

of academic rank. For the position of Chancellor—nominally the highest position—any distinguished citizen of good standing might be deemed eligible. But for the Principalship, the chief office of the University, an academic record was regarded as indispensable. Sir Auckland Geddes complied with this standard requirement. When he declined the position, to take the Ambassadorship at Washington, there was much speculation as to the man to be chosen in his place. In the choice of Sir Arthur Currie the McGill Governors have shown that when the occasion seems to require, they can boldly fling aside the restrictions of the past and strike out in a path of their own. They have chosen as the head of one of our greatest educational institutions a man whose only service in the field of education was rendered some years ago in the modest capacity of a public school teacher. It is a bold policy and one for which, on account of the character of the man chosen, the public will have a large degree of admiration. The Governors have remembered that McGill is, in its staff, rich in scholastic attainment. They have taken the view that what is most needed for the directing of the work of the University is a man of known organizing power, able to inspire those about him with enthusiasm, and set all the available forces of the institution to work in harmonious and energetic co-operation. Such a man they feel they have found in Sir Arthur Currie. His remarkable success in the field of military operations during the war has naturally impress all observers with the fact that Sir Arthur is no ordinary man, but is the possessor of exceptional ability as an organizer and director. His appointment to the University deprives the country of his valuable services in the reorganization of our militia services. But the loss in one branch of usefulness is balanced by the gain to the no less important department of public service upon which he is entering. He will take up his new duties with the cordial approval and hearty sympathy of the Canadian people, who will wish him as great success in this field as he won at the head of our soldiers on the battlefields of Europe.

English Political Situation

THE political situation in England has for some time been mixed and clouded, as it has been to some extent in Canada. In both countries there has been a breaking up of old party lines and the effort to re-establish the old lines makes slow progress. It was thought that the return of Mr. Asquith to the House of Commons would materially affect the situation and that many of the Liberals associated with the Lloyd George Government would be drawn from their allegiance and follow their old leader. This expectation has not been realized. The Coalition Liberals seem disposed to still fol-

low Mr. Lloyd George. As between the Premier and the Labor party the position is still one of difficulty, for Labor is powerful and threatening; but there are no signs of growth of the Liberal party under Mr. Asquith. In the National Liberal Club, once the headquarters of Liberalism, including the two wings of the party after the formation of the Coalition, the Asquith section has obtained dominance and made things uncomfortable for the Lloyd George men, but in the constituencies the followers of Mr. Asquith are not manifesting any increase of strength. Probably the most severe blow to the Asquith party is the triumphant re-election in Sunderland of Sir Hamar Greenwood, a Canadian, lately appointed to the not very pleasant office of Irish Secretary. Sir Hamar was a few years ago one of the most active platform speakers on the Liberal side. He followed Lloyd George rather than Asquith when the split between the two occurred, and in the present Coalition he has had a rapid rise. In his fight for re-election he has had the good fortune to receive a vote exceeding that of both the Labor and Liberal candidates, the last mentioned standing at the foot of the poll. The result has unquestionably given great strength to the Coalition and increased the prestige of the Prime Minister. The London Daily News, the warmest supporter of Mr. Asquith, frankly acknowledges that the official Liberal party must be content for a time to fight an unsuccessful battle. Mr. Lloyd George, with practically the whole Conservative party behind him and still holding the support of a large section of the Liberals, has nothing to fear from Mr. Asquith or his followers. But the Labor party has to be reckoned with. Though it has not shown up in some of the recent elections as prominently as formerly, it is still a very strong and growing party which, when the general elections come, will give the Government a sharp fight.

Names Wanted

EVEN those Canadians who are somewhat afflicted with status-on-the-brain received a severe shock recently when a cablegram announced, on the alleged authority of Lord Curzon, the British Foreign Minister who was at the San Remo Conference, that Canada had offered to accept the mandate for Armenia. Under the Peace Treaty provision is made that certain territories of the conquered nations shall pass to the control of such nations as may receive from the Allied Powers a mandate for their government. In some cases the mandate has been sought and willingly accepted. Nobody, however, was in a hurry to take up the responsibility of governing Armenia, where the Turks appear to have kept up their oldtime practice of slaughtering Christians. The mandate for Armenia has

been going abegging. That the United States should accept it was an early proposal, not at all well received, and now as a last resort America is again asked to assume the responsibility. In the midst of the Allies' troubles over this matter, any suggestion of a power to take the job was welcome. Several of the smaller European powers were approached. Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Sweden are understood to have been offered the engagement and declined. In the cablegram referring to Canada it was stated that Norway was offered the mandate and declined it because she found that she would need an army of forty thousand men to maintain order in Armenia. Then, the cablegram said, Lord Curzon relieved the situation by announcing that Canada had offered to take on the job!

Lord Curzon has now denied that he made the statement attributed to him. If he had contented himself with a simple denial we would be at liberty to believe that this report had no foundation beyond the fertile imagination of some newspaper correspondent. But Lord Curzon proceeded to add that the handing of the mandate to Canada had received some consideration, and that the suggestion of such a course had come from some Canadians.

It will be a pity if the matter is allowed by Lord Curzon to rest there. He has said enough to make it very desirable that he shall say more. It is much to be desired by the people of this Dominion that they should know who are the Canadians—Canadians of sufficient consequence to have their opinion noted by the Foreign Minister—who have suggested that Canada has so few problems of her own that she can afford the time, the money and the men required to take upon herself responsibilities which the European powers refuse to accept, and to undertake the governance of one of the most disorderly countries in the world. These Canadians should not be allowed to hide their lights under a bushel. Their names should be known so that they may receive due honor from the Canadian people!

Mexico

That Mexico has another revolution is not surprising. It is a country that breeds revolutions, a country whose people seem to be quite insensible to the benefits of orderly government. The nearest approach to a period of order was when Porfirio Diaz, keeping the form of a Republic, governed with a strong hand. The time came when the power of Diaz weakened, and he was obliged to flee to Europe. Mexico has hardly had an orderly day since. Carranza's term of office as President is approaching the end. As he had announced that he would not be a candidate for re-election, those who were dissatisfied with his administration might have been expected to let him have peace for the few remaining days. But once more the Mexican ruler has had to flee. The surprising feature of the present trouble is that the revolt has become so general with so little fighting.