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Topics of the Day

NOVA SCOTIA has decided to colonise. The government is appointing a secretary of industry and immigration whose special business it will be to collect and arrange statistics and give out information. This will be a great help in securing and placing immigrants, if a good man is secured for the position. But the government proposes to go farther. It will invest a certain sum annually for the purpose of helping good immigrants to take up and work abandoned farms. This is real, genuine colonisation, and it is pleasant to note that Nova Scotia is up-to-date.

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New Brunswick is also determined to get a share of the three hundred thousand people who are coming to Canada this year. It wants those with a knowledge of woodcraft since its chief industry is lumbering in all its branches. An arrangement has been made whereby the Salvation Army and certain private parties are to receive three dollars per head for every person they actually settle in the Provinces. These Maritime Provinces are indeed waking up. In truth there may soon be a boom down there equal to that in the West.

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Premier Pugsley delivered the New Brunswick Budget speech last week. Without counting the expected increase in the annual subsidy from the Dominion, the estimated receipts total \$941,196. The subsidy is the main item, and second to it is "Territorial Revenue," estimated at \$325,000. This is made up of the dues paid from forest lands, and shows a decided increase because of the rise in lumber and timber values. The expenditures will be about \$6,500 less. The main items are education, public works and interest. Special arrangements are being made to improve the quality of the horses of the province and to re-introduce sheep-raising.

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Business in Canada is so good that judges are deserting the bench and some of the best men in the Federal civil service are dropping out to go into business. In Great Britain, the opposite is the case; there the salaries are so large and promotion is so absolutely a matter of merit, that the best young men are looking upon the civil service as a career equal to law or the army and navy. The business men complain that the State is securing the brightest young men.

Mr. Justice Ouimet, Mr. Justice Doherty and Sir Andrew Lacoste have recently left the bench because the revenues were unsatisfactory. The resignations of Mr. Stewart, Superintendent of Forestry, and Mr. Bain, Assistant Commissioner of Customs, show that the civil service is not sufficiently attractive to retain all its good men.

The State needs a fair share of the best minds of the

country in order that the administration of our national affairs shall be of the highest standard. Finance, public works, justice, customs, post-office, crown lands, immigration—these and other departments need men of the highest calibre. If the government cannot secure and retain them, then the details of administration will be handled in a slovenly manner, the federal funds will be badly administered, and the general progress of the country retarded.

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On February 21st, the Hon. Charles S. Hyman was unanimously chosen as Liberal candidate for an expected bye-election in the city of London. It was announced that owing to ill-health, Mr. Hyman would not be present for the campaign. Since then, a parliamentary committee has decided that Mr. Hyman's resignation was invalid. He is still member for London.

Mr. Hyman's friends assert that he will not continue to hold a seat won apparently by more or less bribery, that he will return from California shortly, and that he will resign his seat and again run as a candidate. This is the course which Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the other members of the cabinet would like Mr. Hyman to pursue and as soon as his health justifies him, it will probably be carried out. In the meantime, Mr. Hyman remains "a man of mystery."

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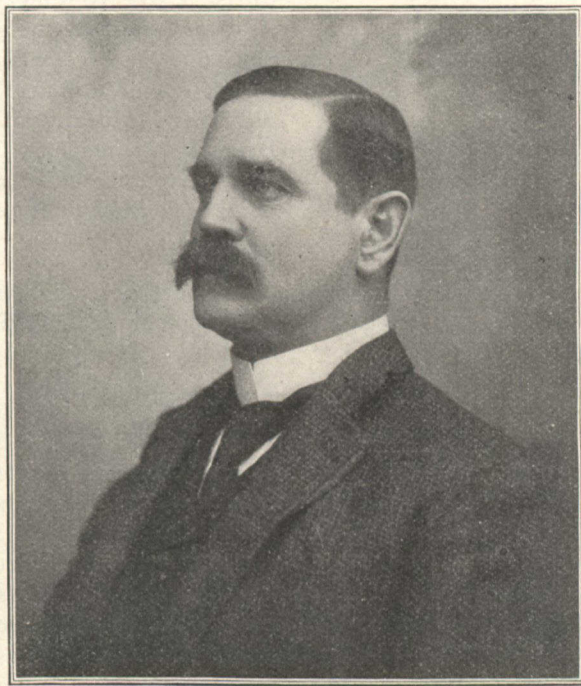
Joseph Phillips, formerly president and managing director of the York County Loan and Savings Company of Toronto, has gone to penitentiary for five years. Like the president of the Ontario Bank, he signed false returns; he gets five years and President Cockburn goes free. This may be justice and there may be reasons for the distinction, but it will be hard to convince the public that justice was blind in both cases. The ordinary observer believes that each was equally guilty, though Mr. Phillips may have had a more guilty knowledge and

had more to do with the preparation of the returns. A man's guilt in the eye of the law is a legal matter; in the eye of the public, it is more a matter of morals.

Mr. Phillips gave up his wealth, made his accomplices return all their gains, did his best to save the wreck he had caused and then pleaded guilty to making false returns. He acted wickedly in his business, but after the authorities stepped in he seems to have done his best to make restitution. Five years is not too great a sentence from one point of view; but it is severe in comparison with some recent decisions.

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The capital of Canada and the United States seems to be so busily employed that the people who need money with which to gamble on the stock-markets are unable to get it. The consequence is seen in the present "slump" in stock quotations. The lambs are being sheared again. Not only is money scarce in America, but it is equally "tight" in Europe. The industrial and commercial activities of the world have absorbed it.



Hon. Charles S. Hyman,
Minister of Public Works.