

THROUGH A MONOCLE

FOLLOW PRINCIPLE RATHER THAN FACT.

THE party leaders are showing their appreciation of popular feeling by "going slow" about opening the campaign. The people are too busy these days to listen to political speeches; and where they are not too busy, they are too lazy. The "dog days" do not lend themselves to fighting—strange as that may seem. Even a dog never fights in "dog days" unless he is mad. Politics is a sport for the vigorous days of autumn or the bracing weeks of winter. It is a simple physical fact that this election which, we are told, is to settle the question of reciprocity, will be held amidst a perceptibly lower percentage of public interest than it would have attracted two months later. It is a good deal like asking a lot of school boys to come back Saturday afternoon and study the rivers of Europe. They might be able to take an intelligent interest in the said rivers on Monday morning; but on Saturday afternoon?—why, how absurd!

* * *

WE will probably wake up a little more before polling day. The working season will have opened; and we will suddenly rub our eyes and realize that a vitally important general election is just about to be held, and that we have not had time to argue the matter out with our neighbours. However, we can vote. A cynic said to me the other day, when discussing how the ballots would be likely to be marked this time, "Oh, I guess the Liberals will vote Liberal and the Conservatives will vote Conservative, much as usual." And undoubtedly there will be a lot of voting done along these lines. Still it is only fair to remember that this reciprocity issue is one which fits in very neatly with party divisions in Canada. Our Liberals are inclined toward freer trade, and our Conservatives are inclined toward restricting trade. And to those who regard reciprocity as nothing more than a trade question, this pretty well settles the matter. The cross-voting will be due chiefly to the belief of some Liberals that reciprocity is also a political question—that is, a question affecting the political future of Canada; and to the belief of some Conservatives that this is the farmers' chance.

* * *

IT is a funny thing how entirely everybody has "ditched" the workingman in this election. Usually the *WORKINGMAN* is king. The appeals to "the horny-handed sons of toil" commonly fill all the party press and ooze out of all the party literature. But this time, the workingman is utterly disregarded. The Liberals argue that reciprocity will increase the prices which the farmers will get for their food products; and they do not seem to care two cents that the "down-trodden workingman" will have to pay his share of those increased prices. The Conservatives deny that reciprocity will increase the prices which the farmer will get for his food products, alleging instead that the Canadian farmer already gets higher prices in his home market than the American farmer does in his; but they do not take a minute off to consider that the workingman is paying those higher prices to-day and that reciprocity should—on their own reasoning—get him lower prices. In fact, nobody cares a hoot for the workingman.

* * *

THIS must be a new experience for Mr. Workingman; and I am wondering how he likes it. He has ceased to be "the white-haired boy," and his cousin from the farm has taken his place. I am wondering, too, whether this scorn of his vote will last up to polling day. Surely the city members will at least have to consider somebody in this business except "the tillers of the soil," whose votes never get near them; and when they come to argue reciprocity for the winning of the workingman, how are they going to avoid a collision with their own friends who have been busy rounding up the farmer. As for workingmen whom I happen to know, this unwonted neglect of their interests by their erstwhile friends, the vote-hunting politicians, has brought to them chiefly a sense of relief. They never did like the paternal attempts of their quadrennial patrons to tell them how to vote. They have always felt that they could get along without help in this regard; and now they are going to do it. And some people are going to be surprised.

* * *

SO far, this has been a war of statisticians rather than a battle of spell-binders. The things which statistics have been compelled to prove must

make the theologians ashamed of their lack of skill in establishing diverse creeds out of the same Bible. Hand any given blue book to any two party statisticians of opposite colours, and they will each prove their case to a demonstration without going outside of its dull pages. The speeches at Ottawa have been largely a series of juggling feats with price lists, tariff schedules and Government trade reports. Some of the speakers have even succeeded in showing that in happy Canada the prices which the farmers get—or will get—are higher than they are in the United States, while the prices which the consumers pay—or will pay—are lower. No one ever dreamed that we had so many adroit figurers in public life until this issue suddenly called them out of obscurity—or some other field of deceptive reasoning—to show the country people how absurd it is to imagine that two and two have no more variety of ambition than always to make four.

* * *

BUT it is hardly enough for either side to confuse their following with tangled mazes of tabulated tergiversation. People have not forgotten that statistics is the superlative of "lies." In dealing with statistics, the great secret is skillful selection and omission; and a great many people are in the secret. I had rather have two ounces of common sense, directed by the ordinary rules of logic, with which to settle a question of this sort than all the figures and percentages in Christendom. The men who reason quietly from the principle of the thing, and let the politicians and journalists entangle themselves in their own long lines of quoted numerals, will come the nearest to the truth. By "the principle of the thing," I mean such economic principles as free trade and such political principles as national ambition. Taking human nature for what it is, what do they think of this whole subject? That is the way to get at the right aspect. Let them—if they desire to make sure of escaping this bewildering dance of the figures—try a "change of venue," and ask themselves how they would look at it if the proposed agreement had been offered to Mexico. The principle is the thing. There is nothing so false as a misplaced fact.

THE MONOCLE MAN.

ART AT TORONTO

EVERY artist and art connoisseur admits that the annual exhibition of art in connection with the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, is the most important art exhibition in the Dominion. This year it promises to be exceptionally good. Owing to the fact that there are several loan exhibitions in progress in Great Britain just now, it is just possible that the number of pictures from British galleries will be smaller than usual. If this should be the case the deficiency will be more than made up by the supply of pictures from other sources. For the first time in Canada there will be a comprehensive exhibit of representative work of living United States artists. This collection has been made under the supervision of Mr. Arthur Heming, the well-known Canadian artist, who early in the year made a visit to Philadelphia, New York and Boston, for the purpose of seeing the various painters personally. This collection will be still further supplemented by a considerable number of loan pictures from the galleries of prominent Canadian collectors and by the regular exhibition of the latest work of the Canadian artists themselves.

The British section of this year will contain a collection made by Mr. Dibdin, the curator of the Walker Gallery, Liverpool. It will include paintings by Sir Alfred East, Hassel, Hornel, Orpen, and other living English and Scotch artists. It will also include several pictures of historical importance. While the collection may be small, it will be representative and well worthy of close study.

The American collection will be larger and more representative. Indeed, some of the American artists who have seen the list of pictures which are coming have made the statement that this collection of United States paintings will be the finest ever got together under one roof at one time. This seems almost incredible considering the excellent exhibitions which have been held at various times in Pittsburg and New York. Nevertheless, the men who make the statement are in a position to know. In any case Canadian art lovers will have an excel-

lent opportunity of getting acquainted with the work of the leading American painters and of comparing their qualities and characteristics with those of the Canadian painters whose work will be hung in the same gallery. About sixty different artists will be represented, including Childe Hassam, Emil Carlsen, Bicknell, Dangerfield, Hawthorne, Ranger, Waugh, and Wiles.

Among the famous pictures which have been collected from Canadian galleries are a Romney and a Constable, loaned by Sir William Van Horne; a Daubigny, a Gabriel Max and a Troyon, loaned by Lady Drummond; several Dutch landscapes, by W. Maris and J. Maris, loaned by E. F. B. Johnston, Esq., and others almost equally famous from the galleries of E. B. Osler, Esq., M.P., Chester D. Massey, Esq., Cawthra Mulock, Esq., Sir Edmund Walker, and Mrs. H. D. Warren.

In addition to the British, United States and Canadian pictures which will be exhibited in the main art gallery there will be a second gallery devoted to graphic art, applied art, architecture, and art photography. The chief attraction, perhaps, in this second gallery, will be some sixty sketches by leading United States illustrators. This collection has been made and sent by the Society of Illustrators, which has its headquarters in the City of New York. It will include Frederick Remington's famous sketch entitled "The Stampede." Although only an illustration this picture is valued at a thousand dollars. There will also be representative work by Walter Appleton Clark, C. Allan Gilbert, A. B. Wenzell, Maxfield Parrish, Charles Dana Gibson, Rosenmeyer, and fifty other fairly well-known workers in black and white.

The collection of Canadian graphic art will be exceptionally large. While Canada does not possess so many illustrators as the United States or Great Britain, nevertheless, there are a number of men working here whose black and white work will compare favourably with that produced abroad. Among those who might be mentioned are Fergus Kyle, C. W. Jefferys, Tom Greene, W. S. Broadhead, Frank Johnston and T. W. Mitchell.

The art show of the Canadian National Exhibition has one distinctive feature. It is the only art show in Canada which attracts people from outside the locality in which it is held. Every year a number of art lovers and artists from all over Canada make an annual pilgrimage to Toronto to see this collection. During the last couple of years quite a number of American art lovers have joined in the pilgrimage and this number will undoubtedly grow from year to year. The Exhibition authorities realize the value of an art show as a magnet to draw a class of people who do not mind travelling a few hundred miles to see two or three masterpieces. In arranging their annual collections they have judiciously mixed the popular and the more severely artistic, with the result that last year the average number of visitors to the art galleries was approximately forty thousand for each of the ten days during which the pictures were on exhibition. Probably no art show ever held in the world has a record which equals this, and the directors of the Toronto Exhibition may well be proud of their achievement.

Baseball Player as a Comedian

CONCERNING "Little Eddie Fitzpatrick," who recently won a ball game for the Toronto team by knocking out a home run with three men on bases, the *Toronto Star* says:

"Fitz" is a rather unlucky batter. He hits the ball right on the nose, but usually straight at somebody. "Fitz" is the comedian of the team, and pulls many a good one on the other fellows. In the Sunday burlesque at Jersey City, when the Leafs looked like a bunch of corner-lotters, "Fitz" made a big kick to Umpire Kerin on a play at second, when Wheeler, in sliding in grabbed the ball and tucked it in his shirt, after Tony Smith had muffed Kocher's throw. Smith had a chance to get the man going to third, but he couldn't find the ball. Finally the Skeeters rolled up seven runs in the innings, and as Deininger tried to steal second, Fitz took the throw and tagged the runner.

Umpire Kerin stood over the play, and throwing up his right arm, announced, "He's out!"

"Fitz" made an elaborate courtesy to the "ump," lifted his cap, and bowed obsequiously.

"Many thanks for those kind words," he said.

"Out of the game!" shouted "Umps."

"Which way out?" asked Fitz, innocently.

"Out of the grounds!" growled "Umps."

"Fitz" got out, of course, but his antics before he left had the crowd in an uproar. As he disappeared around the corner of the stand he gave "Umps" a parting salute that evoked roars of laughter from the delighted crowd.