

The Canadian Courier

A National Weekly

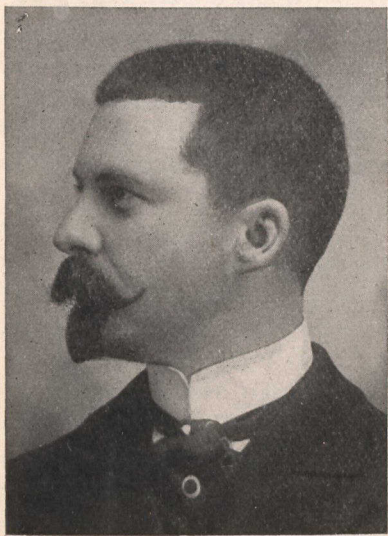
Subscription: \$4.00 a Year.

Vol. IV.

Toronto, June 20th, 1908.

No. 3

IN THE PUBLIC VIEW



Mr. Henri Bourassa.

THE night of the Quebec general election a quiet, emotional-looking man stood beside his wife on the bulletin platform of the Montreal newspaper *La Patrie*. The returns were all in. A crowd of twenty thousand people had gathered as near as possible to the platform; a volatile, earnest crowd that expected some deliverance from the man on the stage that would give some of them a feeling that the day had been worth while—if only to have elected Henri Bourassa against Hon. Lomer Gouin in St. James Division, Montreal.

But Henri Bourassa said not a word till he had done one of the simplest and to some folk the most theatrical things in the world. He turned and for a moment took his wife's hand, as though in the quiet

congratulation of that moment she had some natural part; then he turned and for ten minutes quietly talked to the electors of Montreal. The speech was not Latin fire and bluster; it was the quiet culmination of an excited day's work among the polling booths bearding the political lion in his lair. When it was done some thousands of electors in the Province of Quebec understood Henri Bourassa, Nationalist leader, perhaps a little better.

Henri Bourassa is one of the delectable enigmas of Canadian public life. Like many another political conundrum, he has been variously understood—and misunderstood. There were thousands who during the Boer War pooh-poohed his anti-Imperialist leanings—perhaps not without reason. Many thousands more to-day are admiring the Nationalist leader who was courageous enough to leave the House of Commons with its indemnity and its large area of discussion to face Premier Gouin in the Province of Quebec.

Scholars have often been bold; thinkers have frequently been martyrs. Henri Bourassa is a scholar. He is a student of history. He is not a politician. In a more or less limited and perhaps prospective sense he may take rank as a constructive statesman. But his point of view must be well understood. To him the State has an historical setting. The French-Canadian Nationalist leader takes a long look back into the chronicles when he comes to consider the present condition and the future prospect of the French-Canadian race in Quebec. He sees the habitant not as a Canadian in the sense that

a citizen of Toronto, of Montreal or of Winnipeg is a Canadian. He understands that the habitant has a history older than Canada; that the Nationalist movement in Quebec has its roots in the France that antedated Napoleon and modern united France and the discovery of Canada; and that the French-Canadian of to-day is more French than France because he dates back in the undisturbed tranquillity of his temperament to the days when his forefathers were mountaineers from the French provinces.

All this and its bearing on Canadian destiny Mr. Bourassa understands better than does any one else. He is not a foe to progressive Canada nor to the modern idea; but he insists that racial temperament and character and customs and language

must be respected. The grandson of Papineau is an historian and a philosopher. He is prepared to accept adverse criticism and unpopularity as the price of intellectual sincerity. But however unpalatable Mr. Bourassa's views may be to many Canadians, he is personally one of the most attractive and popular figures in Canadian political life. He has the passionate, poetic earnestness that makes him more than an orator, more than a thinker, more even than a political figure. He strikes a high note in the French character; as high, it may be said, as did Frechette the poet; less obvious than the note of Drummond, and perhaps it may take a long while to determine whether this Bourassaism is the dominant note in the French-Canadian scale.

Meanwhile Mr. Bourassa, the thinker and the orator, has become the provincial head of whatever Nationalist movement there may be in Quebec and in the rest of Canada. He has succeeded in making an able and chivalrous lieutenant of Mr. Armand Lavergne, who may be less brilliant than his chief but is surely not less sincere. These two men are a positive and unmistakable contribution to the intellectuality and the sincerity of Canadian public life. Temporarily mistaken they may be, as of old the Jesuits found enemies who discounted the Order and the system and the ultimate hereafter. But they are the apostles of an idea. For the sake of a fixed idea—a species of idea that flourishes well in the French mind—they are ready to sacrifice the general political game in larger Canada. To some they may seem unhumorous and unaccommodating. They may be regarded as impractical dreamers. But in an age when politics tries to make all men bow the knee to a calf of gold or an idol of expediency they are entitled to profound respect from all thinking Canadians.

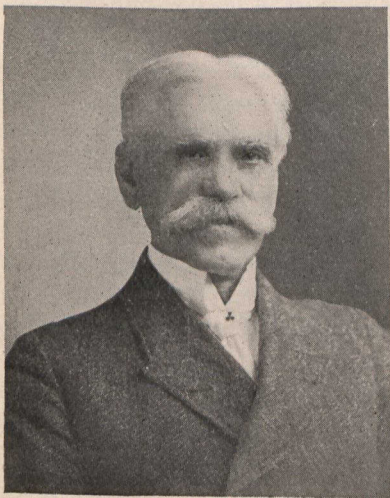
Yes—when one listens to Bourassa it is the language and the feeling of passionate old France; the France not of Napoleon and modern warfare; but the France of the Academy and the sciences and the poetry and the mountaineers; the France of Picardy and Bretagne and of Normandy. Perhaps the brilliant crusade begun by Mr. Bourassa and Mr. Lavergne may be as hopeless an ideal as the Socialist propaganda in other parts of Canada. But the story of it will at least contain the record of two men who decided to get weary of the general political game—largely because that no longer stood for more than the phantom of an idea.

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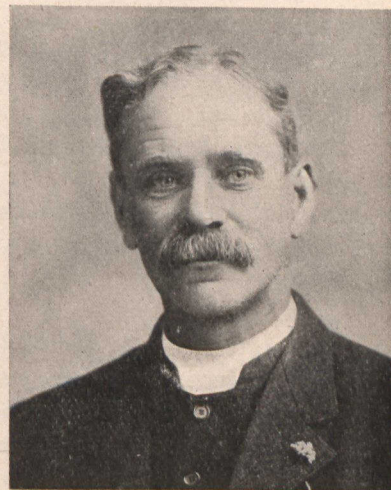
FIRST in many matters was the late Major Mulvey, who died in Vancouver last month. Being one of the trail-blazers in the West, the Major had an opportunity of heading the list in spheres of influence that other men have since come to occupy. It was the Red River Expedition in 1870 that called Major Mulvey, then a private in No. 4 Company of the First Ontario Rifles, to Winnipeg. Lieutenant-Governor McMillan of Manitoba was his captain. After the expedition was over the Major remained in Winnipeg, where he entered newspaper work. After leaving journalism Mr. Mulvey became organizer of the Inland Revenue Department at Winnipeg under the administration of Sir John A. Macdonald. Winnipeg knew him as one who was at the forefront of all movements.



Hon. Donald Morrison,
Speaker N. B. House of Assembly.



The late Major Stewart Mulvey,
A Western Pioneer.



Rev. John Pringle,
Presbyterian Minister who has recently attacked
the Government on account of immorality
in the Yukon.