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What Canadian Editors Think

PERSONALITY IN POLITICS.

(Montreal Standard.)

THE mass meeting which shouts and cheers its approval, may not contain many voters, but even sober people are carried off their feet by tumult and popular effervescence, especially in large centres, directs the vote. Personality must always bulk in human affairs, and the Hyperion curl of Lord Beaconsfield was invaluable. The moral earnestness of Gladstone was sublime; but people remembered that though he was good he was prolix, and they turned from the homily to the brilliant epigram of his rival. Explanations as to why public opinion was so slightly affected by the appeals which the Opposition made to it during the recent campaign will be forthcoming; but it is probably not too far-fetched to suppose that the personality of Sir Wilfrid Laurier had more effect in producing the result than any well-reasoned argument. The winning smile of Sir John A. Macdonald, the cordial grasp of his hand, the delightful aspect which seemed to diffuse happiness — these features never failed to capture the people. Similarly, when Sir Wilfrid Laurier, graceful to a degree, suave, magnetic, with the classic head, the white hair, and the silver tongue, addressed the people, the gracious impression was more potent than argument. And then, too, he did not bother about figures, or the laborious elucidation of principles, which perhaps are well enough in the corner of a room. He made epigrams. He pursued a delicate vein of irony. He offered a refreshing hint of humour.

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THE ENGLISHMAN IN CANADA.

(Vancouver World.)

IT is always a dangerous thing to interfere in a family quarrel. A man may roundly condemn his own kin and yet be ready to fight any outsider who agrees with him. So when in the heat of partisan warfare Canadians call each other rascals, the newcomer, be he whom he may, will do well not to applaud too loudly, still less to state his cordial agreement with both parties to the controversy. Let us put the boot on the other leg. Suppose that a Canadian went to England and proceeded to find fault with every social institution, quoting English papers in support of his animadversions (and he would have no difficulty in finding quotations) what would be thought of him by the people amongst whom he had come? One can imagine him saying to a Conservative, "The Liberal leaders are miserable statesmen, aren't they?" and the Conservative, who would cordially approve the sentiment in the mouth of another Englishman, replying, "Oh, well, you know, after all, while Balfour would make a better job of it than Asquith, still Asquith has his good points," etc., an admission he would never dream of making to an English Radical. This is the philosophy of it: we are not concerned to be perfectly fair to our own because we know that we make allowances which the stranger will not make, and we know that they know it. But because the stranger has no reservations, we are not prepared to endorse what he says, even though he but repeat what we have ourselves said. We may think and say what we please to a member of the family; that is his business and ours; but it is our business and his in quite another sense if any outsider seconds the motion. And that is why the Englishman who has been here for any length of time can

say that of things Canadian which the newcomer must not. For he has himself become Canadian in his love for the country and his liking for its people, and he will not only criticise, but defend. He is no longer an outsider.

* * *

"TEDDY" AND THE BIG GAME.

(Victoria Times.)

ACCORDING to a press despatch President Roosevelt has given an order for two hundred huntsmen's trumpets for use in his South African big game-killing campaign. That is the proper hunting idea, and again has the president demonstrated himself to be a man of infinite resource. One can picture the stirring scene that will electrify the jungle. First, there will appear a noble-looking Zulu, wearing a necklace of ivory beads and a dignified smile, mounted upon a zebra. He will have the largest of the trumpets and with a shower of golden notes will inform the denizens of the African wilds, to wit, the majestic lion, the graceful jaguar, the lordly elephant, the beauteous rubber-neck giraffe, the gorilla (image of Standard Oil), the reticulated rhinoceros, the portly hippopotamus, the generous mouthed crocodile and the elongated boa-constrictor, that Mr. Roosevelt is due to arrive. Then there will follow one hundred and ninety-nine Matabele, mounted on ostriches, who will drown the roar of the Zambesi with a fanfare such as even the walls of Jericho never heard, and, lastly, in an armoured train, equipped with four 12-inch, two 9-2 inch and several quick-firing pieces of ordnance, the president will appear. From the conning tower Mr. Roosevelt will direct operations. At the sound of the trumpets the aforesaid denizens of the jungle will form in serried ranks and march majestically across the dead line—as advertised in the native journals—chanting

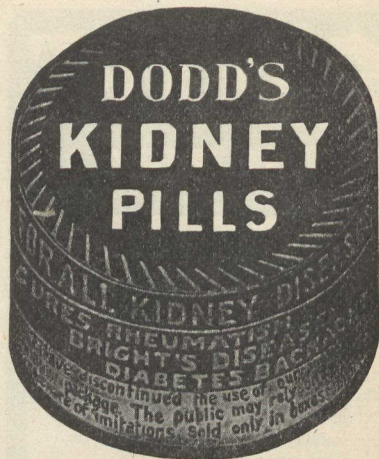
"Ave, Caesar Imperator,
Morituri te Salutant!"

* * *

THE ARCH ANTI-IMPERIALIST.

(British Whig, Kingston.)

WHAT a pity it is that "the grand old man," as Goldwin Smith is affectionately called by many persons, cannot forget some things, or cannot be induced to refrain from discussing them! They are unpopular. He does not care for that, and does not, it is assumed, care how many agree or disagree with him. He has been writing to the Manchester Guardian, a paper with a large circulation, and giving shape to a very distinguished heresy. It is antiquated also. He does not see the sense of the imperialists trying to "detach Canada from the hemisphere to which it belongs." It need not be detached in order to grow patriotically into closer union with the mother country. His idea is that sooner or later Canada will become a part and parcel of the United States of America, its population of six millions becoming lost among the eighty odd millions in the republic to the south of it. This is not a new idea. It has been hugged, as a precious thing, by Mr. Smith for many long years, and the expression of it has at last become tolerable. Some years ago there was a violent protest against it. The Whig recalls when the Sons of England repudiated the unpatriotic sentiment in most emphatic language. The average Canadian has bright visions of the future, and he is surprised that Mr. Smith does not see things in the same way and write accordingly.



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