

REFLECTIONS

By THE EDITOR

Big Men for Big Jobs.

HAS it struck you, the number of big jobs waiting for big men? There are probably fifty positions now vacant waiting for big men to fill them—positions worth all the way from five to fifty thousand a year. Eight million people in Canada, of whom more than one million are men; and yet it is difficult to find big men.

And what are the tests of a big man. Just two—character and ability. Character is made by our parents and teachers; ability we inherit and develop. Character isn't of much account without ability, and ability is worth little without character.

Whose fault is it that Canada is short of men with ability and character? It is either the fault of our parents or our teachers. Which do you think?

Judge Mabee's Successor.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER never did a greater act than when he selected Judge Mabee as successor to Judge Killam as head of the Dominion Railway Commission. Premier Borden has an equal opportunity in selecting a successor to the great man whose untimely death the whole nation so sincerely regrets. I have no doubt there are other men in Canada with character and ability equal to that of the dead chief. A number of names have been mentioned, many of them excellent, some ridiculous. The man for the position may or may not have been named, but he is certainly not looking for it.

The Hon. Thomas Crothers, Minister of Labour, announces that he does not wish to be considered in connection with it. This is the proper attitude. Mr. Crothers has many qualifications for the office, but those who know him intimately know that he will not seek the position, not even allow his friends to work on his behalf. His record in politics and in public service is a guarantee of that. Personally, I should like to see him in the position. I believe it would afford him a greater opportunity of serving his country than his present position of Minister of Labour. Both Mr. Crothers and the Hon. W. J. Hanna have had long years of practice in railway towns, and either is thus fitted to deal with these railway questions so as to satisfy both corporations and people.

This is not to say that there are no others worthy of the greatest consideration and possessing equally high ideals. It is for Mr. Borden to scan the field and to select the best man available—someone perhaps whom all the newspapers have missed.

Battle of the Primaries.

ONE of the greatest contests ever held in the United States is now being waged in the "Primaries." These correspond roughly to our ward or local associations at which we elect delegates to a nominating convention. The Primaries are state institutions used for both state and national purposes. At the Republican Primaries a certain number of delegates are chosen to attend a Republican state assembly or convention to choose other delegates to the Republican national convention. At the Democratic Primaries, the same course is pursued. The importance of the Primaries is based on the instructions or preferences of the delegates chosen. If the men chosen are open and avowed Taft men they will elect Taft delegates at the state convention, and so on.

Thus the results of the primaries in each of the parties give the experts a chance to figure out the preferences of the delegates who are likely to be chosen for each of the two national conventions. The primaries do not decide who shall go to the national conventions, but rather indicate the party's preference for one candidate or another. Hence the figures now being given out as to Roosevelt's strength in the Republican party or Champ Clark's strength in the Democratic party are deductions, not accurate estimates.

In the Southern States, there will be two sets of delegates to the Republican convention, one set elected by the Taft supporters and one set by the Roosevelt sympathizers. As both sets cannot sit in the National Convention, the National Republican committee, which meets in Chicago on June 8th, may decide which set it will recognize. That committee will base its decision, not on justice or right,

but on party considerations. It may recognize both sets and give each delegate half a vote.

This seems a crude way of settling whether Taft or Roosevelt shall be the Republican candidate for president and whether Champ Clark or Governor Wilson will be the Democratic candidate, but no one in the Great Republic seems to know any better.

Who Will Win?

SO far as the Republican elections are concerned, it is a fight to the finish between Taft and Roosevelt. At first it looked as if Taft would hold what he won four years ago with Roosevelt's assistance. In the later elections, Roosevelt has been gaining ground rapidly. Now, in order to win, Taft must carry Ohio on May 21st and have his Southern delegates seated by the Republican national committee. If he loses Ohio, the Roosevelt "Black and Tan" delegates will be seated and Roosevelt will win. If Taft carries his own state and both sets of Southern delegates are seated, then neither Taft nor Roosevelt will win. A third candidate will be chosen.

In the Democratic contests, the results have been equally surprising. It was thought that Governor Wilson, of New Jersey, would lead, followed by Harmon and Champ Clark. Democratic influence in Wall Street was known to favour Wilson. Then came his break with Colonel Harvey, of *Harper's Weekly*, and his condemnation by several leading Democrats, among whom was Colonel Watterson, of Louisville. From that time, he has been slowly receding. Now it is all Champ Clark, speaker of the House of Representatives, whom every Canadian remembers for his frank statements concerning reciprocity and annexation. Unless the unexpected happens, he will be the Democratic candidate with an excellent chance to be the next president of the United States.

The Conflict in Quebec.

THOUGH the elections this week will probably return the Gouin Government to the Quebec Treasury benches for another four years, it is undoubtedly true that the Conservatives are gaining ground in that province. There was a time when Sir John A. Macdonald dominated Quebec politics, both local and federal, but that was before the days of Mercier, Marchand and Gouin. The political wheel is always turning and Liberal rule in Quebec cannot be expected to remain forever.

In 1908 Sir Lomer Gouin received an overwhelming majority. The Liberal preponderance at Ottawa assisted in maintaining a Liberal preponderance at Quebec. The political landslide of September last has changed the situation and Sir Lomer's majority is expected to reflect somewhat the changes of the last twelve months. Quebec is temperamentally related to Ottawa even more than Ontario. But the

most optimistic Conservative does not expect complete victory for M. Tellier this week.

Sir Lomer relies upon his record in putting the finances of the province in good condition, in improving the quality of education in the elementary schools, and in providing better roads in the rural districts of the province. The Montreal Methodist Union, curiously enough, is supporting the Premier because of his temperance reforms.

Montreal's Part in the Conflict.

SELDOM does one municipality loom large enough in a provincial general election to bring out a civic scheme of campaign such as the Conservatives have been pursuing in Montreal. By a hugely extensive poster-libretto and cartoon M. Tellier, leader of the Opposition to Sir Lomer Gouin, boldly proclaims himself in favour of greater municipal autonomy, asserting that Montreal, with its population of about one quarter the entire population of the Province, has been shackled by the Liberals. He claims that Montreal has been despoiled of the control of roads, streets, and franchises, and asserts that "the day when we come to power we will accord to Montreal the right to govern itself."

Montreal now contains about one-quarter of the entire population of the Province. The City and Island, under the new distribution of seats, sends thirteen members to the Legislature. Thirteen out of eighty-two is more than fifteen per cent. of the strength in the House. If M. Tellier's appeal is effective enough to carry the Montreal district, it will have a considerable bearing on the result.

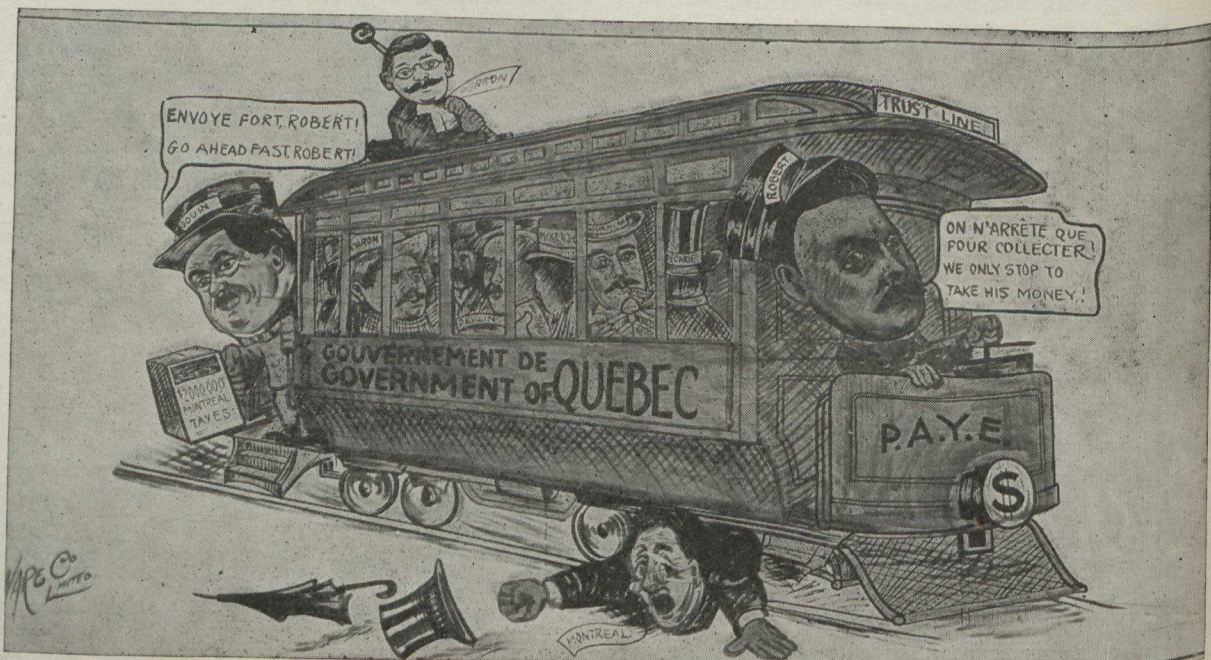
While Montreal has one-quarter the population and fifteen per cent. of the representation, it pays three-quarters of the direct taxes of the Province. The Conservatives have taken advantage of this to argue that the metropolis has seldom or never been able to get its due share of attention.

The Brotherhood Federation.

ON Saturday last there was born in the city of Toronto the Brotherhood Federation of Canada, which includes such societies as the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and Philip, the Methodist Young Men's Association, the Baptist Young Men's Association, the Congregational Brotherhood and similar societies. The objects of the Brotherhood are to promote Christian citizenship and to crystallize public sentiment upon great moral issues. The immediate cause of the new organization is a visit of more than one hundred members representing the National Brotherhood of Great Britain.

The development of citizenship towards a higher ideal is undoubtedly one of the great features of the day. Fifteen years ago the Canadian Club movement was inaugurated to deal with the elementary phases of the work, but the Canadian Clubs have fallen short. At first they set about gathering the younger citizens into their organizations and stimulating them to a broader consideration of their duties and responsibilities as citizens. Latterly the Canadian Clubs have neglected the young man and resolved themselves into associations for the entertainment and edification of the members whom they had gathered together in earlier days. It may be that this new Brotherhood will take up the work and carry it a step farther.

A Conservative Cartoon in Quebec Elections



President Robert of the M. S. R. and Premier Gouin Control the Car which is Supposed to be Causing Much Trouble in Montreal.