

REFLECTIONS

By THE EDITOR

"Canada Can't" Party

OUR Canada Can't Party is composed of a small section of Conservatives, Liberals and Mugwumps, and its chief plank is that Canada has not either the willingness nor the ability to man a navy. Perhaps they are right, but there are those who think differently. Australia and New Zealand at least are finding no insuperable difficulties.

In a paper issued by the Department of Defence of the Commonwealth of Australia, and dated Melbourne, June 23rd, 1913, the state of the Australian Fleet is given as follows:

PERSONNEL JUNE 1ST., 1913.

Lent from Royal Navy	900	
Ex-Royal Navy (Pensioners, etc.).....	480	
		1,380
Australians transferred from Royal Navy	360	
Australians recruited	1,660	
		2,020
		3,400

Thus the official figures of an official document show that Australia has already enough boys and men in her navy to man a fleet unit, and Australia got these together in a little over two years. At the same rate of progress His Majesty's Royal Australian Fleet will be manned wholly by Australians by 1915, with the exception of the necessary commanders and admirals. If Canada can't, Australia can.

At the same time the Australian fleet in commission is given as follows:

Cruisers: *Encounter, Melbourne, Pioneer.*
 Destroyers: *Wanago, Paramatta, Yaroa.*
 Gunboats: *Protector, Gayundah.*
 Torpedo boats: *Countess of Hopetoun, Childers.*

Since June 1st, they have added:
 Battle Cruisers: *Australia.*
 Cruiser: *Sydney.*
 Submarines: *A. E. I.; A. E. II.*

One cruiser and three destroyers are also being built in Australia and two tenders in Great Britain.

Pot and the Kettle

MOST of our political discussion in this country is simply a case of the pot calling the kettle black. The Conservative leaders and editors are busily engaged from day to day in proving that the Liberals are disloyal, unpatriotic, corrupt and unreliable. The Liberals retort in kind. Thus the thinking man cannot do otherwise than conclude that both the pot and the kettle are exceedingly dark in colour.

This is a tremendous waste of energy and ability. It is but a vulgar appeal to ignorance and partisan passion. Canada is given a bad name at home and abroad and the average man refuses to touch politics because "they are rotten." Instead of constructive argument on questions of the day, there is nothing but political abuse and vituperation. Instead of elevating the political life of the country, these partisan editorials and political speeches tend to debase it.

How strange that men who are labelled "Right Honourable" and "Honourable" should spend the major portion of the time proving that other men bearing these titles are dishonourable! Equally strange is it that editorial writers, whose mission is to inform the public and elevate the tone of public and civic life should spend their days and talents in blackening the reputations of every man who attempts to serve his fellow-men.

Paying the Piper

CANADIANS are learning their lessons very slowly. Extravagance is a habit which, once acquired, is difficult to eliminate. With immigration declining 3 per cent. in August, 21 per cent. in September, and even more in October, some people might have taken warning. The declining customs and excise receipts read the same lesson. The low prices on the stock market and the high prices of mortgage loans emphasized it. And yet Canadians went on buying high-priced goods for consumption just as in the four-year boom period of 1908-1912.

This is proven by the October index number of the Department of Labour. Prices of the commodities

we consume and wear rose steadily. The index number for October, 1912, was 135; it remained pretty steady during the year, and in September, 1913, was 136. But in October it rose to 136.8, when, by all the rules of economy, it should have declined. Meats, eggs, milk, butter, coal, fruits and potatoes all showed increases.

Canada must learn to practise economy. We are paying 37 per cent. more for what we eat and wear than we did in the period 1890 to 1900. The price of living is higher here than in any place else in the world. We are grossly extravagant and culpably reckless. Unless the national habits are modified immediately, Canada will pay a heavy penalty in the loss of "capitalistic confidence."

Yearly Elected Aldermen

ONTARIO is the only portion of Canada which has retained the mediaeval usage of electing all its civic governors every year. In every other province, in every state of the Union and in Great Britain, the aldermen are elected for at least two years. In Winnipeg, the aldermen have a two-year term, half retiring each year. The Board of Control, on the other hand, and the mayor are elected annually.

It is time for a change. Mayor, controllers and aldermen should be elected for at least two years, one-half retiring each year. Let every city in Ontario submit, at its January elections, the following question:

"Are you in favour of the city applying to the Legislature for power to give the council a two-year term?"

London did this last year; the people voted in the affirmative, and the Legislature gave permis-

sion. Every other Ontario city should do the same. Only thus may better men be secured for civic positions, and only thus may the city secure a continuous and consecutive policy of administration and expansion. This is the moment for discussion and action, and every patriotic citizen should use his influence promptly in behalf of this necessary reform.

Public Utilities

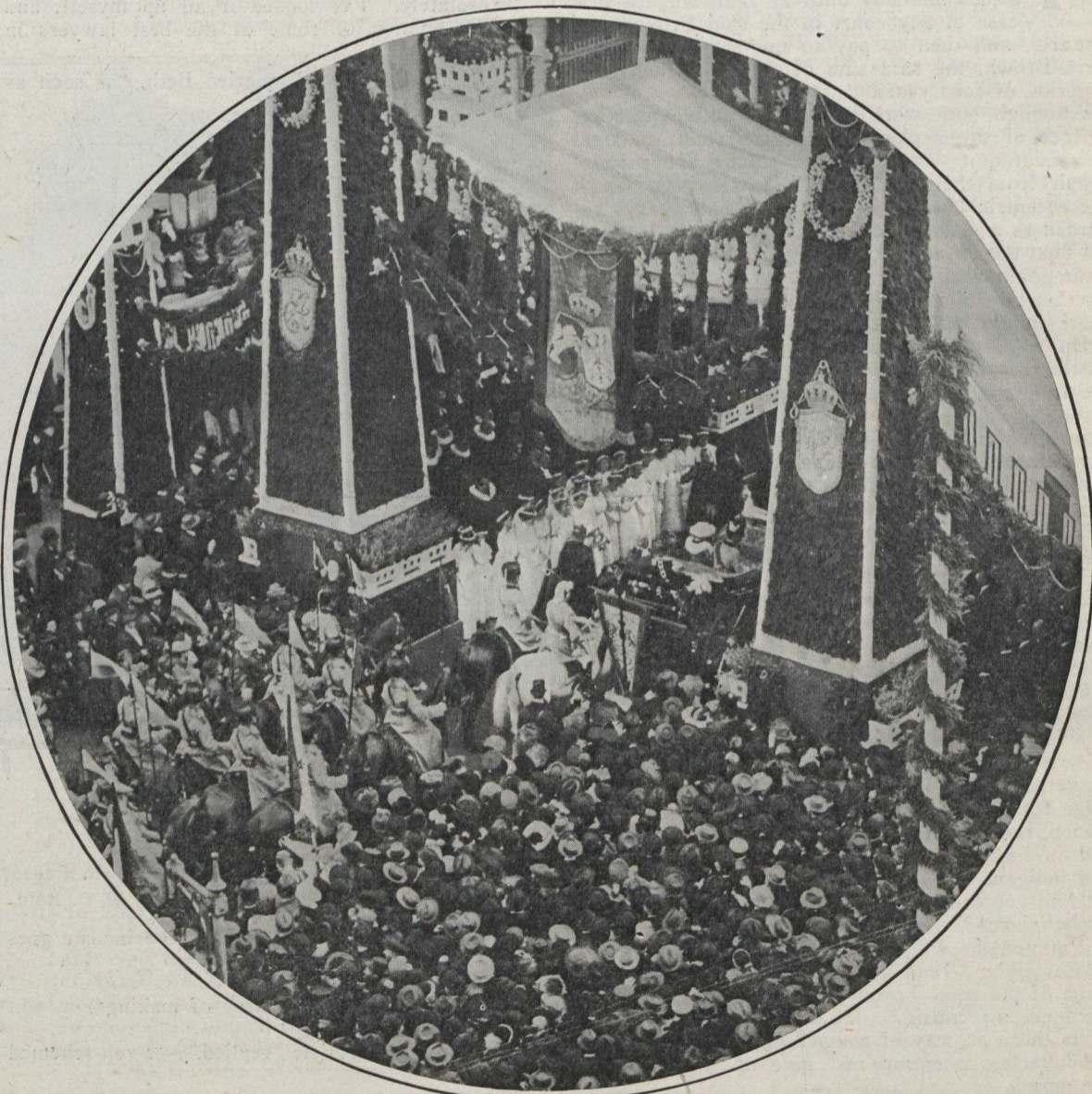
QUARRELS between public utility companies and municipalities make up a large portion of our civic life. Various remedies have been tried, and the only satisfactory one yet devised is a "Public Utilities Commission," such as they have in Massachusetts and New York States. Quebec has a Public Utilities Commission and Manitoba a Public Utilities Commissioner. Ontario has a Railway Board, but it has not the power or the inclination to meet the difficulties which arise in the various cities.

For example, a case in point is now before the Quebec Commission. This body has called upon the Montreal Tramways Company to show reason why it should not extend its lines in order to provide the people of Mount Royal Ward with the necessary street railway facilities. Also when the Tramways Company raised its fares to that district, the Commission ordered the old fares restored.

A similar case has arisen in Ottawa. The people in Ottawa East want increased facilities and there is no authority to force the Ottawa Electric Railway Company to extend its service to this district. So in Toronto, the Street Railway Company has refused to extend its lines beyond the boundary of the city as it was in 1891 when its franchise was granted. Ontario has no Public Utilities Commission.

Of course, the companies are not always wrong and the municipalities are not always right. But there should be some authority with power to decide the merits of each case as it arises, without recourse to expensive, tedious and unsatisfactory litigation. Only Provincial Public Utilities Commissions, with powers similar to the U. S. Interstate Commerce Commission, or the Dominion Railway Commission, can settle such disputes.

A New King on an Ancient Throne



Prince Ernest Augustus and His Consort, the Kaiser's Daughter, Receiving an Address of Welcome When Entering Brunswick City on November 3rd, the Day When the Prince Ascended the Throne of the Duchy of Brunswick.