



IIII BY STAFF WRITERS IIII

BRITISH COLUMBIA has re-enacted the Natal Act which imposes an educational test upon immigrants entering that province and is specially designed to prevent the entrance of Hindu and Japanese coolies. Lieutenant-Governor Dunsmuir has assented to it this time, although last year he vetoed it. It is to be

AN UNFORTUNATE CONFLICT

presumed that when the Act reaches Ottawa it will be vetoed by the Governor-in-Council because it is contrary to the terms of the treaty between Japan and the Dominion.

This conflict between British Columbia and the Dominion Government is unfortunate. The British Columbia Legislature must have been well aware that the Act must be disallowed by the Dominion Government. The issue is not new. The circumstances are well known to all concerned. Neither of the two British Columbia parties was willing to risk the unpopularity which might result from a failure to re-enact the legislation of last session. British Columbia simply desires to throw the onus of further immigration of this character on the Dominion Government.

A province which courts every opportunity for making trouble for the government at Ottawa cannot expect to have the sympathy and support of independent citizens in the other provinces. There are elements in the present situation which entitle British Columbia to special consideration and hence Mr. Lemieux's visit to Japan. That visit and its results entitled the Dominion Government to a "stay of proceedings" at the hands of the British Columbia authorities; because this courtesy has not been extended much of the sympathy which has heretofore been extended to British Columbia in what was undoubtedly an unpleasant situation will be lost. As Canada must occasionally stay its hands for the sake of the Empire, so each province must occasionally wait in patience for the working out of a situation in which its own wishes are in conflict with Dominion interests or Dominion engagements. The policy of each province should be that of an enlightened and intelligent selfishness.

IT is a matter of common observation that all classes of legislators in Canada are quite generous—to themselves. They, like all other classes in the community, are always willing and anxious to increase their pay. In this national improvement, the Dominion

INCREASING THE LEGISLATORS' SALARIES

Parliament led the way with an unexampled generosity and unparalleled courage. Not only was the pay of members and Cabinet ministers increased, but the Leader of the Opposition was given a generous salary. It was not a party matter. Politics were forgotten when this reform was being considered.

The action of the Dominion legislators was a signal for provincial administrators. The sessional indemnity in Manitoba has been increased from \$500 to \$1,000, and the salaries of Cabinet ministers from \$3,000 to \$5,000. The total salary of the Premier, including his sessional indemnity, is to be \$7,000.

The "Manitoba Free Press," which presumably supported the action of the Dominion Government in regard to increased sessional indemnities, finds fault with those in Manitoba because the Conservatives of that Province, though now in power, were in favour of retrenchment when in Opposition. This journal claims that the Liberal party at Ottawa broke no distinct pledge when it became generous, while the Conservative party in Manitoba did. At a convention of the Conservatives held in Winnipeg in 1899, one of the planks adopted was "that the indemnity of members be reduced to four hundred dollars." Further, the question of sessional indemnity was not discussed at the recent general elections and hence it should not have taken place until the people had approved of it. The "Free Press" for these two reasons, the first decidedly weak, the second decidedly strong, cannot approve of this generosity.

The Province of British Columbia, following the lead of Ontario

and Manitoba, has increased sessional indemnities from \$800 to \$1,200. Salaries for Cabinet ministers and the Premier will be raised to the same figures as Manitoba, and a new member is to be added to the Cabinet. None of the Western provinces cares to be beaten in the race for reputation by any other province, hence the general movement towards generous expenditures of all kinds.

The difficulty in this whole movement is that the public does not know when this raising the salaries of its servants—by themselves—will end. The people fully realise that if it were not for these hard-working legislators at the Dominion capital and at the nine provincial capitals, the whole business of the country would soon be demoralised. The daily papers would soon lose much of their present attractiveness and general social life much of its interest. Our national existence would be dull and monotonous had we no busy politicians, no aspiring candidates, no picturesque M.P.'s and M.P.P.'s. Nevertheless, these attractive and useful gentlemen should not go too far in their demands for increased pay, lest the public be led into adopting a form of government which would not require either Cabinet ministers or legislators.

MR. GEORGE BERNARD SHAW, it must be admitted, is the greatest self-advertising genius of the age. He has the ability to turn anything to personal account in such a fashion that the papers overflow with columns on Shaw's latest drama or debate. He abuses

IS HE A SULPHITE?

all those institutions beloved of Britons and John Bull merely chuckles joyously as he pays down his good shillings to see "Caesar and Cleopatra."

The public will read Shaw books, see Shaw dramas, listen to expositions of Shavian philosophy—but will never take the Shaw ideas as anything but the latest feat in mountebankery. In fact, Mr. Shaw has gone too far in attempting to arouse the Britisher and has announced doctrines so bizarre that they are regarded as merely revolutionary fire-crackers which will never become of bomb-like dimensions. Ms. Shaw is handicapped, in his aim to be taken seriously, by his Irish birth. It is impossible for a Londoner to believe that a writer who first saw the light in the Isle of Unrest can be other than a wit. The more he stamps and scathes, the broader grows the grin of the dear deluded public. His egotism, too, is regarded as a jest and few worshippers of Shakespeare take the trouble to retort when he declares his superiority to the Elizabethan dramatist. If Mr. Shaw could provoke a dozen bishops to denounce him, he would be a happy scribe; but both politicians and churchmen refuse to knock one of the chips off the Shavian shoulder. However, foreigners are not so prudent and the latest of these outsiders to enter upon a controversy with Mr. Shaw is Herr Max Nordau, who is being overwhelmed in the "Frankfurter Zeitung" with open letters which Mr. Shaw writes with characteristic venom and velocity. Herr Nordau makes a naive complaint of feeling bewildered as well he may when his opponent skips from Lombroso to Wagner in a fashion to give the sober-minded a headache and to prove the acuteness of his latest analyser: "Other men of genius advertise their ideas by extraneous means; in him the advertisement is the idea, and the idea is the advertisement."

CANADA must be careful lest the national head be turned by this flood of flattery. The latest addition to the list of flatterers is Mr. Charles H. Cahan, counsel in the city of Mexico for the Mexican Light, Heat and Power Company. When in Montreal recently he

ANOTHER FLATTERER ARRIVES

gave an interview to a reporter which was most delicately conceived. He pointed out that the great reception given to Secretary Root in Mexico was simply to show the United States people what the Mexicans were capable of doing. It had no real significance. It would influence trade not one whit. The Mexicans wanted to trade only with Canada,