

REFLECTIONS: BY THE EDITOR

The Canadian Flag.

RATHER disconcerting indeed is the information that the Red Ensign, with the arms of the Dominion in the fly, is "intended to be used only by Canadian merchant vessels." Mr. Harcourt, secretary of state for the colonies, may be right in theory, but few of us will be inclined to accept his dictum in practice. We want to fly the Red Ensign with the Canadian arms on land as well as on sea. There is no other Canadian flag. If we desire to show ourselves Canadian by the use of a flag, there is no other which serves our purpose.

Moreover it is idle for Mr. Harcourt to maintain that all Canadians are Britishers. For example, if a Russian settles in Canada, becomes naturalized and goes to Great Britain, will he be considered a British subject? If he goes to Australia will he be entitled to all the rights of the British-born. He will not. And until he is, the British Government cannot expect that every Canadian will fly only the plain Union Jack and adhere to it as his flag.

Canada must have her own flag, and it must be one which she can use by both land and sea. A Canadian flag which may be used only by merchant vessels is not a Canadian flag in the broadest sense. Mr. Harcourt and the state officials in London had better revise their official rules. Canada will not be satisfied with a plain Union Jack. We want the Canadian arms shown in every flag we fly. We are Canadians as well as Britishers, and our flag must correctly represent us.

Ottawa's Ambition.

LAST week the members of the Canadian Press Association gathered at Ottawa for their annual meeting. This was a recognition that Ottawa is becoming more and more the social and intellectual centre of the Dominion. The meetings were well attended, a leading feature being the presence of a considerable body of French-speaking journalists from the Province of Quebec. Indeed, the gathering was exceptionally "national," in the broadest meaning of the term.

At the banquet, tendered by the corporation of the city of Ottawa, the importance of the city as a national centre was duly impressed upon the members of the convention. Mayor Hopewell spoke most convincingly and indicated that they hoped more and more to make Ottawa a model city. Not only is it to be architecturally handsome as befitting the capital city of the new northern power on this continent, but it is to be a city whose social and intellectual influence will radiate throughout the country. Its city planning is to be such that its homes will be preservative of health, morals and stamina.

Perhaps the Ottawa people do not take as broad a view of the city's future as do Mayor Hopewell and other leading citizens. Some of the talk as to its future was rather puerile. Nevertheless this meeting of the Press Association indicates that Ottawa is gaining ground. It is becoming more than a parliamentary city. It is acquiring a broader dignity, a broader importance, and twenty-five years hence may be as important socially and intellectually as Toronto and Montreal are to-day.

The Billion Dollar Period.

AT this same gathering, the Hon. W. T. White, in his banquet speech, pointed out that Canada had entered upon the Billion Dollar Period. The foreign trade of Canada for 1912-13 will reach the billion dollar mark. The deposits in the chartered banks were now over a billion dollars. The railway capitalization was over a billion and a half dollars. The investment in Canadian manufacturing was up to the billion mark. The days of millions have gone; the days of billions have arrived.

This is a new way of indicating the progress of the country—the wonderful and insistent progress of a country which is marching to greatness at a speed which makes the ordinary optimist feel his hair rising. As Mr. White pointed out, when we consider that any one of the three provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta, is larger than modern Germany, we can stretch our imagination as far as we like concerning the future. All that

is required is that the people should exercise foresight and intelligence in nation-planning and nation-building, and Canada will become, if not the first, at least the second English-speaking nation of the world. Mr. White painted broadly on the canvas, but not too broadly. We shall realize all that is ours by heritage and possibility if we build wisely.

The Canadian Navy.

THOSE who believe in a Canadian parliament, Canadian courts, Canadian foreign trade, and a Canadian army, must believe in a Canadian navy. At best, a cash-contribution policy is but temporary; and many of those who favoured a cash contribution are in favour of a Canadian navy as a permanent policy.

Wealth is not the only important thing in national life. A nation may be rich and yet play a small part in the world drama. Brains, skill, courage, foresight, intelligence, physique—these are the attributes which count in international diplomacy, commerce and warfare. The man is the badge of the nation. As the Canadian militia system is intended to develop the man as a land-defender, so a Canadian navy would develop the man as a sea-defender. The one is the complement of the other.

A Canadian navy is more than ships. It includes dry docks, ship-yards, coaling stations, arsenals, coastal defences, naval volunteers or militia, training ships and war vessels. It is a complex institution for training citizens in the art of national defence against attack from the sea. It is the insurance which Canada must pay for the maintenance of its good name within the Empire.

Surely we are not a nation of money-grubbers or Red Indians, willing to trust the defence of our country to treaties which we cannot enforce, to Monroe doctrines, or fortuitous circumstances. There can be no national pride in that.

If the British Empire is to remain the leading exponent of high-minded western civilization, each of its component parts must be strong, self-reliant and capable. Every link in the chain of Empire must be well forged. Every unit must be able to offer equal resistance. A Canadian fleet unit on the Pacific and a Canadian fleet unit on the Atlantic are as necessary as an Australian fleet unit or a New Zealand fleet unit.

How Even Amusements Affect the High Cost of Living



In the Old Days Mrs. Timmins Had a Quilting Bee which Afforded Her Friends and Neighbours Plenty of Diversion, Chit-chat and Recreation, Besides Contributing to the Welfare of the Community. In 1912 Mr. and Mrs. Timmins Have Bridge Parties which— But Why Expose Mrs. Timmins When the Society Editor Doesn't? Drawn by W. S. Broadhead.