

THE CANADIAN LEAGUE

THREE LETTERS

Toronto, Aug. 8, 1913.

Editor, Canadian Courier:

Sir,—Do you not think it is time the non-partisan opinion in the country about such national affairs as the settlement of the navy question took some more definite shape than it has assumed since the memorial to Mr. Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier was promulgated last fall? As I am one of those who have felt grateful to you for the consistent line you have taken, I venture to write this letter because of the conviction that many among your readers would welcome an opportunity to combine in an effort to influence parliamentary action through the more systematic development of a reasoned public opinion than either of the parties seems anxious to undertake.

In many parts of the country signs have appeared which compel the belief that the desire for better politics will manifest itself as soon as there is any nucleus around which it may gather. At all events, you may count on at least one volunteer for any well-directed scheme in which like-minded people may co-operate.

I have no definite plan to offer; and even if I had I should hesitate to put it forward, in view of the reception given by The Courier to the only part I have taken in Canadian politics, which is only referred to now because it may encourage others to be willing to join with citizens whose views may not always have been agreeable to themselves. There is plenty of room for difference about details, along with active agreement upon the fundamentals of national progress. There is surely immediate need for inculcating the spirit of Canadian nationality, especially as it applies to defence, and it is to be hoped that you will show us the way.

Yours very truly,

ARTHUR HAWKES.

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Toronto, Aug. 9, 1913.

Mr. Arthur Hawkes,

Editor "The Canadian."

Dear Sir,—There is some doubt still as to the advisability of a journal such as The Canadian Courier undertaking any agitation or educational campaign. The public are not yet convinced that any people except politicians and preachers and baseball managers should be allowed to work up public interest. Nevertheless, your appeal to us to lead in a drawing together of the non-partisan opinion of Canada into a national organization, rather appeals to me personally. There seems to be justification for an active patriotic campaign to spread the truth, which is being smothered by the politicians on both sides.

Some two years ago, there was organized in this city a body known as "The Canadian League," with just such intentions. I became honorary secretary, and there were nearly a thousand members enrolled in a few weeks. That league is still in existence, and if you and your friends, who eyed it askance at that time, would join that organization it could be greatly developed. Perhaps there might need to be a slight modification of its programme, a copy of which I send you, but that is a minor matter. In the main we are in agreement.

The Canadian League was intended to carry to its logical outcome the work of the Canadian Clubs. The Canadian Clubs have done much. There is need of an organization to go farther and to organize national sentiment and give it voice. The Canadian Club listens; The Canadian League should talk. If it is to be of any immediate benefit, it must attract the non-partisans in both political parties in behalf of a strong national sentiment. This would mean particularly an attempt to bring the two parties together on the navy question with the idea of settling that matter on the same basis as our militia ques-

tions have been settled—by mutual agreement.

The other great question is that of centralization. This fight would need to be extended to Great Britain and Australia. Canada should not fight Downing Street alone. She must seek assistance against the Centralists in all other parts of the Empire. This strange infatuation for a century-old doctrine must be stayed by an agitation as wide as the realm of His Majesty. We must meet the strong "centralist" movement with an active force equally powerful.

This is a big task, but if you are prepared for a sustained campaign, I shall be glad to call a meeting of the League Executive and see if an active campaign, with a maximum of co-operation between us, could be arranged. A series of meetings all over Canada would be necessary.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN A. COOPER,

Hon. Sec. Canadian League.

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Toronto, Aug. 11, 1913.

Dear Mr. Cooper,—Your letter is excellent. I will gladly enlist in the Canadian League, prepared to do any work that is given me, in vindication of Canadian Nationality as an increasing power in the Britannic Empire.

ARTHUR HAWKES.

Our London Letter

LONDON, July 21, 1913.—There is peculiar fitness in the presentation to King George of the Albert Medal of the Royal Society of Arts at Buckingham Palace. This year is the 50th anniversary of the institution of the medal as a memorial of the Prince Consort, and the council of the society did rightly in asking King George to accept the medal "in respectful recognition of His Majesty's untiring efforts to make himself personally acquainted with the social and economical conditions of the various parts of his Dominions, and to promote the progress of arts, manufactures and commerce in the United Kingdom and throughout the British Empire." The presentation was made through the Duke of Connaught, the president of the society, himself a warm sympathizer with many forms of social progress and industrial enterprise.

The rumour current some time ago of the probability of Their Majesties making a tour of the great shipbuilding, coal mining, and ironworking industries in the neighbourhood of Tyneside, has already taken tangible shape. Two other royal tours have been arranged for next year—one in the Black Country in the spring and the other of the shipbuilding centres of the Clyde in July. It is stated on high authority that the Royal industrial tours will be continued year by year until practically every portion of Great Britain has been visited. Similar tours are also under consideration for the Prince of Wales as soon as he has completed his education.

I hear that Queen Mary, with Princess Mary, is expected to visit Germany in the middle of August, and to stay some time at the Court of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. During her sojourn the queen will visit the Crown Prince and Princess at Langfuhr, near Danzig, and will afterwards go to Stolp, where the queen will review her Prussian regiment, the Blucher Hussars. The Prince of Wales, it is anticipated, will also make a brief stay at Danzig and Zoppot Bad, well-known and charming resorts.

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EVERYBODY in society is gratified with the news of Prince Arthur's love match. The secret of the mutual love of the Prince and the Duchess of Fife had been well kept, and not even those in the inner court set can truthfully say they knew about it for a long time, but that their mouths were sealed. The Duchess of Fife is very rich and very shy. She has been well trained by her father, who was a cap-

ital man of business, and she thoroughly understands looking after her own investments and property. In all this she is far more versed than her mother, the Princess Royal. The duchess does not care for general society, in which she does not feel at ease, loves an open air life, is fond of animals but not of books, and very seldom enjoys a play. An adept with the "fly," it is a happy picture of her that presents itself when she is salmon fishing, her favourite pursuit, on the Scottish Dee, and one at which the royal ghillies say she is first-rate.

As for Prince Arthur, he is everything that the court circle would like the Prince of Wales to be ten years hence; a perfectly delightful, competent Englishman, able to take his place with the best, and, when necessary, to assume the most dignified demeanour, though in private life he is quite unassuming. Unlike some of the royal family, he is quite at his ease in making a speech, and his articulation is remarkably distinct. It is practically certain that the wedding ceremony will be solemnized in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, and quite possibly the event may occur in October, before the Duke and Duchess of Connaught return to Canada.

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HIS MAJESTY'S visit to the Royal Agricultural Show at Bristol, in his busiest month of the year, is proof of the king's interest in agriculture. It is common knowledge that the personal pleasure which King Edward evinced in his own farms and in agricultural matters generally is shown in no less degree by King George, who had inherited the progressive agricultural spirit of his father and grandfather when he became owner of the fine farms at Windsor, Sandringham, and Abergeldie.

By the king's command the royal farms are managed on the same lines and traditions as under King Edward. The visitor to Windsor or Sandringham is struck by the strictly utilitarian aspect of the farms. What stamps their royal ownership is the evident practicability of everything. Of futile ostentation there is none; indeed, the farms are an object lesson in interpretation of the Royal Agricultural Society's apt motto: "Practice with Science." One is not surprised to learn of the king's farming triumphs with Shorthorns, Herefords, Jersey cows, Berkshire hogs, and shires, several of the latter having a wonderful record as prize winners. Interest in farming competitions is, I am told, awaited with just the same eagerness at Windsor as at the humbler farm, where so much may turn on the winning of a prize.

During the last three years two additions have been made to farm lands under royal care, namely, Shernbourne Hall farm, consisting of about 700 acres, mostly of fine barley land, situated on the north side of Sandringham, in Norfolk, and the other being the Whiteford Model Farm, close to Callington, Cornwall, founded as an estate for the Prince of Wales, to be run on scientific lines for the benefit of the counties of Cornwall and Devon.

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THE appointment of Dr. Bridges as Poet Laureate brings into the "limelight" a poet whose literary output is admittedly of the high and rare quality, though he has hitherto failed to catch the popular ear. This does not, of course, mean that the new Poet Laureate is not a true poet, notwithstanding that his appeal is to the cultured few rather than to the popular heart. Dr. Bridges' honour causes no surprise to those who are aware of the Prime Minister's personal interests in scholarship and literature. The laureate is an idol neither of the marketplace nor of the theatre. Probably hundreds of readers would have readily voted for either Mr. Kipling or Mr. Yeats or Mr. Watson had their suffrages been sought. But to those who love poetry for poetry's sake, who have no ulterior motive, whether Imperialist or patriotic or national or partisan of any kind, his choice will give sincere and deep pleasure. Moreover, it will be what no appointment perhaps has been since Ben Jonson's (if he were ever really laureate)—it will be



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Norman Richardson

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Toronto.

NOTICE is hereby given that Alicia Hill, of the City of Toronto, in the County of York, in the Province of Ontario married woman, will apply to the Parliament of Canada at the next session thereof, for a Bill of Divorce from her husband, George E. Hill, formerly of the City of Toronto, in the County of York, Dentist, but now of the City of Los Angeles, in the State of California, United States of America, on the ground of adultery and desertion.

Dated at Toronto the second day of July, 1913.

CORLEY, WILKIE AND DUFF,
Solicitors for the Applicant.