundreds of varieties of ornamental and serviceable timber, seas teeming with fish, while her coast is indented on all sides with harbours, so that no centre of activity would be far removed from the sea-board. Her numerous waterfalls—the Huka Falls for instance—the never-failing and swift running rivers in all parts of the Islands, will furnish, for the future development of our industries, a water-power that is denied to our kin across the sea. We can only conjecture what will be the expansion of our trade if we join the Commonwealth, but the precedent of Canada affords us a striking index. It has been stated on reliable authority that during the first twenty years after the formation of the Dominion, Canada's foreign trade increased 54 per cent., and her internal trade 40 per cent. It was also stated at the Chicago Exhibition, so Mr. Larke tells us, by the highest authority, on mechanical engineering, that Canada had made greater industrial progress during the last sixteen years than any other nation represented there. We can look forward to an even more remarkable industrial progress and expansion of trade in Australasia. The population of Canada was 3,000,000 when her States were federated, whereas the population of Australasia is now four and a half millions; we have the advantage of thirty years' advance in science with its attendant improvements in machinery and the improved efficacy resulting from division of labour. If those manufactures,