

and declined to show any excitement whatever over a possible rise in United States duties, it was a natural conclusion that Canada was bluffing.

Again, "bluff" is an American characteristic. The man in the United States who can succeed with the biggest bluff is the man of the hour. Bluffing is a religion with them. It is a large part of their daily life, and is usually considered more important than fair negotiations or sincerity of purpose. While it is neither vicious nor immoral, the bluff game is one to which the Britisher or the Canadian is distinctly opposed. His instincts are against it. Therefore, as President Taft has discovered, Canada has not been bluffing.

TO understand Canada's attitude, one must know the history of our relations with the United States. Ever since the abrogation of the Reciprocal Treaty in 1865, Canada has suffered from stern tariff treatment at the hands of the United States. Many attempts were made to modify that treatment. Many appeals were made to Washington. Several prominent statesmen, including Sir John Macdonald and Sir Richard Cartwright, made trips to the United States capital to plead for better terms. The last historic journey of this kind was made in 1897, and it is said that the treatment extended to the Canadian envoy was such that no self-respecting ministry could take another chance. It was therefore announced at Ottawa that never again should a Canadian minister of the Crown go to Washington to make an international request. That promise has been kept. It required a space of thirteen years of paddling our own canoe to make the promise known, to show that it was not a bluff but a sincere decision.

The other day, apparently, President Taft asked the Canadian Government to send a representative to Washington. Undoubtedly he intimated that he would like to meet Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The tariff experts from Washington had visited Ottawa, had been dined and feted and had returned empty-handed. It was "up to" President Taft to save an important situation. Unfortunately that historic promise to the people of Canada stood in the way and neither Sir Wilfrid nor any other minister could go to Washington. Of course, it was impossible for President Taft to come to Ottawa, because custom forbids his leaving the country. So matters were in a difficult condition.

However, a solution was found. President Taft and Hon. Mr. Fielding, our finance minister, met at Albany where President Taft was attending a dinner at which Earl Grey was a guest. A conference lasting several hours took place and, while a decision was not reached, the official announcement pointed towards peace. President Taft, whatever his decision may be, has shown himself to be a statesman of exceptional calibre. He has gone a long way towards repairing the mistakes of his predecessors and of official Washington in by-gone days. He has increased the good feeling in Canada towards the United States, and has lessened the animosities which would or will be created by the application of the maximum tariff to Canadian goods.

SOMETIMES men find it easier to be wrong than to be right. This was the case when the members of the Ontario Legislature were tempted to raise their present indemnity from \$1,000 to \$1,500. There were four or five who hated to do what they knew to be unjust but they hated also to be considered prudes. While unwilling to sign the "round robin" in favour of the extra \$500, they were unwilling to get up in the Legislature and denounce it. They were therefore neutral, and the man who is neutral on a well-defined issue is usually a coward.

Only one member, Mr. W. F. Nickle of Kingston had the courage to stand up and declare that an increase in indemnity should not be made between general elections, unless the announcement had been made previous to a general election. Mr. Nickle was right and because he was right, the Premier did not permit the increase to go through. Mr. Nickle was right and because of that he is decidedly unpopular. The small-minded members who were anxious to walk off with that extra \$500 regard him with anything but a friendly feeling. In the end, however, he will win. He will be remembered when the others are forgotten and because he was faithful in one thing he will be made ruler of many things.

Of course, the whole trouble arose from the precedents. Other legislatures in Ontario and elsewhere had done similar deeds of

plunder; the Dominion Parliament had done it. It was only reasonable, therefore, that the present Ontario Legislature should do it. But then bad precedents do not make righteous deeds.

#### THE ANTI-GAMBLING RACE BILL

THE parliamentary committee who have been taking evidence re horse racing in Canada, its value as an improver of horseflesh and its corresponding detrimental effect on the morals of man, has elicited a large amount of information concerning the sport. It has also shown that horse-racing in parts of Canada is in the hands of reliable men who do not hesitate to tell the truth in the witness box.

But it is noticeable that the information obtained has been almost entirely concerning racing in Toronto, Hamilton and Montreal where the sport is in the hands of Canadians. How much, or rather how little has been learned of the tracks opposite Buffalo and Detroit, which are in the hands of Americans who are interested in neither the improvement of the Canadian horse nor the standard of Canadian morals!

And it might also be noted that while prominent citizens were convinced that racing helps the horse and the impression was given that in Canada the objects were purely sport and horse-breeding, no club hesitated to participate in the "rake-off" from the books. It is the "rake-off" taken from a game of cards that infringes the Canadian law and makes that game a gamble. Why should not the same rule obtain in horse-racing? And all the more so that the figures quoted in evidence show that the said "rake-off" and the profits of the club amount to practically the same amounts. It should be *infra dig* for a big sporting body composed of influential citizens to take a big share of the profits of betting and then not to turn any part of those profits to the benefit of the noblest animal of them all.

And if this objection is made to racing at its best, why was there not some means of securing information concerning those American-controlled tracks that in racing parlance are known as the "merry-go-rounds"? These tracks are operating in Canada under Canadian charters. They are making money in Canada out of Canadians and surely a government committee should have some means of discovering how they are doing it? The officials of those tracks, who are so conveniently out of Canada when required to give evidence, should be required to remain out of Canada when they desire to return to conduct the business they are too busy at other times to explain.

If racing in Canada is to continue it must be open and above-board even as the officials of the best jockey clubs would make it. Enough has been told the public to make them suspicious and to make many members of parliament anxious concerning the "Church vote." This bill may be thrown out but that will not kill the movement against racing. It will come again stronger than before and gathering strength largely from the fact that racing on certain tracks is controlled by men who do not seem to think themselves responsible to the Government of Canada.

J. K. M.

#### AN EASTER MESSAGE.

By L. C. GILMOUR.

MY King He comes by the path of the dawn,  
From the land where the dead folk be,  
And methinks His eyes hold the yearning thoughts,  
That my lost ones have sent to me.

There are Easter lilies all wet with dew,  
So reverend, and tall, and sweet;  
And hyacinths—purple, and cream, and white—  
Wait the coming of royal feet.

But I hie me where beds of daffodils  
Are all golden and fair to see,  
For methinks that the King will come this way  
With the message He bringeth me.

The chill of the night on the garden rests  
Where He sleeps who was crown'd with thorn,  
And all nature waits 'mid the shadows dim  
For the birth of the Easter morn.

With the rose and gold of the rising sun  
This wonderful vision I see—  
My King, by the way of the daffodils,  
Brings an Easter message to me.