



T H E

Canadian Courier

THE NATIONAL WEEKLY

VOL. 6

Toronto, November 27th, 1909

No. 26



WHEN a Canadian has attained to years of maturity in reputation and wealth, he usually becomes an ardent advocate of the Empire. Younger men may prate of Canadian nationality and of the development of this portion of North America, but the older men take a different line. For example, a meeting of the Canadian Club in Toronto will include few grey-beards while an audience at the Empire Club in the same city will include many whose brown and black hirsute adornments have grown grey or have disappeared altogether.

It may be that the older men have come to realise, what the younger men overlook, that national greatness will be slow in coming to Canada, and that for the present Canada can only attain to pre-eminence as a portion of the Greatest Empire that has been. Or it may be that as men grow older, they place greater stress on historical associations; with a broader knowledge of history they realise more fully what a debt Canada owes to British history and British institutional development. Or again it may be that the older men value more highly that social distinction which comes from association with the Honourable this, Sir Somebody that and My Lord So-and-So. The explanation may lay in one of these statements or in a combination of all three. Whatever the reason, it is clear that the older and more experienced public men of Canada are usually ardent imperialists. Judges, bankers, railway magnates, bond dealers, university presidents, and statesmen are the keenest admirers of the imperial connection.



LORD STRATHCONA has been foremost in setting the example. Almost everything which the High Commissioner has done in recent years has an imperial significance. He found the Empire Club of Toronto, of which he is honorary president, doing a good work on behalf of imperial sentiment and he recently sent it a cheque for one thousand dollars to assist it in printing and distributing its annual volume of speeches. Influenced by the work of Lord Roberts and Baden-Powell in Great Britain he has established a fund to provide for more adequate physical and military training in the public schools of Canada. Whenever he makes a speech he mingles his eulogies of Canada's progress with fervent praise of the Empire and of Canada's fidelity to the ancient traditions.

Somewhat similar is the attitude of every prominent Canadian whose family has been presented at Court or who has been personally singled out by His Majesty for knighthood or other distinction. The influence of Windsor Castle extends indirectly but forcibly through these gentlemen into all the select circles of Britain's premier colony. To be a distinguished subject of a King and Emperor is better than being an undistinguished citizen of a struggling colony. To be a citizen of a Great Empire whose flag floats on every continent and in every zone is more important than being a citizen of a country which may be great two centuries hence.



WITH a clear view of this state of affairs in mind, it is not hard to understand why imperialism is making such rapid strides in Canada. It can scarcely be denied that Canada thinks more and talks more to-day of the British Empire than at any time in her history. While there is great fidelity to national autonomy there is an almost greater fidelity to the cause of Empire. Canadians recognise the imperial obligation more fully than at any time within the past half-century. Indeed, in the early nineties, a candid and acute observer might reasonably have argued that it would not be long before another great colony would imitate the example of 1783 and set up national housekeeping. To-day, the creation of a Canadian unit of the British Navy is opposed only by those who would prefer to make a cash contribution such as caused a revolt on this same

REFLECTIONS

By STAFF WRITERS

continent something more than a hundred years ago. That so large a body of influential persons could be found who are willing to make such an unfettered and unlimited contribution of

the national wealth to be expended by the London authorities, is a most significant circumstance.

We are not seeking here to argue for or against the growing imperial sentiment, but simply to place a few general observations before our thinking readers. The writer can remember with ease when the educating of the school-children of Ontario in regard to flag-reverence was left to the efforts of a few enthusiasts who were not then considered influential. To-day, the school readers of the province have as their frontispiece a coloured reproduction of the Union Jack and among their prominent illustrations pictures of their Most Gracious Majesties. As in Ontario so in Manitoba and elsewhere. The influences making for a broadening and deepening of affection for and knowledge of the Empire are in remarkable contrast to the conditions a quarter-century ago.



HUMANITY should be grateful to the management of the New York Central Railway. Dr. Osler wanted us to believe that a man's zenith was reached at forty and his western horizon at sixty years of age. In Canada, the Government and the railway corporations have set the limit of activity at sixty-five, by providing that after that age is reached employees shall go on the pension list. In other words, these employees are relegated to a sort of honourable museum where they are to be maintained in idleness for their historic value. To many, the limit has come too soon. To some of us, with the red mark already within measurable distance, the limit seemed to be overly short. Now comes the New York Central directors with a pension scheme which is based on the assumption that a man is a capable employee until he is seventy. Even those of us who are not among the hundred thousand employees of that great corporation must be grateful for this extension of our time to the Psalmist's limit. We may now stand boldly in the presence of Dr. Osler and assure him that he is not more successful in establishing a new cult than was Mr. Dowie of Zionville or than is Mr. Stead of London, England.



OVER in the United States, the popularity of Commander Peary is growing and that of Dr. Frederick A. Cook is on the wane. Since Peary received that gold medal, the critics of Cook have taken greater liberties with that gentleman's reputation. The other evening, in New York, before a body of representative men, Admiral Colby M. Chester stood nobly by the explorer who represented the United States navy in the north, and most brutally belaboured his civilian rival. He stated publicly, and his words were fully reported in the press, that Dr. Cook had admitted that the flag he (Cook) had been carrying about the country was a fake flag, and "that his Mount McKinley flag is also a fake flag." The Admiral further stated that Cook's records had been scientifically examined and scientifically condemned. There can now be but one hope for the Cook believers, and that is the instruments and records which Cook entrusted to Mr. Harry Whitney in Greenland and which were left there because that gentleman could not get permission to bring them home on the Peary ship. Until these are brought back to civilisation, Dr. Cook should refrain from any further claims to be regarded as the first discoverer of the North Pole.



WE must confess to a disappointment with Captain Bernier, over whom we had grown quite enthusiastic. The other day, the New York papers came out with splendid pictures of the baby musk ox which the Captain had brought down from Melville Island to Quebec on the good ship *Arctic*. With the pictures were long accounts as to how Mr. Hornaday, director of the zoological collections at