

A PRESENT DUTY.

Canada is, for good or ill, committed to the naval policy devised by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues. There have been various opinions as to its wisdom, but it is too late now to make a change, although we may well regret it. It is a broader plan. It is the duty of all Canadians to take things as they are and turn them to the best possible advantage. Extreme partisans on both sides may continue to assail their opponents with all manner of charges. That is a way they have. They are under the impression that the public is on the alert to see how nasty they can be, whereas only a few persons are at all interested in political Billingsgate, and those few would vote for their party through the heavens fell. The great mass of the people, after a political contest, either electoral or parliamentary, is over, wish to settle down and make the best of the result.

Applying this idea to the naval policy of the country, what do we find? We find that Canada is to have a navy of her own, and that the government is prepared to have the vessels built in Canada if it is possible to do so on reasonable terms; we find that provision is to be made for the establishment of great drydocks that will be available for naval purposes; we find that one naval station is to be on the Atlantic and the other on the Pacific coast. These are no longer matters for discussion, but are accomplished facts, so far as any thing can be accomplished to which the formal sanction of parliament and the assent of the Governor General have not yet been given. They therefore present a condition for the consideration of the people, and bring us face to face with the question: What are we going to do about it? We do not mean as politicians, but as citizens of Canada and as residents of a locality, where one of the naval stations is to be.

St. John has already taken steps to secure one of the drydocks and it has a shipbuilding plant in sight. It is true, anything that Victoria can do to place herself in a similar position, and if so what is it? We are only going to ask the question this morning, and we do so in the hope that it will receive consideration from those persons who may be in a position to suggest an answer. It is time to think about taking advantage of Canada's naval policy, as far as can be done legitimately by the people of this locality. Perhaps the Board of Trade and the Development League may be able to devise some line of action that might be followed with some hope of practical results.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Addressing the Ontario Club in Toronto, Mr. Mackenzie King, Minister of Labor, said: "The government has authorized me to announce that before the close of the present session, Parliament will be asked to make a very liberal appropriation for the purpose of securing the services of an efficient commission of investigation on technical education." He added that the commission would probably consist of five men, and they would be the best whose services could be secured, and in outlining the plan to be followed, he said:

"The commission will not be limited in the scope or character of its work. It will not be content with observations and investigations at two or three centres. It will be asked to travel from one end of Canada to the other; to do its work thoroughly; to perform its mission in the fullest sense of the word. It will meet the employers, the boards of trade, the workmen. It will study their needs and seek to understand them. It will look for possible opportunities of bettering industrial conditions."

"And when it has completed all this task will not be done. The government proposes to give the commission the right to travel the United States and Germany and France and Britain and other European countries, if necessary, to see and to study industrial processes and industrial equipment."

"It is proposed to give Canada the best—to give our country the opportunity to be in the van of this great progressive educational movement. It is proposed to submit a plan of technical education which may be taken up by the provinces—for, under the British North America Act, they have jurisdiction in educational matters—that will prove a sense worthy of their adoption, and lead to a betterment of industrial conditions in Canada."

This is exceedingly interesting, and when Mr. King adds that Canada must pay greater attention to technical education, if she is "to hold her own and get to the front," he takes her own and with which there will be hearty sympathy. When it comes to working out a system of technical education in which the Dominion can participate, some difficulties are likely to present themselves, but if they are approached in the right spirit, they will readily be overcome.

QUEBEC AND THE EMPIRE

It may be recalled by some readers that a few weeks ago the Colonist presented for the consideration of its readers some reasons why, in its

opinion, the people of Quebec have the strongest possible incentive to remain loyal to the British Empire. The views expressed in the article were much commented upon and many persons were good enough to say that they had never looked at the matter in the light in which it was then presented, and were glad to have had their attention drawn to it. That the arguments advanced upon that occasion are not those of the Colonist only will appear from the following letter written by a correspondent who signs himself "St. Denis," in Le Canada. After saying that a dissolution of the British Empire would bring an end to all the constitutional privileges enjoyed by Quebec, the correspondent goes on to say:

Now, what would the loss of these guarantees mean for the Catholic religion, the French language and the civil laws of the province? All these questions are satisfactorily settled after a whole century of struggle, and who would be bold enough to assert that the same amount of success could be achieved by the French speaking Catholics of Canada? It would be folly to deny that it is in the interest of the French-Canadian people to try and maintain the supremacy of the English language. The English language, so as to preserve the privileges granted them since the Quebec Act of 1774. Mr. Bourassa, who in 1898 for Canada in connection with the Monroe doctrine as protection to forget that at the time of the rebellion of the thirteen colonies against the metropolis, one of the grievances invoked by the Americans was precisely the fact that the Mother Country had granted to the French-Canadian and Roman Catholic religious liberties, the use of French laws and their national customs. The religious authorities have always been most strongly opposed to any movement of dissolution, and when, in 1775, young Abbe Carroll was sent to visit the Canadian clergy with view to induce them to join the American Rebels, he was met with the reply that "protection called for loyalty."

These considerations ought not to be lost sight of in the discussion of questions relating to the solidarity of the Empire and the attitude of Quebec under such conditions as may hereafter arise.

THE CENTRE OF THE PROVINCE

Most people think of the Grand Trunk Pacific as a railway in the northern part of the province. It is not. It traverses the province about midway between its northern and southern boundaries. We take the following from the Port George Tribune:

Stuart Lake is in the geographical centre of the mainland of British Columbia. Around it and extending far to the south and south-west is a region of great promise. There is much excellent land. Approximations of the tillable area have been attempted. Dr. Dawson says that there are perhaps 1,000 square miles in the lower Nechaco valley, and 300 square miles in the vicinity of Stuart lake. The whole area is a much larger area than he assigns to the Nechaco valley. It is more adapted to the cultivation of barley, and probably wheat. Around Ootsabunket lake there is a fine agricultural tract of many square miles and the Bulkley valley, which though not drained by a tributary of the Fraser, is adjacent to the localities just referred to and having an area of 11,120 acres; Pacific, which is connected with Stuart river, and has an area of 8,240 acres; Francois, area 50,000 acres, drained by the Stikine river into Fraser lake, which empties into the main Nechaco, and Ootsabunket area 40,000 acres, is the main source of the Nechaco. A close approximation of the area is impossible, not only for the lack of exhaustive surveys, but also because so many factors have to be taken into account in determining the adaptability of farming of land in this part of the world. Dr. G. M. Dawson fixed an altitude of 3,000 feet above the sea level as that which the cultivation of crops is safe although the grass and good grain is the at an altitude of 4,000 feet. He also says that "by the agency of man great changes will be produced here as in other countries." Other considerations to be taken into account are the shelter afforded by high land, the amount of rainfall, and where this is insufficient in summer, the facilities for irrigation. Concerning the fertility of the soil there is no doubt.

Around Stuart lake there is a large area of fertile land, where under present conditions, oats, barley and "all the ordinary vegetable crops" will grow abundantly. Wheat will not be a safe crop until a large area has been cleared, so as to do away with the risk of summer frost. For dairying no country could be better adapted.

The older settlers in British Columbia understood these things better than more recent comers. When the mines of Kootenay came prominently into public notice some fifteen years ago, most people proceeded forthwith to forget what they knew about the great central plateau, as it used to be called. We recall that once a railway promoter objected very strongly to the

term "plateau" being used in connection with this part of the province, because he said it conveyed the idea of elevation, and that would be fatal to any claim as to the fitness of the land for farming. There is not much doubt that the use of this term did create a wrong impression, which not even the reports of Dr. G. M. Dawson could wholly remove. So much had people lost faith in this great interior region that when the late A. L. Poudrier, P. L. S., sent in a favorable report concerning a portion of it, the provincial government hesitated to quote it and discouraged the acceptance of it as accurate. But Poudrier was right about this as he was right about Graham Island, and though his life closed under an intellectual cloud, he was indeed a prophet, although without honor in his own country.

We now know that along the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific across the centre of British Columbia and extending for many miles on each side of it is a region of splendid possibilities from the standpoint of the settler as well as from that of the miner. And let it not be forgotten that further north than we yet know very much about, and yet within British Columbia, there is a great region yet to be explored. As a matter of fact we believe time will show that, as far north as the Sixtieth parallel and further along the valley of the Liard, there is a region that will one day be the home of thousands of men women and children, prosecuting various industries and living in communities equipped with all the appliances of civilization.

A contemporary gravely asserts that Sir John Macdonald was the author of the saying that an election is like a horse race in its uncertainty. What nonsense that is! The expression was in common use all over Canada long before Sir John became a national figure.

The customs receipts of the Dominion for the year ending March 31st will, it is estimated, be found to exceed \$61,000,000 when full returns are in. The highest record in any previous year was in the year ending March 31st, 1908, when the figures were \$58,231,000. Last year the total was under \$48,000,000.

In his speech on the tariff settlement with the United States, Sir Wilfrid Laurier is quoted as stating that Sir Charles Tupper said that "commercial war is not far removed from actual war." We do not so remember Sir Charles' language. As we recall it, what he said was only that Canada was "within measurable distance of commercial war" with the United States, and that he went no further. The distinction is not very important, but the misquotation illustrates how even the most careful speakers sometimes go astray.

Sir Edward Shackleton says that Robert W. Service surpasses Rudyard Kipling in telling of the lure of the vacant places of the earth, and talking to the Press Club of Washington, he quoted these lines from Service:

"Yes, they're wanting me, they're haunting me, the awful lonely places."

They're whining and they're whimpering as if each had a soul:

"They're calling me from the wilderness, the vast and god-like spaces, the stark and sullen solitudes that sentinel the pole."

"And now they're all a-crying, and no use me denying; The spell of them is on me and I'm helpless as a child. My heart is aching, aching, but I hear them sleeping and whining; It's the lure of little voices, it's the mandate of the wild."

Prince Edward's Island has a law prohibiting the use of automobiles on the public roads in that province. Recently a Bill was introduced into the legislature to permit the use of these vehicles under stringent regulations, but it was defeated. The debate seems to have been quite animated. Some of the speakers expressed the opinion that the time had come when the use of motors would be permitted, but one member asserted his conviction that they would never be allowed on the Island. The argument against motors was that with a railway for the full length of the Island, the spell of them is on me and I'm helpless as a child. The speaker who made this statement came from the west coast, and he was not alone. One member said that during the short time they had been in use, they had greatly injured the trade of Charlottetown. As Prince Edward's Island only has an area of 2,184 square miles, it is to say not much more than one-eighth that of Vancouver Island, the problem of rapid transit cannot be very serious.

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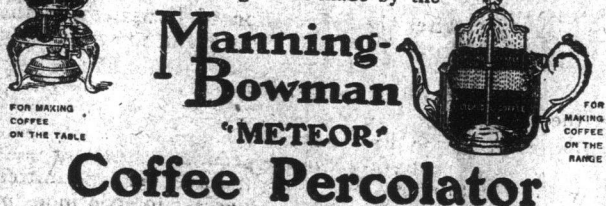
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Smart designs and well finished. Made of selected oak. Priced at, each \$16 Third Floor.

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The grounds are above the liquid and as soon as the water in the lower compartment becomes heated it is forced up through the central tube and sprayed over the ground coffee automatically, and, filtering through, absorbs all the flavor and aroma, leaving bitter taste and acid behind where it can do no harm. To obtain the same strength use one-third less coffee than by other methods.

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ENGLISH SOVEREIGN

Edward III. had four sons, Black Prince who predeceased a son who came to the throne as Lionel, Duke of Clarence, whose wife of Mortimer, Earl John, Duke of Lancaster, whose throne as Henry IV.; and Edward of York, whose grandson Richard right to the crown in the reign of claiming it by virtue of the descent of Duke of Clarence, although to relying upon his descent from Edward of York. His son became King IV. The struggle between the de York and Lancaster are known as the Roses.

After the insurrection of Jack C. erment of England was carried by the Duke of Somerset, the ment of Henry VI. being unequal. He was very unpopular, and Richard of York, made every effort to ing self with the people. He looked u and was popularly regarded as the crown, but in 1453 Queen Ma birth to a son, which event destroy hopes, and two years later civil wa York being resolved to assert his force of arms. At first he was u and Parliament declared him guilty treason, but in 1460 having gained over, the royal forces at Northampton, and it was agreed that he recognized as heir to the crown to sion of the King's son. But Queen was made of too stern stuff to boy's claims to be set aside in this she endeavored to crush the Duke. She administered a severe defeat to ist forces at Wakefield when the slain. The King thereupon joined and his so doing gave the Yorks colorable right to say that the aggre broken, and Edward, son of the D upon reasserted his father's claim to and declared his intention of winning battlefield. The people of London sympathy with him and a sort of election was held in that city at which chosen sovereign and formally crowned. Once acted with vigor against of Queen Margaret and gained a sig at Towton. Thereupon Parliament ordinance declaring that the Lancas were usurpers. Margaret refused to with help from Scotland and France to put an efficient force in the field, not equal to that of Edward, and of Hexham in 1464 put an end for being to all her hopes. The next year posed King was taken prisoner, s appearances the position of Edward cur.

Edward, active as he was in the not wise at all times. He had com the Earl of Warwick, the celebrated to whose influence and energy his po largely due, to negotiate a marriage in France; and shortly afterwards Elizabeth Grey, an English lady be the influential Woodville family. In the King's lack of good faith and the Woodvilles; Warwick declared Edward and, after six years of intestine and civil war drove him out kingdom and replaced Henry IV. throne. Thereupon Parliament rep previous ordinance and declared H and his son the lawful heir to the the following year Edward returned battles of Barnet and Tewkesbury, of Henry were overthrown. War slain in fight as also was Edward, Henry, at this time a lad of eighteen after Henry, who had fallen into hands, died, doubtless assassinated male line of the Lancastrian house b tinct. John of Gaunt, Duke of Lanc two families, one of which was only by the grace of Parliament, which act to that effect in his lifetime. I family, which was extinct in the n Margaret, Countess of Richmond, cended and it was upon her son, Har that the hopes of the Lancastrians centred. Edward IV. died in 1483 crown passed to his infant son Richard, Duke of Gloucester, was guardian to the lad, and he almost began to intrigue to obtain the sover er. The validity of the marriage of IV. was questioned, and the claim that Edward himself was not in poi the son of Duke Richard of York. A of the Estates of the Realm was it was declared that Richard of Glou the rightful heir to the throne, and crowned accordingly. The death of and his younger brother Richard lowered. The story of their assassination Tower is too well known to call for a passing reference.

Harry Tudor thereupon asserted to the crown. In 1485 he landed in coming from Brittany to which he banished. The battle of Bosworth fought on August 22nd, when Rich slain. Harry took the throne as Her and Parliament proceeded forthwith his title and to declare that the cro thereafter belong to him and his di