

ROYAL VICTOR A LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Hon. W. Mortimer Clark, K.C., LL.D., lieutenant-governor of Ontario, has been appointed a director of the Royal Victoria Life Insurance Company, Montreal.

We congratulate the Royal Victoria on this appointment, as the lieutenant-governor of Ontario is a man of high sterling character, universally respected throughout that province. He has never been publicly identified with any political party.

PROMINENT TOPICS.

Providence seems to have smiled upon the change of Thanksgiving Day from the most disagreeable season of the year to the most enjoyable. "Who quickly gives twice gives" means an ancient proverb. It is therefore most appropriate for the country to lift up the national voice in gratitude when from ocean to ocean there are innumerable evidences in view of the bounties poured upon Canada by the "Lord of the Harvest," the Creator and Giver of all good things for the sustenance and the enjoyment of his creatures, but chiefly for the enrichment of man and the welfare of the nation. This year Thanksgiving Day justified itself by affording to millions the pleasurable opportunity for joining in public services of praise, for recruiting health, for family re-unions, the happiness of which goes up like incense to Heaven.

Some object to a nation, as a political unit, observing a day of Thanksgiving, or, a whole community expressing united gratitude for divine blessings. This is a narrow, carping, unscriptural view. One of the most momentous events in history, the removal of a whole nation into exile in a foreign land, is distinctly stated in the Divine Record to have been a punishment inflicted on that nation, on its whole people, because of their ingratitude to God. The sentiment of individuality runs almost into lunacy when it goes so far as to deny national moral obligations, one of which is clearly the duty of giving thanks for national blessings.

"Ingratitude, the marble hearted fiend," is "hideous" indeed when shown by a country like Canada, than which no nation ever had so many reasons and motives to become thankful for the blessings of Providence. Where can we find a people so favoured as Canadians are in our laws and religion, so flourishing in our trade, so blessed in our situation, so protected in all of them by Providence? Nowhere on earth is there such general comfort enjoyed or absence of the distresses of poverty; nowhere are there wider opportunities for advancement to the aspiring; nowhere such ordered freedom; nowhere is justice more equitably administered; nowhere is, "a man's a man for a' that" so cheerfully recognized; nowhere does Earth

yield a more bounteous increase, nor in any land do the glories of Nature give richer delights, or afford diviner food to nourish those higher faculties which differentiate us from the rest of the animal creation and make Man only "a little lower" than the highest order of created beings. Canada of all nations and Canadians of all people have reason to be inspired with profound gratitude to Providence, well it is therefore for this Dominion to observe Thanksgiving Day.

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Police circles have been much fluttered over the exposure of a practice in vogue of the police receiving gifts from vessel owners for apprehending and returning to their several ships sailors who had deserted their posts. That this was contrary to the rules of the service seems clear. The rule, however, had so far fallen into abeyance as to have been practically superseded by the practice that had given rise to complaints. For constables to receive fees for arrests is a recognized mode of paying those officers in some places, but those payments are made by the municipal authorities, not by private persons whose interests have been served by such arrests. The distinction then is quite clear between rural constables deriving part of their official income from apprehending offenders, and members of this city police force receiving gratuities from private persons for arresting deserters from their service. The latter practice is very properly against the rules of the department, as each policeman is a salaried officer who is paid by the whole community, who, therefore, ought not to be drawn away from his general duties by a desire to supplement his income by special attention to the particular interests of some individual ratepayer. If shipowners wish to recognize some meritorious service they might send a gratuity to the benevolent fund of the police department. For any police officer to be in the pay, to any extent, of a private citizen is most undesirable.

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The Supplementary Estimates laid before the House of Commons raise the total for the current year to over \$75,000,000. "Retrenchment and Economy" were political watchwords which swept over the country like a prairie fire when the total expenditure was only one half that amount. If that cry becomes popular again there will be disagreeable experiences to be gone through by some of our rulers and governors.

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If Dame Rumour is well informed the works of the Lake Superior Consolidated Company may pass into under the control of English capitalists. The names mentioned in this connection are, the Vickers-Maxim Company and the famous Armstrong firm. Both these are in the front rank in the steel trade, indeed the name "Vickers" has long stood at the head of the world's steel makers. A member of