



REFLECTIONS

BY STAFF WRITERS

CANADA'S WHEAT CROP

PROFESSOR MAVOR'S famous report to the British Board of Trade is rapidly being discounted. Already one hundred million bushels of wheat are being produced annually in the prairie provinces. Of the land taken up by the present population, not one half is yet under cultivation. That means a growth from one hundred to two hundred millions in the near future. There are 250,000 surveyed quarter-section farms still unoccupied, and these should produce another 250 million bushels. There is thus, almost within sight, an annual production of 450 million bushels. Then there are the hinter-lands and the arid sections—and no one may estimate their possibilities. Professor Mavor's estimate will easily be doubled in the not distant future.



THE NEXT NORTHERN CITY

THE next northern city is Athabaska Landing. The Canadian Northern Railway surveyors have left Edmonton to take up the survey from Morinville to the Landing—ninety miles or so. The Alberta Government has guaranteed bonds of the new line to the extent of \$13,000 per mile. If the Canadian Northern shows the enterprise which we are accustomed to expect, the rails will be laid during the present year. No railway builders in Canada have earned their bond guarantees more quickly than the Canadian Northern.

The latest despatch from the Landing, in the *Edmonton Bulletin*, says that the dust on some of the streets is already a nuisance, and that a few warm days will make it necessary to bring out the "sprinklers." It announces that a new garage for the automobiles of the Northern Transportation Company is being erected, and that the company will grow its own flowers and vegetables necessary for the supply of their steamers. Last but not least: "The shipyards on the waterfront present a busy scene."

Those who thought Athabasca Landing a trading post where the Indians brought their furs may be astonished to read these clever remarks, but the Landing is the port of entry to water stretches totalling 3,500 miles of navigable streams and lakes on which there are already nearly a dozen steamers. Those who read the papers carefully will soon find rising quotations for corner lots, for no doubt the alluring advertisements are already written in preparation for the arrival of the railway.



A BOUQUET FOR MR. PEARSON

WHEN Mr. Dawson, editor of the *Standard of Empire*, spoke before the Winnipeg Canadian Club, he delivered a message from our old friend, Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, the publisher of that latest of imperial publications, in London. "Tell our friends in Canada," said Mr. Pearson, "that the people who do things in the motherland are lost in admiration and respect when they contemplate the forward march of Canada into full nationhood." All this and much more, intended to inform us through the voice of his capable representative, that Mr. Pearson would like us not to forget him and his great work in moulding the destinies of the Empire.

Mr. Pearson need not fear that we shall forget. He and Sir George Newnes have engraved their names on the tablets of our memory. They are the gentlemen who sold Canada to the United States. Sir George Newnes arranged with a United States publisher that Canada should be allowed to purchase only the United States edition of the *Strand Magazine* and Mr. C. Arthur Pearson made a similar arrangement for *Pearson's Magazine*. Since these arrangements went into force Canadians have been debarred from purchasing the British editions of these periodicals from the publishers thereof. A pretty pair of imperialists these! They ignored and snubbed Can-

ada in the days of her youth, and recked little of the British Dominions Over-Seas when making their business bargains. Then, after such action, Mr. Pearson dares to prate to us of "recognition and reciprocation" and of "Canada's great claims." He is perfectly justified in getting all the advertising he can for the *Standard of Empire* from generous provincial governments in Canada, but it is presumption on his part to pretend that he is lying awake at nights thinking out schemes for the benefit of this portion of His Majesty's domain. We admit the advantages of Empire, but we hesitate to accept some of the patronising phrases which flow across the Atlantic. Even our hesitation vanishes when Mr. Pearson speaks.



MILITARY TRAINING IN THE SCHOOLS

NATURAL indeed is the fear of many people that physical training and military drill in the school will tend to peace rather than war. Few object to the physical training, but many object to the military drill. Lord Strathcona's gift is to cover both, and the latter class of citizens wish he had confined his encouragement to physical training.

Has it occurred to the people that, adopting the same line of reasoning, physical training of youths would naturally tend to make them quarrelsome pugilists? If military drill makes men want fighting and war, why should not physical training make them desire to indulge in professional boxing and pugilistic encounters? As a matter of fact, their fears are absolutely groundless. Probably one-third of Canada's present citizens of full age have trained one or more seasons in the militia or have done more or less rifle shooting; yet these men are no more belligerent nor warlike than their neighbours. Indeed, some of the most aggressive citizens in the country are men who have never been an hour in the hands of the drill-sergeant and have never smelt either peaceful or warlike gun-powder. It was not the British army which advocated and whooped for the fight with the Boers; nor was it the United States soldiers who worked up the sentiment which caused "Our War with Spain." The people who make war are the commercial magnates, the newspaper publishers and the politicians. All modern history proves the truth of this statement.

If the pupils are taught that war is destructive of human life and wealth and that a rifle should be used only in defence of national liberty and international justice, no harm can come of it. Indeed, much is gained, for the soldier knows best what war means. Moreover, the citizen militiaman is less likely to court war than the professional soldier; if Canada does not provide herself with a militia capable of defending herself in case of attack, then she will inevitably find that her standing army will grow under official sanction.

Those who are opposing military drill in the schools should give the matter more attention before they decide definitely upon a line of opposition.



A WORTHY CANDIDATE

THE announcement that Mr. Joseph Martin, known from the steel works of Sydney to the strawberry beds of Vancouver Island as "Fighting Joe," is a candidate for British parliamentary honours is sufficiently startling. But the further statement that this redoubtable Canadian is running in the classic retreat of Stratford-on-Avon sends the small deity of things-as-they-ought-to-be into another prolonged chuckle. Quiet, old Stratford-on-Avon of Shakespearean traditions, with crowds of eager tourists ready to believe all that the guide-books say, may well be startled by the intrusion of this Strenuous Man of the West. Already Mr. Martin has laid down the planks of his platform with a defiant thump. He is in favour of woman suffrage, he loves the working-man and he is going to reform the House