

REFLECTIONS

By THE EDITOR

Trade Continues to Boom.

DURING the present hot spell people are inclined to talk as little about business as may be possible. The average business man spends the greater portion of July and August at some convenient tourist resort or country settlement, seeking relief from hot pavements and busy telephone wires. Nevertheless, general business is fairly active. As compared with the United States or with Great Britain, Canadian business conditions are excellent. During April and May Canada's foreign trade showed a very decided increase. This is a fair indication of all the months which have passed and some guide as to what will happen during the remainder of the year. It is quite reasonable to assume that our total foreign trade will be about seventy-five million dollars greater than last year, which was the record year.

The outlook for crops is yet in the nebulous stage. With a largely increased acreage in the West, and in the main good weather, prospects from the wheat belt may be considered as favourable as even the optimist could expect. We are no longer engrossed merely or even mainly with crop conditions in Ontario and the east. Dry weather over part of Ontario may have the effect of slightly reducing the grain yield and making short hay in some localities.

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A Bit of Gossip.

OFFICIAL announcement having been made at the Dominion Day Banquet in London, by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, that Lord Strathcona is shortly to retire from the High Commissioner's office, the gossips are busy choosing a successor. There are persistent rumours that either Sir Daniel MacMillan or Sir William Whyte, of Winnipeg, will be appointed to succeed the man who has done so much to make the office spectacular. The appointment of Sir Daniel would not be unpopular, but neither would it be popular. Sir Daniel is not much known outside his own province, and he has never been credited with national ideas and enthusiasms. On the other hand, the appointment of Sir William Whyte would be more understandable. The group of men who control the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Bank of Montreal are much interested in this appointment. They are all wealthy, ambitious and influential. Lord Strathcona is their friend and they were proud to have him occupy a position so close to the governmental and social centre of the Empire. It is therefore natural that this group would like to have the position remain in the family. There is no one of the group who could more gracefully fit into the requirements of the situation than Sir William Whyte. He is a man with good presence, sufficient wealth, and the necessary amount of public spirit. As vice-president of the Canadian Pacific Railway he has had an experience which would fit him to "advertise" Canada in Great Britain and to use just such influence as should be exercised on behalf of Canadian immigration and British-Canadian commercial relations.

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Was It In Good Taste?

SPEAKING of advertising Canada in Great Britain, it seems pertinent to ask if it were in good taste to put the inscriptions on the Canadian Coronation Arch which appeared there. "Free Homes for Millions" would be an excellent inscription for the Canadian Building at the Festival of Empire Show, or at an international exposition in London or elsewhere. On a coronation arch, it looks like an "Americanism."

We should remember, and our Government should remember, that there are dangers in being over-zealous as there are dangers in excessive modesty. Canada has a good name in England, and all our national claims have been followed by reasonable realization. It should be our aim to maintain this proud position and to do nothing which would be likely to shock the most sensitive Britisher. Perhaps "Canada" would have been sufficient in this case, without any reference to our unpopulated districts.

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Another Editor Rewarded.

WHEN I ventured to suggest that the appointment of the editor of the *Mail and Empire* to a position under the Ontario Government was in pursuance of a wrong principle, the

Toronto *Saturday Night* rebuked me none too gently. The editor of that publication declared this to be a proper way of pensioning off faithful political editors. With a wonderful burst of courage he reviewed the political principle that "to the victor belongs the spoils," heedless of the fact that this principle has been the greatest curse of federal, state and civic government in the United States, and has been denounced by every statesman in that country and in Great Britain during the past hundred years. This was indeed surprising from a journal which has been posing as the most virtuous of us all. It must have given some of its readers a considerable shock.

Saturday Night's ideas as to the value of civic service positions as rewards for political service seem to be shared by the Minister of Customs and by the Liberals of the town of St. Mary's. The publisher of the *St. Mary's Argus*, a staunch Liberal weekly, has been made customs collector at St. Mary's. Not long ago the editor and publisher of a weekly paper in a small Ontario town was brought to Toronto and made Customs Surveyor of the port. The Minister of Customs apparently is fond of Liberal editors and deems them pleasant officials. It must be their kindly manners, for certainly they know nothing about the science of appraising goods and collecting customs duties.

It is time that Canada began to take this question of Civil Service Reform more seriously. This village method of public appointment is antediluvian and ill-becoming in a country which professes to be as progressive as ours. The idea that party henchmen should be rewarded by being given "soft jobs" in the civil service is a last relic of our

Our Coronation Pictures

The Coronation occurred on June 22nd and the Royal Progress on June 23rd. Our special photographs of both events left London on the 24th and reached Toronto, "special delivery," early on Saturday, July 1st. By employing a special staff of engravers, we were able to put the engravings on the press on Monday and to commence mailing on Tuesday as usual. This is probably the most rapid bit of periodical publishing ever accomplished in Canada.

colonial status and should be abandoned. It is the pettiest and meanest form of patronage.

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The Decree of Non-Intercourse.

NOTHING more unfortunate could occur in this country than a cessation of social intercourse between Roman Catholics and Protestants. By its *Ne Temere* decree, the Roman Catholic Church has made inter-marriage impossible, and hence greatly limited social intercourse. The Protestant churches are following suit and warnings are going forth from every pastor that social intercourse among young people of the two faiths may lead to heart-breaking and personal sorrow.

In opposing the enforcement of the *Ne Temere* decree in Canada, the Protestant people are not making any attack upon Roman Catholic faith or doctrine, but simply upon a religious rule which is a relic of the middle ages and which is not universally approved by Roman Catholics themselves. There are thousands of intelligent Roman Catholics in this country who regret the proclamation of *Ne Temere*, and who are boldly expressing their regret at their Church's mistake.

It is to be hoped for the sake of national peace and unity, for the sake of those good relations which have so long existed between the two faiths in this country that the Roman Catholic authorities will see the advisability of removing the ban against social intercourse and friendly relations. If they do, the Protestants will meet them half way.

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An Interesting Prophecy.

MERGER artists are not the only experts in fanciful figuring. That excellent writer, Mr. Henri Lemay, has an article in the *Revue Canadienne* in which he finds that by the

end of the century there will be forty million French-Canadians in North America. Most of these, presumably, will be in Canada. Strangely enough he doesn't seem interested as to whether they shall be Catholics or Protestants, gently assuming that all will be Catholics.

Ontario will be the scene of the greatest change, he thinks. By the end of the century, there will be six million French-Canadians in that Province, and the Province will be wholly "Gallicised." He expresses his firm belief that what the French-Canadians of former generations have done in Quebec, the French-Canadians of present and future generations will do in Ontario.

Mr. Lemay has not heard, apparently, of the old adage against counting chickens before they are hatched, or he might have drawn less confident conclusions from the same set of facts. Besides his "nationalism" is a petty affair if he is concerned with the progress of French-Canadians only. One race crowding out another is not national development of a high order.

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A Railway Anniversary.

LAST week the Canadian Pacific Railway celebrated or failed to celebrate its twenty-fifth birthday, as the only transcontinental railway in North America. The building of the Canadian Pacific meant the building of a new Canada, the consummation of Confederation, the opening up of the Last Great West, and the dawn of a new era in Canadian national ideals. Born in political tempest, nurtured in trials and tribulations, the Canadian Pacific grew slowly and steadily until in June, 1886, the first transcontinental train left Montreal for Vancouver.

The total earnings of this ribbon of steel across the continent in 1886 were only ten millions of dollars. This year the total earnings will be over one hundred millions. The mileage has grown from a little less than five thousand miles to over fifteen thousand. Then it had two steamers in commission, now it has seventy-one. This is wonderful growth.

But above all facts and figures is the sentimental income from the Canadian Pacific, which income has gone to the people of Canada. Had that railway failed, Canadian development would have been delayed a quarter of a century at least. Its management was broad, clear-headed, energetic, successful; and while the stock-holders made much money, every citizen in Canada shared in the added value given to every private enterprise and every acre of land. The Canadian Pacific helped to create Canada's progress, as well as sharing in the consequent profit.

What one transcontinental has done for Canada, the two others now nearing completion may duplicate. If they do, the Canada of twenty-five years hence will be a country of noble proportions and wonderful activity. It should be the most important member of the group of nations making up the British Empire and rapidly approaching the position where the world will rank it a "first-rate power." In dreaming of the future, however, let us not forget the valour and the courage of the pioneers who builded the national foundations.

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Better Homes for Working Men.

OTTAWA has a Model Homes Association which proposes to help working men to get cheap and suitable plans for the houses which they are to build in the Capital City. The underlying idea is that the working men will get better homes and the City of Ottawa will have more pleasing workingmen's houses. It is proposed to select a certain number of plans from a large number which have been submitted by architects from all over the Dominion and to supply copies of these model plans at a nominal price. The City Council has made a grant to the Association and some private funds are available. In addition, Controller Hastey has offered to give a site and a thousand dollars in cash to the Association for the erection of the first model home.

Here is a movement which might be imitated in every city and town throughout the Dominion. Canadian working men differ from British workmen in that they desire to own their own homes. After the Cadbury's had built their model town at Bourneville, Mr. Cadbury got the idea that his better-paid employees would be stimulated to greater saving if he sold them the houses in which they lived. Accordingly he disposed of some of his model cottages to the mechanics who occupied them. Instead of keeping the houses attractive and in good repair they allowed them to run down at the heels, and Mr. Cadbury was reluctantly compelled to abandon his idea and buy back the cottages which he had sold. In Canada Mr. Cadbury's ideas would have met with a generous response.