

# What Canadian Editors Think

## CANADA'S DEBT TO QUEBEC.

(St. John Sun.)

NOT a little of Canada's national strength is drawn from the sterling qualities of its French-Canadian folk—their patriotism, their industry, their excellent domesticity, their deep and natural piety. There are exceptions to the standard, of course, and possibly some of these have won a bad name for their fellows abroad, as certain Englishmen of the baser sort have prejudiced many Canadian employers of labour against the English working men. But what race can boast of a uniform excellence? And for those who fall short of the honest, laborious, law-abiding level of the Quebec habitant, is there not proud compensation in the contrast, above that level, of such men as Laurier, and Bourassa, and Lemieux—not to recall those eminent in older days, the Lafontaines, Cartiers, Chapleaus, and their distinguished contemporaries? Taking them all through, Canada has good reason to be proud of her French-Canadians, and that not so much for the greatness of their leaders as for the uniform excellence of their common people in those common every-day qualities which form the foundation for strong nationhood.

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## TRADE UP MERIDIAN LINES.

(St. Thomas Times.)

THE far north territory suitable for settlement is not confined to what may be described as the Alberta country. In addition we have the vast areas at the upper end of or beyond Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec. It is estimated that in Northern Alberta and Mackenzie alone there are one hundred million acres of land suitable for agricultural purposes. This is about five times the assessed area of the whole Province of Ontario. The northern parts of Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, including Ungava and Keewatin, it is safe to say, will increase this total by not less than another hundred millions. It will be easier to appreciate the possibilities of these comparatively unknown territories when we reflect on what has occurred in Ontario within a comparatively short time. A generation ago the possible limits for settlement in this province were believed not to extend beyond the southern boundary of the Georgian Bay. Lake Nipissing was then, in imagination, further away than Hudson Bay is now. Today there are thriving towns and prosperous agricultural settlements two hundred miles north of Lake Nipissing. The time when Canada could be truthfully described as a fringe of settlements along the boundary of the United States has long since passed. Our length from east to west is still stupendous, but with the practicability of producing crops eight hundred miles north of the United States boundary demonstrated by experience, the length of the Dominion is not so greatly out of proportion to the width.

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## RESPECT THE BALLOT.

(Toronto Globe.)

IT is a good thing for a community when its members are found attaching a high value to the privilege of voting at political elections. Just because there is not any element of superstition in this feeling the stronger it becomes the better for the body politic. A man who is free to cast his vote in the selection of a Parliament-

ary representative has a right to be proud of the privilege, and the fact that he is so will help to keep him proof against the temptation to sell it for any kind of consideration. He has, on the other hand, a right to resent any attempt to nullify his vote and to protest against this being done by other people's acts of omission or commission, so long as he has himself complied with all the statutory requirements.

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## WHAT ART HAS CANADA?

(Victoria Colonist.)

WHEN things have settled down a bit, when we have grown to understand ourselves better, when we have had time to let the meaning of things filter into our minds, so that we can write about them as they are, not as they seem, we will develop a Canadian literature that may be "worthy of our activities." What is true of literature is true also of art, meaning thereby painting, especially as we must bear in mind also that it is difficult for persons unfamiliar with the work of great artists to develop the faculty of making great pictures. The artistic taste may be there, but technique is essential, and the persons in Canada who can learn anything of artistic technique are in the very small minority. If a Canadian goes to one of the great art centres to study, the result is not a production of a Canadian artist, but simply the addition of one or more to the already overcrowded ranks of French, English or other artists, as the case may be. But what shall we recognise as distinctly Canadian art! We see a painting and we say it is of the Dutch school. It smacks of Holland at all points. But what would we call a Canadian school? With what aspect of Canadian life and Canadian nature ought it to deal? These questions are more readily asked than answered.

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## ANOTHER OF THE FAT KINE.

(Ottawa Free Press.)

IN Ontario this year an increase of 55,000,000 bushels of grain over last year and an increase of 15,800,000 tons of hay is anticipated. This means an increase in crop values of \$100,000,000. The increase was needed by the Ontario farmer, for by last year's bad crop he lost \$80,000,000. With a good crop this year he will wipe out last year's loss and be able to put considerable away in the bank. In the Province of Quebec the yield of grain crops this year is expected to be fully one-third better than in 1907. In addition to this 1908 promises to be a bumper year for the dairying industry, in which Quebec, the Eastern Townships particularly, is so vitally interested. In the Maritime Provinces the acreage is not only larger, but the production of the tilled fields promises to be exceptional.

Of the western provinces there has never been such glowing reports. There has been no frost to injure the growing grain, and because of this, even the most optimistic predictions can almost be accepted at par. The West will undoubtedly produce 100,000,000 bushels, and it would not be surprising if that figure would be exceeded if favourable weather conditions continue until the crop is harvested and threshed.

Altogether Canada's crop will probably exceed in value the \$250,000,000 crop of 1906. The benefit the country will derive is apparent, for with the return of good crops will return good times.

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