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Topics of the Day

IT seems only yesterday that Hon. Mr. Tweedie resigned his position as premier of New Brunswick to become Lieutenant-Governor. He was succeeded in the premiership by the Hon. William Pugsley on March 6th and it seemed as if there might be many years of uninterrupted Pugsley rule. Mr. Pugsley is a political veteran, knows his province well and is well known by all classes of the people. The political turn-table has since taken another whirl, and now New Brunswick has a new premier.

When Mr. Tweedie was premier, the speaker of the Legislature was Mr. Clifford W. Robinson, a lawyer from Moncton and the representative of Westmoreland. In Mr. Pugsley's cabinet, he became minister without portfolio, resigning his position as speaker. Six weeks later, the Royal Gazette announced that he had been made provincial secretary and clerk of the Crown in chancery. On the last day of May, upon the resignation of Mr. Pugsley, he was called upon to form a new government. This he succeeded in doing. Mr. Labilloy retains the portfolio of public works, Mr. Francis J. Sweeny remains surveyor-general, Mr. W. P. Jones is still solicitor-general and Mr. L. Farris, commissioner of agriculture.

The new premier, though a comparatively young man, has had considerable political experience, and will face the coming provincial election with a fair record. The result of that election is not likely to cause him much anxiety in advance, as he will have in his favour the sympathy of the Dominion Government and the influence of such prominent politicians as Mr. Pugsley and Mr. Emmerson.

Canadian clubs are still increasing in number. The latest addition to the ranks is that of Lethbridge, Alta., which starts out with forty members and a determination to hold fortnightly meetings. Senator De Veber is president and Mr. A. Ripley secretary.

Canada hears dim rumours that if Prince Edward Island does not receive better treatment, it may secede. British Columbia is dissatisfied with the treatment it is receiving but has not descended to threats of secession. The province of Ontario, however, has a genuine secession movement on its hands. The part of the province lying to the north and west of Lake Superior would like to erect itself into a new province. The movement is partly economic and partly political, but is decidedly impractical. This newer part of Ontario has been opened up at the expense of the older part and it could not with justice, be allowed to separate just as it is beginning to have a revenue equal to its expenditure. Moreover, from the national point of view, there are too many small provinces now. The ideal development would be to enlarge Manitoba by adding to the postage-stamp province some more territory and to combine the three maritime provinces into one. Canada would then consist of seven large provinces each capable of conducting its affairs on a broad and economical basis. Small provinces imply petty politics and economic waste.

Mr. S. A. McGaw, president and general manager of

the Western Canada Flour Mills Company, who spent last month looking through the west, declares his belief that the acreage of wheat in the western provinces will show no decrease this year. The acreage of coarse grains will show a decided increase.

He predicts a steady rise in the value of wheat, however, basing this on world conditions. He thinks Europe will demand more of America this year, and as the United States will have less to sell, Canada will get the benefit of the increased demand. As Mr. McGaw is a buyer of wheat, not a seller, his prediction as to the higher prices likely to obtain in the autumn must be taken seriously.

Added to this testimony, Premier Roblin says: "I am willing to go on record as saying that wheat was never seeded in Western Canada under more favourable conditions."

It looks as if the pessimists of the East must retire before the whirlwind optimism of the West. Those who have been predicting a smaller wheat crop this year will now be silenced until further developments.

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Mr. Percy Hurd, one of the British journalists now visiting in Germany, cables the Montreal Star that Germany is looking forward to better trade relations between that country and Canada. He found Prince Von Buelow, the German chancellor, quite interested in hearing of Canada's progress and pleased to know that the Germans in Canada were making such satisfactory progress.

Mr. Hurd reports that Herr Von Mendelsohn, the banker, stated amidst cheers at a civic banquet that it would be desirable if trade relations between the two countries were again to become normal and friendly.

It is probable that Mr. Fielding, before he returns from Europe, will enter into some negotiations looking to a resumption of this trade. Canada has always been willing to resume it, but heretofore Germany has been quite haughty.

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Toronto has a new theatre just about completed and expects one or two more in the near future.

Montreal is to have three new play-houses next season. These cities are growing in population and the citizens of both are apparently quite prosperous; hence the growth in the number of amusement houses.

In addition, Toronto has just had a new amusement park added to her list of attractions. It is constructed and will be run on the lines of the Dominion Park, Montreal.

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The Hamilton Jockey Club is holding its annual spring meet this week with considerable success. Several hundred horses in attendance at Toronto have gone there. On Tuesday the Montreal Jockey Club opened its new course, "Blue Bonnets," with an excellent patronage. This new track is said to excel even the Woodbine at Toronto, which has heretofore held the palm among Canadian race-courses. Steeplechasing will be a leading feature, the course containing thirteen jumps in two miles. Kelvin, the winner of the King's Plate at Toronto is to run against some of the best province-breds that Quebec can produce. Few King's Platers, however, have won brilliant victories after the great event.