



SIMPLIFIED SPELLING

IT would be unfair to charge all the foolishness of all spelling reformers against those who oppose the use of the "u" in harbour and labour. Nevertheless, the letter from Mr. H. Drummond of London, England, written in the style approved by "The Simplified Spelling Society" does "ocazhon surprize" and one wonders if the Canadian reformers expect their agitations for reform will meet with "grate suces." Mr. Drummond writes to those splendid reformers, the education-editors of the *Toronto Globe* and the *Toronto World*, and signs himself "yours fraternaly," but this remark is no doubt "lybilus."

Neither Mr. Drummond nor any other person should be allowed to complicate the issue. It is not a question as to whether we shall make a new law or not, it is a question of observing the law we have. Officially, by a minute of the Privy Council of Canada, and by the practice of the Government, harbour has possession of the "u." Until that regulation and that practice are changed by the same authority, the man who spells the word in the short form is breaking the official regulations. He is an outlaw and an unpatriotic citizen.

No man who loves his country and respects its constitution will tolerate the infraction of any governmental law or regulation. He may fight for a change, he may work for a repeal, but until that comes he will obey. There is no other patriotic ground; there is no other sensible position. Dr. Seath, the Superintendent of Education for Ontario, cannot logically, ethically nor legally take any other position than that the "u" must be restored in the school-books of the province.



MR. LEMIEUX AGAIN HELPS

HON. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX has met with enthusiastic encouragement in all his efforts at reform. When he settled the magazine postage question, he was applauded. When he arranged details with Japan concerning immigration, he chopped the head off a dangerous bird known as the Anti-Japanese Agitation. When he stirred up London, by taking kindly to Mr. Heaton's Penny Cable Bun, he made himself somewhat of an Imperial figure. Now he has come out for Civil Service Reform. A few days ago he appointed to one of the greatest post-offices in Canada, as the new postmaster, Dr. Peter Macdonald, a dear old member of Parliament, seventy-three years of age.

There can be no doubt that the quickest way to bring about Civil Service Reform would be to fill up all the offices in the Service with people who are entitled to Old Age Pensions. Dr. Peter Macdonald is surely in that class. He was born in Pictou, Nova Scotia, on August 14th, 1835. In 1846, he removed to Huron County where he has since lived. He was first elected to the House of Commons in 1887, and later became Deputy-Speaker. Of course, every person knows that Dr. Macdonald owes his appointment to the fact that when he desired promotion from Deputy to Speaker, "it was impossible." The Doctor was grievously disappointed. His heart has now been made lighter through the use of post-office patronage. As a local paper said of the new Senator, the Hon. Mr. Ratz, "he is to be congratulated on his good fortune."

Might a humble staff writer suggest to the Postmaster-General that the post-office is the medium in Great Britain by which those entitled to Old Age Pensions are discovered? The plan might be followed here. The advertisement would run somewhat as follows:

"Hurry! The Civil Service Commission is coming! All persons over seventy years of age who desire appointments to the Service may have them if they apply at once. Hurry!" That advertisement ought to bring in quite a number of applica-

tions and the need for speedy extension of Civil Service Reform would soon be apparent.



MR. BORDEN'S RE-ELECTION

MR. BORDEN has had greater good fortune than the Honourable Edward Blake. He has been elected leader after a decisive defeat at the polls. That is the true test of political leadership. A man who comes to his party after a hard battle, which has been lost, and finds them faithful, cheerful, and even enthusiastic over his personal conduct, is the stuff out of which victors are made. Nothing more becoming has been done by the Conservative Parliamentary Party in recent years than its absolute refusal to consider even the possibility of a change. The Party, throughout the country, may not be quite so unanimous, but the better elements in it are. The men who admire steadfastness, dignity, and courage will approve. A political trickster might bring the Conservative Party back to office a bit sooner, but there are quite enough political experts in the country without encouraging any increase. So far in his career, Mr. Borden has held his head high and has refused to be led from "the only path." The British Columbia incident is unfortunate, but Mr. Borden's word on that matter will be generally accepted.



WRECKAGE OF BRAIN STORMS

MANY of the Canadian papers have commented in terms of condemnation on the remarkable leniency of New York juries towards such criminals as Mr. Harry Thaw and his latest imitator. In fact, it is highly difficult, almost impossible, for a millionaire to commit murder in the State of New York, while for a multi-millionaire to be guilty of anything worse than a mild form of kleptomania or a feeble outbreak of incompatibility of temper is manifestly absurd. We wonder what would happen if an extremely multi-millionaire were to be killed by a mere millionaire, of the common or garden variety, such as Montreal has on the Mountain and Toronto, in Rosedale. Then would arise a nice question in law and morals. It would not surprise us in the least if, under such circumstances, the indiscreet millionaire were to be considered more than harmlessly insane and were even to be deprived of his cigarettes and afternoon tea. Murdering a multi-millionaire would be a neat accomplishment as a matter of alliteration but a United States jury would hardly approve of such impulsiveness.

Some of the leading physicians of the vaster republic than has been are actually of the same opinion as the Canadian press, that all these brain storms and dementia of various degrees are paving the way to that anarchy which is even worse than autocracy. In an address before the Medico-Legal society at its annual dinner in New York this month, Dr. Algernon T. Bristow of Brooklyn attacked expert medical testimony, as paraded in the modern trial. The distinguished speaker said:

"No man can be sane, then insane, and then sane again with the rapidity to which these experts testify. It is merely a question of how much money is paid for the testimony.... A brain storm will account for any sort of crime."

Anarchy is not centuries away, if the people once become convinced that the millionaire can do no wrong in the eyes of the law. The poor man who goes to prison for stealing a little and comes forth, with the convict brand upon him, to discover that the man who steals much is a prominent citizen, is not likely to look leniently upon the rich man's brain storm. The degraded Italian labourer, crazed by bad liquor, who goes about his slaying in headlong fashion must be summarily dismissed from the civilisation for which he is so plainly unfit, but the plutocrat who despatches a bullet into an unsatisfactory friend is a gentleman whose cerebral disturbances must be considered carefully. There is a world of difference between a poor Sicilian's