

REFLECTIONS

BY THE EDITOR

CURIOS indeed how some people are frightened by a name. There are men who get quite excited when the word "military" is used in their presence. A policeman in uniform doesn't disturb them, and a troop of dragoons doing the musical ride rather pleases them. But speak of a militiaman or of the militia, or in any way refer to military organisation and immediately they bristle up. Perhaps that is why the militia of the United States is called the National Guard. The people of this continent are terribly afraid of the introduction of the militarism of Europe. They are not afraid of National Guards or Northwest Mounted Police or Boy Scouts, but "militia" is so much like "militarism" that they jump when the word is used. How would it be to change from Canadian Militia to Dominion Defenders? Forty-Fifth Regiment of Dominion Defenders—how does that sound? Perhaps some reader of the Courier will suggest a better designation.

A GAIN there are men who get quite excited when the word imperialist is used. There are a whole lot of people in Canada who believe in the British Empire but who would be insulted if called imperialists. It is certainly strange. "Imperialist" is on the black list with "militia." Yet, in a sense, nearly every man in Canada is an imperialist. Nearly every person from Sir Wilfrid Laurier down accepts our present connection with the British Empire without complaint. We cannot logically be members of the Empire without being imperialists, yet many Canadians object to the label most strenuously.

There are a number of gentlemen and not a few ladies who feel honoured when they are accused of being imperialists. These people are not imperialists in the proper sense; they are pro-Britishers, super-monarchists, King-worshippers, or anything you like along that line. The ultra enthusiasm of these people and their self-advertisement of themselves as imperialists has put the term under the ban with the great majority. The enthusiasm of the few, not being tempered with discretion, has created antipathy among the many.

A WRITER in the Toronto Star singles out another case of this kind, the faith in "Empire" and the lack of faith in "Emperor." This occurs in connection with a suggestion that King George should have a new short title, such as "Emperor of the British" or "King of the British." The Star writer prefers the latter title, because Emperor is associated with ancient Rome, modern China, Russia and Germany. He does not like Emperor, though admitting the general acceptance of Empire.

Yet logically if a British Empire, then a British Emperor. King of an Empire is incongruous, and accepted only because we do not like "Emperor." Perfect sanity and calm reason would induce us to accept Emperor and imperialist as perfectly proper terms, but our emotions come into play and we reject them. And still people say that Britishers are not emotional, not fantastical, not magnificently illogical.

If the truth be known, the British people possess as many prejudices, idiosyncrasies and fantastic notions as any other people. These features are different, that is the only distinction. The Canadian prejudice against militia, imperialist and Emperor may be unreasonable but it exists and what are you to do?

PHOTOGRAPHS have become so common and so easily made that we already forget the centuries of experiment which were necessary before photography became possible. Photographs came in with the steam-engine and their development has been contemporaneous and similar. The first photographic portrait from life was not taken until 1839, although Daguerre took photographs of a kind between 1824 and 1839, and eventually received a pension of 6,000 francs from the French Government for giving full and free information of his discoveries to the world. Yet even when the process was perfected it required an exposure of 45 minutes. In 1841, Fox Talbot patented his Calotype process which reduced the exposure to three minutes. Ten years later the Collodion plate reduced it to 10 seconds and in 1878 the Gelatine Dry Plates reduced the exposure to one second. Since 1878, photography has advanced in a hundred different ways until to-day any one may be a photographer.

One of the newest features is colour photography and the Canadian Pacific Railway has recently experimented with this in the Rockies, obtaining splendid results. Some of these pictures are being reproduced and will soon be given to the public which will then have the accurate colours of the mountains reproduced on paper without the intervention of any but mechanical processes. Some day soon it may be possible to take photographs of people and reproduce on

paper the exact colour of the flesh, eyes, hair and clothing. Already these can be reproduced on glass, but it is not possible to transfer them to paper except with the aid of lithography or half-tone plates. The further step of printing directly from the coloured negative on sensitised paper is a problem on which many people are working with a reasonable hope of success.

THE Crippen case has been the *cause celebre* of the last fortnight. Its most remarkable feature is the number of despatches, fake and genuine, which were worked up. The fake despatches were mainly by American newspaper men who seem to be under contract to send out sensations whether they are true or not. There was a time when a Canadian journalist who needed money and had a good imagination could always get the necessary remittance by sending some outlandish sensation to a New York journal. To-day there is more conscience in the New York press, but nevertheless sensationalism still demands its sacrifices. There never was a time when a Canadian newspaper would publish a sensation which it knew to be untrue or which it suspected might be false. This was the difference between reporting in Canada and the United States. Yet the changes of the years have brought the papers of the two countries nearer to the same standard. The United States press is less sensational, the Canadian press rather more sensational. As the standards of the "other side" have gone up, Canada's have come down. Perhaps we still have the advantage, but it is not so great. In this Crippen case, the Canadian papers have published "stuff" which it was necessary to contradict later, thus showing that we are not as careful as we once were. Perhaps this is a mark of our growing cosmopolitanism.

THE strike is over and it looks as if the company had the better of the decision. The Grand Trunk officials seem to think they have won. According to the view of the men, some of these officials are acting autocratically. It would be unfortunate if this is the case. Many of these older men went out on strike with great reluctance and only because of their obligation to the Union. When a man does what is disagreeable to him because impelled by his conscience to observe a personal obligation, an oath in reality, he should not be judged too harshly. Besides, in every game the victor shows his breeding after the decision more than during the fight. These are points which should not be overlooked by the junior officials of the Grand Trunk Railway.

Few strikes are a victory to either side, though often considered as such. In every strike it might almost be said that both sides lose. It is thirty years or more since there was a strike on the Grand Trunk, and the writer ventures the prediction that it will be nearly as long before there is another. Mr. Hays may have won, but he will be paying the price in loss of custom for some years. His competitors were quite busy during that historic fortnight. On the other hand, the men have had their lesson and it is not necessary that it should be emphasised. The public is interested in having these men feel kindly towards the railway, because only through such a condition can this great public service corporation properly perform its function.

If ever again a strike seems imminent on any great public utility corporation in Canada it is to be hoped that each side will consider first—the good of the public. The moment public convenience and necessity begin to be paralyzed both capital and labour suffer.

WHILE the younger manufacturers may be losing faith in Canada, the political leaders seem to be more intent than ever on showing that such is not the case with them. Some time ago Sir Lomer Gouin announced the policy of making those who cut pulp-wood on crown lands manufacture it into wood-pulp in the province. This had long been the policy in Ontario, but it took more courage to adopt it in Quebec. Now Sir James Whitney has gone a step farther and has set a new standard for his brother premier. He has some Ontario pulp-wood limits for sale and he proposes to sell them on condition that the product be manufactured into paper. Formerly if the wood was turned into pulp it was sufficient; now it must be manufactured into its higher and more valuable form. Sir James will probably defend his policy on the ground of "conservation of public resources"; but to the paper consumer of the United States, it will look like protection.

Again, on their Western tour, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues are speaking plainly and eloquently of their faith in Canada's future. They are trying to stimulate the faith of the Westerner, though it was hardly necessary, in the value of national unity, harmony and co-operation. Nothing could be finer or more inspiring than the Canadianism of the Premier as expressed in his recent addresses.

This year, particularly, when the western crop is small and the foreign financial situation cloudy, it behooves all Canadians to pull together in one grand, united effort to maintain our present prosperity. And it will require concerted and sympathetic action on the part of every class in the community.

BLUENOSE FAIRNESS

A Liverpool, N.S. citizen writes as follows: "On leaving home about a year ago, I gave instructions to discontinue. However it came to my address, and as it is appreciated by the other members of the family and is evidently worth the money, you may continue sending. Enclosed find Post Office Order"