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Special Articles

Alone and Friendless—A Plea for Sympathy
for the Railways.

By J. W. Macmillan.

Conversion of Savings Deposits into War
Bonds.

By H. M. P. Eckardt.

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John Redmond

AT ANY time the death of a public man of the ability and character of Mr. John Redmond would be a cause for profound regret. At this time, in view of the situation in Ireland, Mr. Redmond's death is an Imperial calamity. History will not fail to accord to Mr. Redmond a place among the greatest of the Empire's statesmen of this generation. Long and faithfully did he labor for the Home Rule cause, but always for a constitutional system which would give Ireland a large measure of independence in purely Irish affairs, while fully maintaining the Imperial authority in the wider arena. Especially important has been this attitude in recent months when he courageously fought the mad Sinn Fein movement which, unfortunately, has made considerable progress. Mr. Redmond entered very heartily into the effort to obtain a settlement of the Irish problem through the instrumentality of the Irish Convention, which is just about concluding its labors. What is to be the outcome of it is still unknown, but we do know that Mr. Redmond took a prominent part in its deliberations and that he exercised great influence in bringing into something like harmony men who had previously differed widely. There is much significance in the words spoken on his death by Sir Edward Carson: "There was, in the end, not much difference between us." The feeling which some years ago was manifested against Mr. Redmond by a large section of Englishmen had happily passed away and there had come instead a very general recognition and appreciation of the man as a true patriot. Not Ireland only, but the United Kingdom and the whole Empire, are heavily bereaved by the death of the great leader of the Irish Nationalist party, whose services for the good of Ireland and of the Empire were never more needed than at the moment of his passing away.

The Coming Session

THE Dominion Parliament is summoned to meet on the 18th inst. A departure from custom is made respecting the day of meeting and the initial proceedings. Usually the first session of a new Parliament begins on a Wednesday, the members being sworn in the morning, the House meeting in the afternoon to elect a Speaker, and the Speech of the Governor-General following on Thursday. This year all these three stages are to take place on Monday. The members are to be sworn in the early morning, the House is to meet at 11 o'clock to elect a Speaker, and the Speech from the Throne is to be read by the Governor-

General in the afternoon. This hurry of the opening proceedings, in place of the dignified slowness of former times, may reasonably be taken to indicate a desire of the Government to make the session a short and business-like one. If the Government follow this expedition by the prompt presentation of estimates and measures representing their policy, and if these are confined to matters generally recognized as urgently necessary for the prosecution of the war, and other matters of a non-contentious character, the Government will have done their part towards making the session what it should be at this time. A wise Opposition does not usually make its most vigorous efforts in a first session, and there is little likelihood of a different course being adopted now. Indeed, in view of the issues presented in the recent election and the very large majority accorded to the Government, one may expect to find the Opposition gracefully accepting the verdict of the country and ready to cordially cooperate with the Government in the session's work. Enquiry and criticism, of course, there must be. If these are not to be found, there is no need for a session at all. Most of the talk in Opposition circles seems to be of the methods by which the election was conducted, and we may expect to hear much of this in the House. The Franchise Act was one of the most discreditable exhibitions of extreme partizanship that can be found in the history of the Canadian Parliament. If its evils were increased by unfair administration, as is alleged, there will be good ground for complaint, and there will be enough independence in the House to see that there is a frank discussion of the matter. It is well to remember, however, that after every election complaints of irregularities are heard from the defeated, and they do not always prove to be well founded.

The Canadian Northern Arbitration

THE arbitrators — Chief Justice Meredith, Mr. Wallace Nesbitt and Chief Justice Harris—who are considering the question of the sum to be allowed to Messrs. Mackenzie and Mann and their associates, for the common stock of the Canadian Northern Railway Company, have ruled that they (the arbitrators) are not at liberty to make any inquiry into the question of what profits, if any, the promoters of the railway have made in connection with the enterprise. The arbitrators, of course, are bound by the terms of the reference to them, and presumably they have interpreted these correctly. But to the public it will probably seem that the ruling shuts out inquiry into what, under the cir-