

a country with which it has "the greatest possible sympathy." Said Mr. Cahan: "They look upon us as honest and energetic people." What a blessing they know only the Mexican and Spanish languages and cannot read the speeches of the Ottawa Opposition leaders!

Mr. Cahan went on to point out that the Mexicans "have granted concessions to Canadian capital and enterprise that would certainly be refused had the request reached them from almost any other than a Canadian group of capitalists." This is splendid. Furthermore, Mr. Cahan hopes to see Mexicans going to Europe via Montreal and the Canadian steamship lines. Montreal is almost as near the city of Mexico by rail as New York, and hence a Mexican traveller will probably give the preference to the Canadian route to Europe as soon as he is informed of its attractiveness. To cap all, Mr. Cahan claims that the whole of Central and South America will extend the same "hand of good-fellowship and friendship to the manufacturers of the Dominion" if they are given the opportunity. Surely, after this Canada will carry its head high.

THE observance of great men's birthdays is not carried to extremes on this continent, which is too busy to have many bank holidays. By Canadians, the twenty-fourth of May will long be regarded as the first picnic or excursion of the summer. For sixty-three years it was

THE HOLIDAY ACROSS THE LINE

a day of festivity, usually marked by "Queen's weather." Our neighbours to the south keep July Fourth as their national holiday but the anniversary, occurring this week, of Washington's natal day is generally honoured throughout the United States. It is significant that Washington, who was leader through a bitter conflict, is regarded as one of the gentler figures of history. Had he died in 1783, he would have been remembered as a soldier, but his later services in statesmanship, his dignified hospitality as First Gentleman in the new order of political and social life, rendered him an elevating and conciliating force. When our present King stood, a fair-haired boy, near Washington's tomb an attendant nobleman said reflectively: "He was English, too." A New Englander once pleading for fair play for the former Southern enemies said: "Remember that Washington was a Virginian." In social matters he was undoubtedly of British traditions. Washington seems, in his old-time stateliness and decorum, far away from the rush of modern democracy which honours him once a year but which might, both north and south of the forty-ninth parallel, more frequently imitate his virtues.

THE electric situation in Ontario is rapidly nearing what may be termed a climax. The municipalities concerned have all voted to accept the supply of power to be distributed by the Hydro-Electric Commission, under government jurisdiction and government financing.

ELECTRIC SITUATION IN ONTARIO

The Electric Development Company, the only company now distributing Niagara power in the province, is still outside the field of government influence. There are three courses of action open to this private company. It may go on and compete with the Government and trust to private ability in competition with Government ability. It may go into voluntary liquidation and force the Government to take it over to protect the British and foreign bondholders. The third course would be to come to terms with the Government and distribute energy under the control of the Hydro-Electric Commission.

The first course would probably result in success, but it requires money and money is not too plentiful. The second course—liquidation—would be a desperation plunge and one which would inevitably result in great financial loss. The third course—a bargain with the Commission—is one that Sir Henry Pellatt and Mr. Frederic Nicholls would be loath to adopt, but which may be forced upon them by other interests. It is rumoured that Mr. William Mackenzie may attempt a reorganisation which will save the situation, and it is possible that the Government may not object to work with Mr. Mackenzie to see if some way can not be found by which present investments may be saved without endangering the Government's power policy.

THE general prosperity of Canada during 1908 will depend mainly upon two conditions—the harvest and the extent of the new immigration. As to the harvest, it is too early to estimate the prospects, though the Dominion Government's action in supplying seed grain to needy settlers is an encouraging feature.

WILL THE RUSH CONTINUE?

As to the immigration, the agricultural part of this comes from the United States. Colonel Davidson, of Davidson & McRae, general land agents for the Canadian Northern Railway, has recently returned to Toronto from a visit

to the central districts of Illinois. He states that he believes the northward trek will be larger this year than ever before. Last year was a "draggy" year; spring was late and the summer was wet, and fewer agricultural prospectors went north. The immigration from the United States fell off a point or two. This year will possibly make a new record.

It might be expected that the touch of frost which the West received last year during harvesting would dismay new settlers. It will not, Colonel Davidson declares, affect United States immigrants. They have seen early frosts, dry seasons and wet seasons in their own country and are not disheartened by an occasional bit of meteorological trouble.

If this be true, and the activity of the agricultural land market seems to justify it, then business in the West will be more active and important in 1908 than in any year since the first Westward movement began. The growing importance of the lumbering and coal-mining industries, combined with the great amount of railway building, is sufficient to steady the development in a district which has hitherto been mainly wheat-growing country.

OTTAWA is rather proud just now. Its sidewalks are cleaned of snow by the civic authorities and its snow carted away from the streets by inexpensive methods. In Montreal and Toronto there is no civic sidewalk cleaning except at the crossings, while Montreal's

A RATHER PROUD CITY

system of carting snow from the street in pill-boxes has become so bad that the Street Railway refuses to pay its share of the expense. Hamilton is also in much the same position as Toronto and Montreal.

Again, Ottawa has an excellent park system, thanks to the government Improvement Commission. Other cities, especially Toronto, are worrying about their park systems and how they can be organised on a comprehensive plan which will be economical, efficient and capable of providing for future development.

Again, Ottawa has a large number of civil servants within its borders. A New Brunswick decision has led the Ottawa civic authorities to believe that it may collect taxes from these well-paid employees of the Dominion Government. Taxes are to be collected from them this year to the extent of \$30,000. Winnipeg must wish that it had a similar wind-fall to look forward to.

Then again, Ottawa has a civic lighting plant and plenty of cheap hydro-electric energy. Most of the other large cities in Canada are still wrestling with the problem of civic control of their electric situation.

Yes, Ottawa is rather proud.

SOME lieutenant-governors have little trouble; others have much. Some hold their offices in a quiet, unostentatious manner for two terms of four years each; others find it difficult to satisfy the public for one term. For example, Lieutenant-Governor Dunsmuir of British

LIEUT.-GOVERNORS AND THEIR DUTIES

Columbia has been most bitterly assailed during his term of office, and his predecessor was also accused of taking orders from Ottawa.

The Hon. Mr. Turner, ex-Premier of British Columbia, makes the suggestion that it would be much better if our provincial governors were appointed as in Australia, by the King on the advice of the British ministers. In other words, he would have them appointed as the governor-general is appointed. This would prevent their being amenable to the party in power at Ottawa, would exalt their position to a higher rank, and would enable them to act more in harmony with their provincial advisers.

Australia has a governor-general and six governors, all appointed by the British Government. It is interesting to note the names of the present occupants. Lord Northcote is governor-general; Admiral Sir Harry H. Rawson is governor of New South Wales; General Sir R. A. J. Talbot in Victoria; Sir George Ruthven Le Hunte in South Australia; Lord Chelmsford in Queensland; Sir Gerald Strickland in Tasmania; and Admiral Sir George Bedford in Western Australia. Perhaps this class of governor would help to elevate provincial political life, but it is doubtful if the democracy of Canada would care to restore to the Crown any part of the patronage which, during a long constitutional struggle, it has succeeded in having transferred from Downing Street to the Capital on the Hill. Canada has never been known to give up anything with any degree of alacrity or willingness.

Any one familiar with Canadian history from 1830 to present times must admit that every change asked for by Canada meant greater self-government. To turn the back on a record of eighty years would be impossible.