



# REFLECTIONS

BY STAFF WRITERS

**C**OMPLAINT is made in both Montreal and Toronto that the Canadian Clubs are not serving the purpose for which they were founded with any degree of success. When a prominent person from the United States or Great Britain, such as Mr. Kipling or Mr. Bryan, delivers an address which may have nothing to do with Canadian affairs, half the membership turns up to listen; when a Canadian expert delivers an address on some topic of vital interest to all classes of citizens, the audience comprises about ten per cent. of the membership. In this way, the clubs are becoming lecture bureaus rather than institutions for the study of Canadian history and institutions.

## WILL CANADIAN CLUBS FAIL?

The Canadian Club movement has met with so much success and has extended so fast that it can safely be criticised. Perhaps a little introspection on the part of the various executives and some general discussion in the clubs and the press along the lines indicated might be productive of good results. If the clubs become a place where people go to see rather than to hear, they will certainly be doomed to failure. When their popularity depends upon sensations rather than a desire for knowledge, the better class of young men will fail to enrol themselves. If these organisations are to retain a permanent place in our national life, they must perform a higher office than to present a high-class circus for the public's amusement. The circus and the theatre have their place, but it does not rank with that of a university or a parliament. The danger mentioned above is one more likely to affect the clubs in the larger cities than in the smaller cities and towns.

As yet this danger is only a mole-hill. It may grow to be a mountain, but that will take time. Meanwhile, the Canadian Clubs continue to perform a great function in providing a place where a public man may speak to a non-partisan audience on any question affecting the welfare or the material interests of mankind. They are imparting to hundreds of young Canadians a knowledge of public affairs and intellectual movements which they could gain in other ways only with great difficulty. If the personal equation is exercising an influence which is troublesome, there are many ways of counterbalancing it, and no doubt these will be utilised.

**O**NCE upon a time, Canada's problem was how to get immigrants; now, it is a question of how to take care of the immigrants who are coming here in large numbers. No person wants the immigration to stop; no one desires that the population should remain stationary.

## THE IMMIGRATION PROBLEM

The only differences of opinion are found in regard to the bonus system and the distribution of the newly-arrived.

The bonus system is applied in a general manner and tends to produce quantity rather than quality. It is applied only to British and European people and not to American. In spite of these defects, it would hardly be possible or advisable to abandon it at this stage. Quantity is desirable. Quality may also be secured by strict regulations as to physique, character, mental and moral conditions. These regulations must be applied at the port of entry and might be even stricter than they are now. The present regulations are the best we have ever had and seem to be fairly well enforced.

With regard to the distribution and care of the newly arrived, there is greater room for reform and development. The requirements of each province differ. The class of immigrant who would do well in one province might not do well in another. At present only the most rough-and-ready methods for meeting these requirements are in vogue. The immigration department at Ottawa does not work very closely with the immigration departments of the provinces. Here is where development is possible. Supposing the Ottawa authorities would, early in the year, get from each province an estimate of the

number and kind of immigrants which it could profitably place and the Dominion department were then to seek to meet these requirements much more might be accomplished.

For example, settlers from Norway and Sweden, accustomed to using the axe, would do well in Northern Ontario, Quebec and certain parts of New Brunswick. Those accustomed to fruit-raising and dairy-farming would do best in Nova Scotia and certain parts of older Ontario. The man with five hundred to a thousand pounds capital who desires a pleasant farm in a settled district could secure these in Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario among the older settlements, where there are plenty of farms whose owners have gone north or west for the sake of their sons and the greater opportunities for acquiring cheap land. Mechanics would not be carried west and a plethora of farm labour left in the east.

This is not intended as a criticism of present department methods. Since Mr. Sifton inaugurated the new policy, wonderful results have been obtained. Good results may still be secured under the present system. This slight modification, the working together of the provinces and the Dominion, would not alter the present system but would simply extend its operation. When the immigrants arrive in Canada, they would be handed over to the province and looked after by it until such time as they were fully settled in their respective spheres.

Such a comprehensive plan would fix responsibility. The Dominion authorities would be responsible for bringing in the class of workers which the country required and the provinces would be responsible for them after they arrive. When the provinces had all they required, they would so inform the federal officials and unnecessary or inopportune immigration would be avoided.

**T**HIS is the season of the year when the artist gives the finishing touches to the pictures which he painted last year and sends them off to the galleries to be exhibited. The new Canadian Art Club closed its first exhibition in Toronto last week; this week the Ontario

## ART AND THE PUBLIC

Society of Artists hold theirs; soon the Royal Canadian Academy will have its show—this year at Toronto. Montreal will soon have one or two exhibitions. The indications are that this will be the most important art season Canada has ever known. The number and quality of the pictures was never greater; the interest on the part of the art-loving public shows a considerable development.

Nevertheless it must be admitted that the Canadian public has not yet attained to any broad degree of art interest. The Academy has been trying to hold exhibitions at the leading annual fairs in the larger cities, and the results have been so meagre and the interest so small, that the experiment will be abandoned. Probably the only art exhibition of a comprehensive nature in connection with a fair in 1908 will be that at Toronto where there is a special fire-proof art gallery and where considerable money is spent in providing an annual collection of both British and Canadian canvases. Perhaps it is not wise to try to combine an art show with an agricultural and industrial fair, but it is quite certain that the average visitor to these annual festivals fails to take any large interest in the display of pictures. The one-eared calf, the clown and the performing elephant have an attraction which is seemingly irresistible.

Further, the purchasers of pictures, while increasing in number, seem to prefer either copies or originals by European artists to the works of Canadians. The rich men of the larger cities spend many thousands annually on their purchases of foreign pictures and only a few hundreds on their Canadian purchases. Nor is any government, federal, provincial or civic, making any attempt to purchase native canvases. The Ontario Government spends about a thousand dollars