



CANADA AND ITALY

CANADA has many Italian citizens, and owes much to the country which gave them to her, but aside from this there is great reason for an exhibition of national sympathy. The disaster which has come upon that sunny land is of the most unfortunate character and of stupendous proportions. The way in which the world has been hastening to her assistance and relief is the greatest evidence of the growing international good-will. Canada cannot be backward at such a time, and it is pleasant to record that the Federal Cabinet did not hesitate in formally expressing the national sympathy and in their dispatch of \$100,000 for relief purposes. They recognised that the whole Canadian people would approve of prompt and generous assistance for a sister nation in distress.

Several Canadian cities have also moved promptly in the matter and this too is to be commended. If a similar misfortune overtook a group of Canadian cities and towns, it would be a great consolation to us to have Italian cities extend their sympathy and assistance. For the same reason, the Italians will appreciate the civic hand-grasp which we stretch across the Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

DOUBLE SHUFFLE IN POPULATION

IT has been recently said that the Canadian population of the New England States would make a city almost twice the size of Montreal. The Maritime Provinces are facing the serious problem of a western migration. Ontario has a similar story to tell. The trend of population in Canada is irresistibly westward. Instances of men selling western farms to move eastward are as rare as snowballs in July. The national slump in eastern and middle population must be made up by importations from abroad. Mr. Hirst, editor of the London *Economist*, enunciates a novel doctrine of immigration to Canada, quite regardless of all Emerson Hough has said in his serial called "The Sowing." Mr. Hirst is convinced that prairie life is too lonely for the Englishman or the Scotchman. Isolated in the best wheat lands, he fears that his sentimental countrymen will go insane. He advocates that the less accessible parts of Canada should be occupied by those who are used to Canadian life; that the Ontarians should migrate westward and leave their farms to the British immigrant. This is not a solution which will appeal to the Ontario farmer. Mr. Hirst does not comprehend Ontario. He does not understand that land which has been hewed and homesteaded out of the woods during a hundred years of pioneering has a sentimental hold on people which is quite as respectable as the Britisher's dread of an outpost. Neither would it be good economy for the Ontario farmer to migrate westward—beyond the national overflow of population. Ontario farms are too valuable to leave for cheap land in the West. Not far from twenty per cent. of the entire wheat crop of Canada in 1908 was produced in Ontario; and this crop was but a circumstance compared to the enormous total value of grain, cereals, live stock and dairy produce. A few years of the Englishman in Ontario would soon change the figures.

The internal westward movement of population will be less marked as time goes on. The great movements will still be trans-oceanic and northward across the border. The young men of Ontario and the Maritime Provinces who are ambitious and who are not attached to land will continue to move westward, but it is the fate of the Britisher to jostle the American Farmer in the Canadian West.

NATIONAL SELF-PRESERVATION

SELF-PRESERVATION, speaking nationally, is of two kinds. There is the self-preservation which is represented in navies and standing armies and citizen soldiers, and there is the self-preservation which comes from the safe-guarding of the material and moral wel-

fare of the people. In considering their national welfare, President Roosevelt has given the continent a new topic for discussion by his invitation to Canada and Mexico to attend an American conference on the preservation of national resources.

Such an invitation should come as a shock to all those after-dinner orators who, in both the United States and Canada, have been accustomed to speak of our "unlimited natural resources." We have been taught by these post-prandial purveyors of buncombe, honey and "shaft sawder," that there were enough forests, minerals, water-powers and other natural products on this rich continent to support mankind for a thousand years to come. Yet here is the greatest man on this portion of the globe calling a conference to consider waste, and destruction, and possible depletion. It is indeed strange.

Fortunately as we look deeper into the invitation and the situation, we find that a constructive policy is also aimed at. Mr. Gifford Pinchot, who bore the message to Ottawa, remained long enough to address the Canadian Club in the presence of Lord Grey, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and Mr. R. L. Borden. He pointed out that the words were "conservation," "preservation," "irrigation" and "development." This makes one think that perhaps after all the situation is not so bad. There is still a little left to conserve, to preserve, to irrigate and to develop. The forests, mineral deposits and oil fields are to be conserved. In regard to coal the situation is already serious. In minerals, the preventable waste is greater than the total annual revenue of the Dominion, Mr. Pinchot ventures. The forests are to be preserved from destruction by fire and by wasteful lumbermen. The waste lands are to be irrigated as has been done in California and in Southern Alberta. The water-powers and inland waterways are to be developed.

It is a wonderful programme, undertaken not for the present generations but for posterity. Those nations are most truly great which are most concerned about posterity.

THE CANADIAN SNOW

THERE has been considerable opposition to the Montreal Ice Carnival on the part of patriotic citizens who fear that the public in Great Britain and elsewhere may gain wrong impressions. An attempt has been made to show that the immigration experts disapprove of it. The result of the argument has been to make people somewhat lukewarm in their support of the undertaking.

Just here there is one piece of evidence which the immigration authorities, the Montreal Board of Trade, and the railway officials will find it hard to answer. There is published in London, a weekly known as "Canada." It was founded with the assistance of guarantees made by leading banking institutions, railways and the department of immigration on this side of the ocean. It was practically bonused to help make the Dominion better known in Great Britain. This paper is semi-official in character and presumably would know what will interest the British investor and the British immigrant. It should also know what will and what will not discourage immigration. Yet in its issue for December 26th it has many pictures of the Canadian winter. Its frontispiece is "A Trapper's Christmas"—log hut, snowshoes and plenty of snow. A double page in the centre of the issue is covered with reproductions of eight photographs, every one having as its background snow and ice. Tobogganning, sleighing, curling, ski-ing, snowshoeing, hockey and ice-boating form the subjects of the illustrations. Scattered through the issue are other pictures of a similar character.

Now if this semi-official government and railway organ is allowed to make a feature of these winter sports and scenes, why should the City of Montreal be barred from having its ice carnival? The pictures are certainly intended for British consumption, because only a few copies of this paper find their way to this country. All the reading matter in the paper is prepared for British readers, and