

The Philosopher.

Canada's Future.

If you study the history of Canada you will see that our system of responsible government grew up in defiance of the predictions of some wise and patriotic statesmen, who were wrong in their prophecies because they had in their minds certain fixed forms of government and could not conceive of the development of new forms. "Canada must either be a separate nation," they said, "or a dependent colony, ruled from London. A self-governing colony is a thing we call an anomaly which we do not understand. But that very thing which to them was inconceivable and, therefore, in their belief, impossible, kept on growing, and is the form of government under which we live today. And talk of separation from the Empire has long ceased among the Canadian people. The Canadians living today who would sever the ties of British connection are not sufficient in number to form a corporal's guard; it is very much to be doubted, indeed, if there is even one, so that not even the corporal could be found, to say nothing of the corporal's guard, to stand against British connection. The sentiment of Imperial loyalty is constantly growing stronger and stronger, from Halifax to Victoria; and from its growth goes discussion of the ultimate form which the Imperial organization is destined to assume. When we remember that we are living today in a relation with Great Britain which sixty years ago statesmen found it difficult to conceive, may we not be justified in harboring the thought that the British Empire may, sixty years hence, take a form which we cannot conceive today? One thing every true Canadian believes steadfastly is that whatever the organization of the Empire will be, Canada will play a useful and honorable part in the affairs not only of the Empire but of the world.

Big Plans That Must Wait.

The spirit is willing, but the financial problems involved are too huge to tackle just yet. This expresses the situation in which both Canada and the United States find themselves in regard to their big waterways projects. The surveys for the Ottawa and Georgian Bay canal have proceeded so far as to show that that project could be realized at a cost of about \$125,000,000. But the Dominion has so much on its hands in the construction of the National Transcontinental railway that it would be unwise to assume further burdens. Exactly the same condition confronts the United States in regard to the project to construct a fourteen foot channel from Chicago to the Gulf of Mexico. The cost of constructing that waterway is estimated at \$160,000,000; and the Federal Government at Washington, like the Federal Government at Ottawa, is carrying on a great undertaking—the Panama Canal—which will take all its available resources for some year to come. Both the Georgian Bay waterway and the waterway from Chicago to the Gulf of Mexico will undoubtedly be constructed in time; but each of these projects is in the category of things which do not demand imperative haste. The prospect is that Canada will make a start upon the Georgian Bay undertaking before the United States begins constructing its new route to the Gulf.

Selecting Immigrants.

From the president of the Australian Immigration League the London News publishes a protest against the immigration policy of this country. Canada, in that protest, is accused of "selfishness in demanding the cream of British emigration and carefully rejecting those who will not be immediately useful in developing the resources of that Dominion." While it may be quite natural that some of the British nations overseas from Great Britain should thus complain because Canada is trying to secure the cream of British emigration and to reject undesirables, it is not a policy for which the Dominion can justly be censured. The only ground upon which the immigration policy of this country can be based so as not to be open to just censure is the principle of barring out all undesirable immigrants, the principle, that is to say, of exclusion of all immigrants unfitted in any way, no matter what country they come from, for becoming useful and patriotic Canadian citizens and doing their part in helping to advance the country's development and build up the country's welfare, moral and material. This policy may have its selfish side, it is true. The immigrants we desire are those Great Britain would prefer to keep. And the same feeling prevails in Australia. We all want the best. But is it not the only right and proper way that each portion of the Empire should meet and solve its own problems? The position taken by this country acts as a corrective to the delusion that social problems can be solved by shift-

ing the unfortunates from one place to another. True it is that there is ample room in the large areas awaiting settlement in this country for those who are massed in wretchedness in crowded centres of population across the sea. But those people are not fitted to go upon the land; and this Dominion must, in framing its policy, give first place to the vital interests of its own welfare. We must exclude those whose coming would add to the congestion of our own cities and towns. Already we have our own problems. No country has discovered the secret of perpetual youth; every new country is ever becoming older, and as it becomes older it has the old problems to face. Wisdom in framing and carrying into operation our immigration policy as well as all other governmental policies can delay the results of old-world methods and systems and so improve our chances of avoiding them. But bad political management will develop evils even where the soil is richest and nature's gifts are most abundant.

Political "Saw Offs."

In October last a new Dominion Parliament was elected. The Dominion election law provides that legal proceedings to have the election of a member of Parliament upset by the courts must be instituted within thirty days of his election. Within that required interval after the general elections last October proceedings against some sixty odd successful candidates were instituted. During the past month it was announced that they have all been abandoned. Not one of them is to come to trial, or ever be heard of again. And yet when the suits were instituted it was declared that every one of the sixty odd gentlemen from whose names it was proposed to wipe away the letters "M.P." had been guilty of having violated the law of the land and had subjected himself to the maximum penalty of disqualification. If that favorite imaginary personage, the man from Mars, had been a visitor to our Dominion at that time, in order to study our system of government, he no doubt would have found it remarkable that the protests were equally divided between the two political parties, the number of protests against successful candidates of one party balancing the number of protests against successful candidates of the other party. Let us suppose that the Martian visitor, who is always represented as possessed of extraordinary keenness of mind and, of course, an absolute lack of knowledge of the ways of the inhabitants of this planet, had gone back to Mars at the close of last year, and returned to this earth, for another visit to this Canada of ours, during the past month. How he would be surprised at the abandonment of all these election protests! "What, then," he would ask, in his guileless desire for information, "was the meaning of the protests?" It would have to be explained to him that the suits for unseating the sixty odd members of Parliament were entered simply to provide the wherewithal for bartering between the two political parties. He would have to write down in his note book the term "saw off," and he would have to secure an elucidation of that important political institution, so that he could explain its workings to his fellow-Martians. In his lecture on Canada, after his return to his own planet, he could explain that immediately after the general elections in Canada last October both parties threatened wholesale protests, in the established regular way. Then, as the time limit drew near, meetings of the party managers in the different provinces were held. In some provinces, as in Nova Scotia, it was agreed that there would be no protests on either side. In some, as in Ontario, most of the intended protests were cut out, enough being entered on each side to balance those entered on the other side. In Manitoba and Quebec, where the majorities were decisive, nearly every election was protested. And then, some seven months later, they were all, by mutual consent between the party managers, abandoned. It would be interesting to hear the disinterested comments which the Martian gentleman would have to offer upon this procedure in Canadian politics.

A Brilliant Project.

Much of the stuff that masquerades in the newspapers and magazines under the guise of science is the veriest tommy-rot. Here is Professor Pickering has had all the world talking about his plan to make a huge mirror, at a cost of \$10,000, and signal with it to Mars. After much discussion of the absurd Pickering project, along comes a practical man who knows all about heliographing, and makes the Professor look silly by explaining to him that his \$10,000 mirror would not signal any better than an ordinary good hand mirror. The latter will re-

flect a single image of the sun, and that is all the biggest mirror that can be made can do. The practical man recommends that the Professor buy up a lot of shaving glasses, or, better still, get a lot of fragments from a looking glass factory, and then get some thousands of people to get together, each with a piece of looking glass, and have them all flash signals at Mars together, the Professor directing them where to point their flashes. In this way he suggests—but whether he is speaking sarcastically or not, who knows?—that possibly a sufficiently brilliant combined flash might be secured to reach the neighboring planet. But suppose it could. What then? If there are intelligent beings on Mars, how would the Professor know that they had received his message? It is easy, of course, thus to dispose of the projects of signalling to Mars by declaring them futile projects. But what appeals to the imagination is the thought of the possibility of a signal reaching Mars and some answering signal being made. It is inconceivable how anything further could be accomplished than merely that. But merely that would be a stupendous thing. And that is why the imagination of generation after generation of human beings will dwell on the question of the possibility of such a thing being achieved.

Wasted Lives.

Members of two of the families in the United States whose names are known all around the world as standing for piled up millions of dollars have during the past month been figuring in the newspapers scandalously. One has been suing for divorce from his wife, a former actress, and the evidence has set forth the sort of life led by such people; the other has been disclosed under the searchlight of publicity as a purposeless spendthrift, in whom conscience and moral principle have become deadened. There are respectable members of these families, who are not to be envied in the humiliation which is thus being brought upon them. To say nothing of the spendthrift licentiousness that has been laid bare to public view, what is to be thought of the senselessness of the slavery to mere dress that has been disclosed? The wife referred to from whom her husband has sought divorce declared in her evidence that she and the women of the ultra-wealthy set with whom she lives must don an entirely new outfit at least three times a day, and sometimes five or six times. Chiefly, it would seem, their time is devoted to robing and disrobing. With the aid of two or more maids, the process can be completed in from two to three hours. The greater proportion of their waking hours, then, would seem to be devoted to the simple and engaging pastime of putting on and taking off clothes. What a use to put the chief part of one's life to!

Woman and the Vote.

In speaking of the attitude of the International Council of Women—whose meeting, held once every five years, was the great event of last month at Toronto—in regard to woman suffrage, the Countess of Aberdeen said that the Council stood for woman suffrage in all countries where there is manhood suffrage, and added: "We impose the movement on no country adverse to it." The fact of the matter is that the one great serious obstacle to the woman suffrage movement is not the opposition of men, but the indifference or distaste of women. If in any country the majority of the women wanted the electoral franchise extended to their sex and were determined to have it, they would have it in mighty short order.

This Year's Railway Building.

Between Winnipeg and the mountains this year's railway building will amount to a total of over two thousand miles, at a cost of \$85,000,000. The end of this season's construction will see the C. P. R. double-tracked all the way from Winnipeg to Lake Superior; it will also see the \$1,250,000 C. P. R. viaduct at Lethbridge finished and in use. The G. T. P. main line will be ready for use clear through from Edmonton in the fall, and construction will be pushed on rapidly in the direction of the Yellow Head Pass. The Canadian Northern, like the other railway systems, is doing a lot of branch building; it is also heading for the Peace River country. To mention one more item, the Great Northern is to build into Winnipeg from the south. Thus Western Canada is getting itself equipped for the development of its immeasurable resources. This development is as yet only in its beginnings.