

live part of the Canadian Dominion. The consequence is that the people of that portion of Canada are a little touchy whenever any person "up west" has a suggestion to make with regard to Maritime Province development. A Montreal paper recently described the Maritime Provinces as the "dead ends" of Canada, and Professor Magill, of Dalhousie, takes the remark as a text for an article in the New Year edition of the Halifax Morning Chronicle. In the same issue Professor Walter C. Murray, of the University of Saskatchewan, writes a letter in which he finds fault with the Cambridge Modern History for calling "Joseph Howe" John Howe. A similar typographical error once appeared in the Courier.

It seems unwise that public men should seize upon chance remarks and typographical errors and make them the basis of an attack upon the good-will of one portion of Canada towards another. If that policy is pursued there will be plenty of material on which to build quarrels. Trouble is just as easy to find in the year 1910 as it was in the year 1810. There have always been more or less jealousies and rivalries between the Maritime Provinces and the Upper Provinces, even before the days of Confederation, and these rivalries and jealousies will continue to exist no doubt. There was a time, indeed, when the Maritime Provinces hated the Upper Provinces with a bitter hatred, and with tolerably good reason. Fortunately, time has ameliorated these provincial relations.

The real situation is that the people of Canada are commencing to look upon the country as an indivisible whole. They will criticise something in the Maritime Provinces as quickly as they will criticise something in Ontario and they will praise some feature of progress in the Maritime Provinces as readily as they will praise some feature of western development. The Maritime Provinces have their characteristics and these are very likely to be commented upon from time to time. So has Quebec, so has Ontario, so has Manitoba and so has British Columbia. These criticisms, however, are now more kindly and sympathetic than they ever were. It would be a sad day for Canada if they disappeared altogether.

Again, the very fact that two universities in Ontario and two universities in the West have Maritime Province scholars as their principals is an answer to the charge that Maritime Province brains are not fully appreciated by the remainder of the country. Following the safe line of reasoning, Maritime Provinces statesmen, such as Tupper, Thompson, Fielding and Borden, have succeeded in winning as much fame and as much prestige in Western Canada as they ever did in Eastern Canada. But all this has been said a score of times. The remarks of President Murray, and Professor Magill are our excuse for reviving these ancient arguments. The Maritime Provinces, in all their schemes for development, may safely count on the fullest support and the most cordial sympathy from every other part of Canada.

LAST week we commented upon the Municipal lethargy shown by the citizens of Montreal in the small vote which came out when the question of Municipal lighting was up for consideration. Out of 40,000 owners of property entitled to vote, only 2,855 took sufficient interest in the question to go to the polls and mark their ballot. It is interesting to compare the results of the Municipal voting in Toronto last week. In 1908 37,000 votes were cast in the mayoralty contest; in 1909 in spite of the fact that there has been a considerable growth in the number of voters, the vote cast showed a decrease of 2,500. A great many of the most important citizens of the town apparently neglected to go to the polls. Further, the Board of Control elected by the city is probably the most notable example of a "comic opera" board ever chosen in a Canadian city. When the town found out who were elected to that position it sat down and laughed.

It is small wonder that the principles of municipal ownership and municipal operation of public utilities should be growing less popular throughout the country. The best business people of the city of Montreal and Toronto are taking very little interest in municipal affairs. They complain that they have not the time to be candidates for public office, and even go so far as to say that there is little to be gained by even casting a ballot. They seem to have adopted an "utter despair" attitude. They feel themselves hopeless in the grasp of a democracy which is based upon manhood suffrage. The business man with a stake of half a million dollars in the town, shudders when he finds that his vote may be off-set by that of an Italian dago with fifty dollars in his boot leg. This same manufacturer may be a sympathiser with Mr. Lloyd-George when he exhorts the mob against the House of Lords and a landed aristocracy. But he is restive and disheartened

when the same principles are applied to the governing of a city in which he lives.

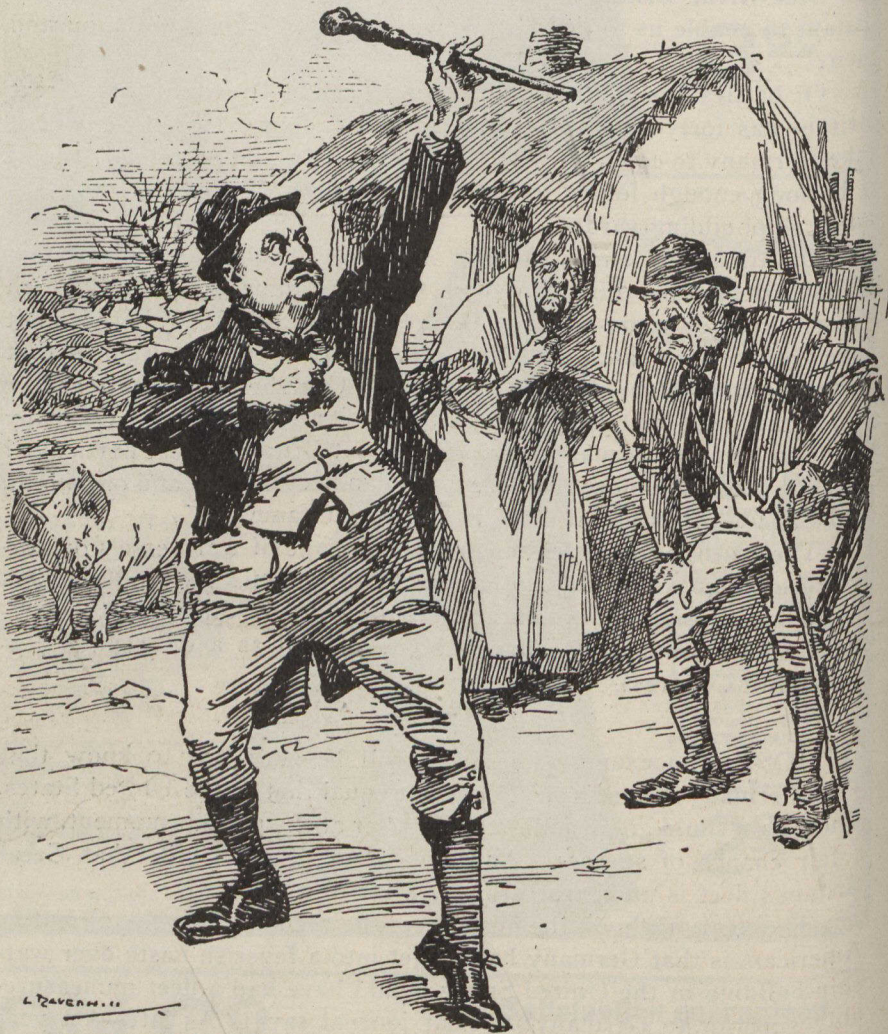
In Canada, as in Great Britain, the franchise is undoubtedly too wide. Here it is the foreigner who makes the voting seem ridiculous. In Great Britain it is the penniless, shiftless, unemployed labourer. However, the hands of the clock cannot be turned back. He is the wisest citizen who accepts conditions as they are, refuses to be discouraged, labours cheerfully and persistently, and sturdily supports whatever progress is possible. For the man who puts on his velvet smoking jacket and his embroidered slippers and sits down in front of his cheerful fireplace, letting public affairs go to wrack and ruin, we must all have the most supreme contempt.

TWO or three papers have received the proposal that the Duke of Connaught should be our next Governor-General with a degree of flippancy which ranks them with Reynold's Weekly and publications of that ilk. In their opinion, the governor-general is a useless appendage to a Canadian government and this opinion does credit to their ignorance rather than to their knowledge. The constitutional position and social influence of the occupant of that high office was never greater than at the present moment.

On the whole, the proposition has been well received and if the Duke cares to honour us with a short residence he will be sure of a warm welcome. This is a democratic country and some phases of our conduct might shock a person less widely experienced than His Royal Highness. But a Prince who, on a previous visit to Toronto, hunted up the small food store kept by an ex-sergeant of the company of which he had been captain, made an informal call, and sat down for a quiet chat with the humble citizens of a new country, is not a Prince likely to find our democratic ways at all irksome.

At the Board of Trade dinner in Ottawa, the other evening, Senator Belcourt suggested that Earl Grey might signalise the close of his term of brilliant service by inducing His Majesty the King to visit Canada. We fear this is asking too much of one on whom so much of the world's peace and harmony depends, and one who has reached the years which we must credit to Edward VII. However, the invitation might be sent and with it will go the best wishes of every citizen of the premier nation in that constellation officially described as the Dominions Overseas.

PUNCH'S LITTLE JOKE ON THE IRISH SITUATION



Mr. John Redmond.—"And soon we'll be free from the degrading tyranny of the Saxon."

Irish Peasant.—"An' where will we be afther gettin' our ould age pinsiens from?"

Mr. John Redmond.—"Oh, we'll still take their money!"