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 LONDON, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1.

Our Political Future.

The Toronto Globe censures Mr. W. F. Maclean because of his recent utterances in the House of Commons, with regard to Canada's future political status. Mr. Maclean predicted that the time would come "for the disappearance of the Governor-General, when Canada will be an independent state under the crown of Great Britain," adding:

"The trend of public thought, as I read the signs of the times, is in the direction of establishing a British Empire made up of free and independent states, under the crown of England, and working, not through a great imperial council, but through negotiations between the governments of these free and independent states."

The Globe says truly that there would have been a patriotic howl if Mr. Bourassa had employed the language of Mr. Maclean; but Mr. Maclean is none the less entitled to credit, as a Conservative, for candidly expressing opinions which are distasteful to many of his own party. Why should the Globe quarrel with the opportunity, afforded by Mr. Maclean, of canvassing an important question, which no Liberal could have raised without exposing himself to misrepresentation. The fullest and frankest discussion of the future of the country should be welcomed. We dissent entirely from the Globe's objection to such a discussion "because it leads people who do not know to believe that we are in a position of constraint or servitude." It is not Mr. Maclean's fault that an American correspondent gives an anti-British twist to his remarks. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was misrepresented by some Canadian Tories when he advocated an extension of Canada's treaty-making power; but it was not suggested by Mr. Maclean that he should hold his tongue lest anyone should think Canada had a grievance. If Mr. Maclean's idea ought not to be debated for this reason, a discussion of imperial federation is equally objectionable, since it implies that the advocates of the scheme are not content with existing conditions.

No thinking Canadian believes that the constitutional relations of Great Britain and Canada are permanently fixed. The Parliament of Canada cannot forever continue in subordination to the Parliament of the mother country, even in theory. The great majority of Canadians hope and believe that the Dominion will remain an integral part of the British Empire, but in the course of time, with the growth of wealth and population in this country, there must be an approach to equality between Canada and Great Britain. There are only two possible lines of constitutional development within the Empire. One is imperial federation, which is the dream of not a few, but which will probably never be more than a dream, because it would involve the surrender of some of the powers of the colonial parliaments to a central organization. This is not the direction of British imperialism has taken in the past. More likely it will continue to follow its historic tendency by an increasing decentralization, which will give the fullest scope to the national aspirations and independent self-development of the colonies. Decentralization is not disintegration. The British Empire was never more cohesive than it is today, and never more united. The ties of sympathy and affection that bind the mother country and the colonies together are the only enduring ties, and without them political bonds would not last long. Mr. Maclean's idea is not a new one, and it may not be realized in the exact form in which he states it, but it probably indicates the path which imperial policy will follow. A congeries of free and independent states, under the one crown, would be a contrast to all the empires which have passed across the stage of history, and gone down to their grave; but the British Empire has been created upon lines for which ancient and modern times offer no parallel. The subject may have only an academic value at this moment, but sooner or later it will enter practical politics, and there can be no harm in discussing it.

The New Assessment Law.

The assessors this year will work for the first time under the new assessment act. The personality tax has been abolished and the so-called business tax takes its place. The new law simplifies the problem of taxation for the assessors, the merchants and all business and professional men. The retail merchant knows that he will be assessed for 30 per cent of the assessed value of the premises occupied by him for business purposes. Under the old law a merchant in any line, wholesale or retail, was supposed to be assessed for the value of his stock minus the amount of his indebtedness; but it was not always possible for the assessor or the merchant to arrive at a proper valuation. Under the new system there will be inequalities, but no one can evade taxation. Every business, however small, must pay on at least \$250 assessment.

The new tax discriminates between different classes of business. A distiller will be taxed on 150 per cent of the assessed value of his premises; a brewer on 75 per cent, except on the malted house, which is assessed for 50 per cent; a wholesale merchant, an insurance, loan or trust company, or a bank or banker upon 75 per cent of the value of the premises; a lawyer, physician, civil engineer, architect or any person carrying on a financial or

commercial business, a coal dealer, an owner of a departmental store (with more than five branches of retail trade), a lumber dealer, printer, publisher or lithographer, 50 per cent; a photographer, theater, skating rink, or any place of amusement, a livery stable, restaurant and hotel, 25 per cent. All of these assessments are, of course, over and above the assessment on the real estate, the basis of which is not altered.

In cities of 10,000 population and over, income derived from personal earnings or from a pension or retiring allowance, is exempt up to \$1,000, but if the person is not a householder, on the assessment roll, the exemption is only \$400. This appears to be aimed at the bachelors. Professional men, whose income is greater than their business assessment, will be taxed upon the amount of their income in excess of said assessment, subject to the regular exemption. There is no exemption on income received from any source other than personal earnings, so that income derived from interest, dividends, stocks, or from any other source whatever, is assessable on the full amount. The effect of this is to make the dividends from all financial corporations such as banks, insurance, loan and trust companies liable on the full amount as against the resident shareholders in Ontario.

The public service corporations are taxable as follows:

"Every person carrying on the business of a telegraph or telephone company, or of an electric railway, tramway or street railway, or of the transmission of oil or water, or of steam, heat, gas, or electricity for the purpose of light, heat or power, for a sum equal to 25 per cent of the assessed value of the land (not being a highway, road, street, lane, or public place or water or private right of way) occupied or used by such person, exclusive of the value of any machinery, plant or appliances erected or placed upon, in, over, under or affixed to such land."

The defects or merits of the new system will be revealed in practice. It is only an experiment and the law may have to be modified in important particulars, but it is believed that it cannot be worse than the old personality tax.

Public interest in the war in the far east is reviving, now that the fight in Ontario is ended.

The revenue of the Dominion continues to rise, although George E. Foster is in Parliament again.

Grits who think that Tory rule in Ontario will be intolerable should read the cable dispatches and realize that they might be a good deal Warsawed.

Few men live up to their obituary notices, and the Whitney Government will never live up to its pre-election ideals.

A Toronto paper says that all the would-be ministers have placed themselves unconditionally in Mr. Whitney's hands except one. The exception is said to be a stout, florid gentleman resident in Toronto.

How Balzac Taunted.
 (London Chronicle.)

Balzac killed himself with work if ever author did. His books, each one of which (when he had settled down to the "Comedie Humaine") he proclaimed a masterpiece, were a veritable obsession. We know now with what ceaseless and almost insane toil he wrung them forth, and can see him wrapped in the monk's robe of white flannel, the big throat laid bare, veins swollen, the great black eyes aflame, agonizing over plot and scene, supplanting and cursing the phrase that would not come, sustaining this through days and nights of three dreadful weeks at a stretch in the sealed and curtained chamber where the candles were never extinguished. Then, livid, unwashed and half-clothed, he would drag himself to the printer's. Thus only in a nation of stylists could the man who had never achieved a style make himself the first novelist of his day and a classic.

Wearing and wasting as this travail was, Balzac's splendid strength of body, the sure and ready return of his inspired and sea-like periods, his quenchless belief in himself and in the future, enabled him to continue it, with a minimum of repose, for successive years. And what a bulk of work! From 1821 to 1824 he wrote 20 volumes, and in 1824 he was but 25 years of age and had not even begun to think of the "Comedie Humaine." Between 1830 and 1842 79 novels of the "Comedie" saw the light, and with all this the great work was never completed. On his death-bed he pleaded with his doctor for six months, six weeks, six days in which to consummate his task, and sank into coma while pleading for six hours.

The Longest Lane Must Turn.
 (Toronto Globe.)

An old lady who died at Montreal at the age of 104 years had smoked habitually since she was 9 years old. This recalls the Englishman's comment on the demise of an aged total abstainer: "They may stand it for years, but it is bound to fetch them at last."

Will Not Stop Corruption.
 (Hamilton Herald.)

But don't be foolish enough to expect that the defeat of the Ross Government puts a stop to electoral corruption in Ontario.

Speakership Test.
 (Toronto Globe.)

Dr. Reaume will have a chance now to test the liberality of his own party in dispensing speakerships.

Fresh Water for the Barnacles.
 (Toronto Globe.)

Barnacles, it is said, are more effectively removed by sailing the ship into fresh water. What a clean hull Ontario Liberals will have after a season in opposition! The result is what we are after, and we, therefore, refuse to complain or quarrel over the method. "The inn hand" might have done it, but we have no objection to the fresh water cure.

You Can Never Tell.
 (Eliza Wheeler Wilcox.)

You never can tell when you send a word like an arrow shot from a bow by an archer blind, be it cruel or kind. Just where it will chance to go, it may pierce the breast of your dearest friend, or tipped with its poison or balm;

Sunlight Soap

saves wear and tear on you and your clothes. Next wash day try the Sunlight way and see how much more leisure it gives you and how much better it will be for your clothes. Use hard or soft water, the result will be good. No scrubbing, no boiling.

Try Sunlight.
 Your purchase money refunded if you are not satisfied.
 Lever Brothers Limited
 Toronto



A Note of Shame.

(Hamilton Spectator.)

Once more, Hurrah for Game!

Needed at Home, Sweet Home.
 (Toronto Telegram.)

Kurapatkin Come Home. You are wanted to dictate peace at St. Petersburg.

To a stranger's heart in life's great mart

It may carry its pain or its calm.

You never can tell when you do an act

Just what the result will be.

Each thing must create its kind.

Though you may not know, yet the tree

Shall grow.

And shelter the brows that toil.

You never can tell what your thoughts

Will do.

In bringing you hate or love.

For the thoughts are things, and their

airy wings

Are swifter than carrier doves.

They follow the law of the universe:

Each thing must create its kind.

And they speed o'er track to bring you

back

Whichever went out from your mind.

A Welcome Bow.
 (Yonkers Statesman.)

Church—I hate to see a man bowing

and scraping, don't you?

Gotham—Well, no; not if he's doing

it when cleaning the ice from the

sidewalk.

Russia.
 (Chicago Record-Herald.)

The czar crawls forth from where he

hid.

The grand dukes have nailed down the

lid.

The strength of which was sorely tried;

But though the lid is thick, and though

The nails are set in many a row,

They're not clinched on the under side.

This My Life.
 (John Vance Cheney.)

I strive to keep me in the sun.

I pick no quarrel with the years,

Nor with the fates—not even the one

That holds the reins.

I take occasion by the hand;

I'm not too nice to twist weed and flower;

I do not stay to understand;

I take mine hour.

The time is short at best,

I push right onward while I may;

I open to the winds my breast,

And walk away

A kind heart greets me here and there;

I hide from it my doubts and fears,

I struggle and say the path is fair

Along the years.

Mutually Beneficial.
 (Houston Post.)

"Will you keep my daughter in the

style to which she has been accus-

tomed?"

"No, sir; I'll keep her in a style to

which she has not been accustomed."

"All right, my boy; take her and be

happy. Now her mother and myself

will be able to live in the style to

which we have not been accustomed."

Change of Sentiments.
 (Washington Star.)

"Don't you think that an abundant

display of diamonds is vulgar?"

"No," answered "Cumrox," "I

don't think so. But that's what I used

to say when I didn't have any."

LEPROSY DECREASING
 New Remedy Introduced at Tracadie
 Proves Beneficial.

Ottawa, Feb. 1. — Dr. Smith, medical

superintendent of the Leper Hospital

at Tracadie, N. B., presented his annual

report. The register of the institution

shows the names of fifteen inmates,

ten males and five females. Classifying

the lepers in the lazaretto the

number in the first stage is six; in

the second, seven; and in the third,

one. The youngest patient is 10, and

the oldest 62 years of age. There

were four deaths during the past

twelve months, and three new cases

were admitted, one from without the

province. Of those on the register,

nine are of French, three of Icelandic,

and three of English origin.

During the year Chaulmoogra oil, in

combination, introduced two years ago,

has been freely used by the inmates

and with very beneficial effects. Dur-

ing a recent tour of investigation

through adjoining parishes the doctor

found one undoubted case of leprosy.

He also found three persons showing

suspicious premonitory symptoms.

Notwithstanding this, he has again to

report that leprosy is rapidly de-

creasing. As a result of a careful in-

vestigation Dr. Smith is more and

more convinced of the communicability

of leprosy through contagion.

British Steamer Lost.

Amsterdam, Holland, Feb. 1. — The

remaining 25 members of the crew of

the British steamer Alba, from New-

port News, Jan. 11, for Amsterdam,

which is ashore at Scheepvoort, were

landed yesterday. The steamer, as

cabled yesterday, will be a total loss.

Hungarian Cabinet Resigns.

Budapest, Hungary, Feb. 1. — Em-

peror Francis Joseph this morning re-

ceived in audience Premier Tisza at

Vienna. The latter handed his majes-

ty the resignation of the Hungarian

Cabinet.

The Emperor has summoned Count

Julius Andrássy, one of the foremost

opposition leaders, to Vienna.

To the Lungs.

Do you go to New York

to reach Victoria? No.

There's a better and more

direct way. Then why try to

reach your lungs by way of

your stomach? Don't.

Better go straight to the

lungs at once. Just light

the vaporizer and breathe in the

healing, soothing vapors of Cres-

colene. The medicine goes exactly

to the right place. Your lungs quickly

heal and your cough disappears. For

whooping-cough it's simply perfect.

Vapo-Crescolene is sold by druggists, or sent express

prepaid on receipt of price. A Vapo-Crescolene outfit

including a bottle of Crescolene, complete \$1.50. Send

for free illustrated booklet. LAMARCA, MILLS CO.,

Ltd., Agents, 308 St. James Street, Montreal, Can.

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 TRADE MARK

A TONIC FOR ALL.

It makes new blood

It invigorates

It strengthens

It builds

BONE AND MUSCLE

Used with the greatest advantage by all

weak people. Prevents fainting, makes

palid cheeks into rosy ones.

Davis & Lawrence Co., Ltd., Montreal.

No Breakfast Table
 complete without

EPPS'S

An admirable food, with all

its natural qualities intact,

it is good to build up and maintain

robust health, and to resist

winter's extreme cold. It is

a valuable diet for children.

COCOA

The Most Nutritious

and Economical.

Maypole

Soap

Dye

The English home dye. A cake of

soap. Clean, quick, safe. Brilliant colors.

Dyes to any shade. You can't wash the

color out—no fading. Dyes anything.

The largest sale in the British Empire.

Made in England but sold everywhere.

10c. for Colors—15c. for Black.

1904.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR

THE NORTHERN LIFE

ASSURANCE CO.

Insurance written.....\$1,231,580 00

Insurance in force.....414,831 00

Premium income.....139,488 55

Interest income.....21,490 69

Total assets.....486,949 15

Government reserves.....311,326 00

Management expenses 48,245 43 only 1 1/2%

The policies issued by the Northern

Life are so liberal that agents find no