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AMONG the most hopeful omens of the day are the indications of a growing independence of mind among members of the young men's political clubs in the cities. Some of the sentiments uttered by the President of the Young Men's Conservative Association of this city, in his inaugural address the other evening, set this tendency in a clear light. The Young Liberals are accustomed to claim, with what right we do not undertake to say, that it is one of their principles to do their own thinking and form their own opinions on public questions, without stopping to enquire whether they are those of the "Party" or not. A cynic might perhaps say that this necessity is forced upon them in view of the very serious difficulty they would meet if they held themselves bound to ascertain with any degree of definiteness what the views and principles of the party whose name they have borrowed really are at the present moment. But the young Conservatives are usually supposed to be, as their name perhaps implies, more loyal to the principles and policy of their party leaders. For this reason the outspoken declaration of independence made by their chosen head is all the more refreshing. It is observable, too, that Mr. Armstrong, with a young man's directness, went straight to the point by calling attention to the most distressing symptom of our country's present ill condition, the exodus. It will be a nine-days' marvel, we fancy, to most of those who keep their eyes open to what is going on about them, that a prominent member of the club should have ventured to deny or belittle the statement that the country is suffering from a most debilitating drain upon its population. The question is, however, one of fact. Would it not be an excellent work for one, or other, or both, of these young men's societies to adopt some carefully-devised and thorough means of ascertaining just what the fact is, in regard to a few localities which might be fairly taken as representative? They might, at the same time, ascertain to what extent whatever exodus may be found to exist, is counterbalanced by the process of repatriation which it is alleged by some is going on

in some sections. If the tide has really turned, or is turning, it would be most encouraging to the people to know it. Young men who have an honourable ambition, such as every young Canadian should have, to take an intelligent part and exert an influence for good in the public affairs of their country, could not make a better beginning than by forming the habit of pains-taking and conscientious examination of facts. May we be pardoned another suggestion, though we fear it is a hopeless one. When commending the spirit of independent thought which prevails to a certain extent in both clubs, we could not help thinking what a pity it is that these young men should hamper themselves at the outset with party names and badges. What a grand work they might do if they could but make up their minds to drop the designations "Conservative" and "Liberal" and unite in a single association, simply as an organization for the study and discussion of all current political questions. The very fact that they were unfettered by any party name would aid very materially in giving that sense of freedom which is indispensable to straight thinking and fearless speaking.

THE enquiry before the Caron Commission has been completed. Nothing further will, we suppose, be heard of the matter until the report of the judges is sent to Parliament. As that report is to consist simply of a recital of the evidence, without giving any decision or even opinion of the Commissioners, no special weight will attach to it, as everyone who has been sufficiently interested in the matter to follow the evidence given from time to time before the court will be able to anticipate its substance. What Parliament, that is, the Government with its great majority, may do with it is the only question remaining which can excite even a languid interest in the minds of the people. Under the circumstances even this question is not likely to provoke more than a mild and transient excitement. Should it be decided that Sir Adolphe Caron has done no wrong, "Of course not!" will be the ejaculation not only of the Opposition but of independent onlookers all over the Dominion who have with singular unanimity agreed with the Opposition in this matter. To this end, it will be said, was the Commission appointed and Mr. Edgar's charges emasculated. Should the Government and its supporters conclude, on the other hand, that Sir Adolphe's handling of the \$25,000, which he admits having received from some source to him unknown and having handed over to the treasurer of the party election fund, was unbecoming in a Cabinet Minister, and visit him with some mild censure, their stern virtue in the matter will evoke no plaudits. The cry still will be that they have, only because compelled, and in spite of their transparent device for shutting off a stricter investigation, recorded a verdict of condemnation, while the imaginations of their accusers will have free play in surmising what would have been the depth of guilt revealed by a searching enquiry with Mr. Edgar as prosecutor. It will be very hard to convince a very large minority if not a majority of the people of Canada that anything but a guilty fear of the consequences could have prevented the Government from taking Mr. Edgar at his word, giving him the committee he asked, or even the Commission if they preferred, and challenging him to produce his evidence and probe the matter to the very bottom. Will not the future historian be likely to reason very much in the same way? Many years of upright and straightforward administration on the part of Sir John Thompson will be required to remove the unfavourable impression created by this and one or two other doubtful expedients which have been resorted to under his virtual leadership.

THE Canadian Manufacturer of October 21 gives some interesting information with regard to an experiment in profit-sharing which is being tried by Messrs. T. S. Simms and Company, manufacturers of brushes, etc., St. John, New Brunswick. The system adopted is very simple and of such a nature that, if not accompanied by any conditions restrictive of the freedom of the employees, of which no mention is made, we do not see any reason why they should hesitate to enter heartily into the arrange-

ment, as in fact they seem to have done. The plan as described by Mr. Simms to the workmen is as follows:—

The management of the business would not be changed, and the system of wages would remain the same. As the employees would have no voice in the management, so they would not be expected to share any losses that might occur. The invested capital of the concern would be paid interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, and ordinary salaries would be paid for management. Percentages would be allowed for depreciation of plant, for a sinking fund and for an invalid fund; and after providing for all these charges, the profits were to be shared equally between capital and wages, this to apply only to employees who had been in the employ of the firm at least ten months when the profits were divided. The employees were to have the privilege of appointing two of their number who could inspect the books and see that the terms were faithfully carried out; or a public auditor would be employed. The agreement was to be in force for a year, at the end of which time the firm could continue or discontinue it at their pleasure. The dividends, when declared, would be paid in cash, but if they were deposited with the firm, certificates of deposit would be issued and interest allowed thereon at the rate of six per cent. per annum.

In reply to an enquiry by the *Manufacturer*, Messrs. Simms and Company state that the first year of the experiment has not yet expired and they are, therefore, unable to say just what the financial result will be, but they are able to say that the arrangement has resulted in a more cordial relationship between employer and employee, and that it could be seen that many of the best hands were taking more interest in the business. Should the result of the year's work admit of the payment of a dividend, still better effects might reasonably be expected from a second year's operations. The writers conclude by saying: "We have faith in the plan and expect to continue it." We are glad to see that the *Manufacturer* approves, though in a somewhat timid and hesitating way, the system, or at least the experiment, of profit-sharing, so far as to deem it "worthy of close consideration, perhaps of a trial." It further intimates that a number of manufacturers, including some in Canada, think so favourably of it as to adopt it in their business. We are also glad to find that the tenor of its remarks confirms the impressions we have received from other sources that the movement is gaining ground more rapidly than is generally supposed, though for some reason there seems to be a disposition on the part of some in the establishments into which it has been introduced to say little about it. Possibly for prudential reasons neither employer nor employed care to commit themselves until the plan has been given a fair and satisfactory trial. It is quite possible that from this quarter may come a peaceful solution of the long pending war between labour and capital. The *Manufacturer*, of course, looks at the question from the point of view of the employer and the capitalist, and so far as it favours the plan does so in the hope that it may be a means of attaching the artisan firmly to the cause of protection, a significant indication that it foresees some danger of revolt on his part against a tariff which, if it is not the parent of the monopolies and combines which most oppress him, is at least their assiduous foster-mother. Whatever its bearing upon the tariff question, a liberal system of profit-sharing would be a step and a long step in the direction of justice and human progress, and as such we wish the movement all success. By the way, if the Canadian sugar-barons could but be induced to adopt it, what an accession we should have in a few years to the ranks of our men of wealth.

ACCORDING to certain statements said by the newspaper correspondents to have recently been made by Mr. Van Horne, and which have not, so far as we are aware, been repudiated by that gentleman, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company proposes to undertake the fast Atlantic mail service, for which a standing offer of a very large annual subsidy was some time since made by the Dominion Government. Every Canadian would be delighted to see this great project successfully carried out. There is, we suppose, scarcely a question as to the possibility of a northern Atlantic steamship line, so running in connection with Canadian railways as to materially reduce the time between