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London, Ont., Saturday, March 20.

MORE HOME RULE FOR CANADA.

Minister of Justice Doherty announces that the Imperial Government has expressed a desire to turn over to this country the British Government's right of control over the British North America Act, providing the consent of the provinces is given. This is a big step towards conferring complete home rule on the Dominion of Canada. Upon request of the Canadian Government the act has been added to on several occasions, but it has never been amended. But Mr. Doherty and Mr. King contended, in the discussion over the matter, that the act would work smoother if amended according to agreement reached between the federal and provincial authorities.

Of course, the greatest care will have to be exercised in making changes, as the act amounts to being Canada's constitution. It has been considered a sacred document, a compact that must not be profaned or injured. But that the self-government of the dominions is due for a further expansion is certain, and the direct way to it will be through an amending of the B. N. A. Act that is just to all parties.

LOSING A GOOD MAN.

The resignation of Robert W. Wade as secretary of the Guelph Winter Fair will cause widespread regret among the farming community of Ontario. When Mr. Wade was appointed to the position shortly before the war, it was felt that the directors of the fair had put through an excellent stroke of business in getting the energetic assistant professor of animal husbandry at the O. A. C. to fill the position of secretary.

Mr. Wade more than justified the faith placed in him, for it was largely through his efforts that the Guelph Winter Fair attained the proud position it holds today in the livestock world as being the premier show of Eastern Canada.

Mr. Wade in resigning gave no intimation as to his future line of endeavor, but it is to be hoped for the success of the livestock industry that he will continue to be associated in livestock work.

J. E. Rette, B.S.A., who acted as assistant to Mr. Wade, after graduating from the O. A. C. in 1912, and after his return from the war, is well liked by the livestock men of the province, and his appointment to the position held by his chief will be popular among the rank and file of the livestock men.

AS TO THE TARIFF.

A section of the Conservative press is trying to make it appear as if leading Liberals were deserting the Liberal party on the tariff issue. They loudly and flippantly declare that the member for West Lambton, Fred Pardee, is of this number, because of an address delivered before the Montreal Reform Club, in which he stated that he was no longer a Free Trader. The desire of the high tariff press is, of course, to give the impression that the Liberal party is for free trade, pure and simple. That this is not the case is clearly shown by the tariff resolution passed at the great convention of Liberals at Ottawa last summer. It is as follows:

That the best interests of Canada demand that substantial reductions of the burdens of customs taxation be made with a view to the accomplishing of two purposes of the highest importance: First, diminishing the very high cost of living, which presses so severely on the masses of the people; second, reducing the cost of the instruments of production in the industries based on the natural resources of the Dominion, the vigorous development of which is essential to the progress and prosperity of our country.

That, to these ends, wheat, wheat flour and all products of wheat, the principal articles of food, farm implements and machinery, farm tractors, mining, flour and saw mill machinery, illuminating, lubricating and fuel oils, nets, net twines and fishermen's equipments, cements and fertilizers, should be free from customs duties as well as the raw material entering into the same.

That a revision downwards of the tariff should be made whereby substantial reductions should be effected in the duties on wearing apparel and footwear, and on other articles of general consumption (other than luxuries), as well as on the raw material entering into the manufacture of the same.

That the British preference be increased to 55 per cent of the general tariff.

And the Liberal party hereby pledges itself to implement by legislation the provisions of this resolution when returned to power.

THE ROUND TABLE AND RESERVATIONS.

The Round Table, official organ of the ultra-imperialist group bearing that name, a group represented in this country before the war more numerous than at present, has an inter-

esting article in its current number on "The British Empire, the League of Nations and the United States." The writer in the Round Table vindicates the United States Senate for insisting on reservations in the Treaty of Peace, and holds that the only difference between the United States Senate and the representative bodies of other signatories is that the former has insisted on making its reservations explicit, while the others have made theirs mentally. It is pointed out in this connection that under the covenant the British dominions have formally entered into obligations to the league that they have never entered into with respect to the British Empire, and probably never would enter into.

It is very doubtful if the average Canadian really appreciates the obligations that are entered into in being one of the signatories to the covenant. Formal ratification by Parliament of an obligation of this kind would, of course, legally bind the country, but it is a different thing to have the public opinion of the country solidly behind that obligation. Great Britain's vast colonial possessions, particularly in Asia, are almost constantly under attack from border tribes, but we have never in the past been obligated to assist in their defence. Indeed, a suggestion along this line was refused by Sir John Macdonald when premier of Canada. It is not an American opinion, but a solidly British opinion, that is expressed by the Round Table that in entering into the obligations of the league Canadians have made a mental reservation. Are we figuring on the small chance of having to make good the promise? If that is the case in Canada and in other countries, there promises to be some curious developments when the obligations entered into come due.

The Round Table view of the matter, if Mr. Curtis were to speak, would probably be that the only league of nations worth while is the league of nations making up the British Empire, and if Canada would subscribe to obligations to the Empire similar to those that are asked on behalf of the league, one of the aims of the Round Table movement would be accomplished.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The "lamb" on the bill of fare is often in its second childhood.

Handy Andy Kapp proved a handy-Kapp for the monarchist agitation.

How freely the salaries of civil servants, city officials, etc., are boosted, compared with teachers. For some reason no one loves a teacher in the tangible way. Childhood memories are strong, perhaps. How about a minimum wage scale for teachers, Mr. Drury? Compel the people to pay their benefactors.

A Dutch editor says that his London correspondent found not one single opinion among English political leaders of all parties favorable to the trial of Wilhelm. Similarly, the New Statesman declares that the vast majority of British citizens are delighted that the war criminals were not handed over by Germany. Evidently Great Britain is a model of Christian forgiveness; the Germans can no longer deny it.

An Ontario magistrate in acquitting a negro charged with assaulting a fourteen-year-old white girl, says it was impossible that a man having committed such a crime could boast of it, as several witnesses testified. He considered that reasonable proof of the man's innocence. Without intention of reflecting on the merits of this particular case, it might be pointed out that one degenerate enough to commit such a crime would think nothing of boasting about it.

NATION'S DEBT TO LORD HAIG.

[London Times.]
The following army order, dated February 1, has been issued:

General Headquarters, Great Britain, will be abolished with effect from February 1, 1920. Though he remains on the active list of the army, and his services are still at the disposal of the state, the army council desires to give expression to their very high appreciation of the illustrious services of Field Marshal the Earl Haig, K.T., G.C.B., O.M., G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E., as rendered to the Empire, both as commander-in-chief in France and as commander-in-chief of the forces in Great Britain. Never in the history of the British Empire has one officer been charged with so momentous a responsibility, and no other British commander, with the exception of the Duke of Wellington, has brought to a victorious conclusion a campaign on the issue of which hung the very existence of the state.

His conduct of the operations, and his care for those under his command, have made the army and the nation his grateful debtors.

The army council feel sure that the army will join with them in wishing the distinguished field marshal a further long and successful career of public usefulness.

WAR AND POLITICS.

[Springfield Republican.]

How little a war can be understood without allowing for the personal equation is illustrated in the explanation lately given by the British historian Walter Reoch of the retention of the expeditionary force at Saloniki, despite the objections of military experts. A conference of Entente statesmen was held at Calais, he says, on December 4, 1915, at which Lord Kitchener threatened to resign if a venture which he considered thoroughly unsound were not abandoned. But it appeared that the Saloniki enterprise was inextricably bound up with French politics. Briand, like Lloyd George in England, was its chief protagonist, but Clemenceau was opposed. It appeared, therefore, that Kitchener's policy would mean the defeat of Briand and the formation of a cabinet by Clemenceau, with whom Poincare was at that time not on speaking terms. For fear, therefore, of a crisis in French politics, Lord Kitchener was persuaded to withdraw his resignation, and a Franco-British force was kept bottled up at Saloniki. For military mistakes there is often a political explanation, though it may not come to light till long afterwards.

Trades Unionism In Quebec

[By Mrs. George Hamilton, M.A., late Fellow of the Department of Political Economy, University of Toronto.]

Canada is experiencing from east to west a strong trade union revival. The membership of organized labor is rapidly increasing. As local, national and international tribunals, councils and conferences have been created to define in legal form the new rights and privileges of working men, the individual working man and woman organize to gain representation. But lines of organization in Canada are becoming dangerously diverse.

Unions affiliated with the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada still hold the great centre wing and greatly predominate both in numbers and in influence. But from the East and the West there rises the challenge of opposing organizations—in the East, the National Catholic Unions of Quebec; in the West, the One Big Union. And report has it that the One Big Union is now endeavoring to set control of Canadian Federation of Labor.

The Canadian Federation of Labor is rather small body, representing not more, probably, than 5,000 members. Formed in 1902, it was reorganized in 1908. The preamble to its constitution contains the words:

"In studying the history of the present time, Canadian workers cannot fail to be impressed with the imperative necessity of protection, both in the relationship to capital in the hands of the employing class and in the automatic domination of trades unionism, and its policy exercised by the present system of internationalism."

"We declare it to be in the best interest of Canadian labor to organize along national lines, and thus foster the spirit of our Canadian nationality."

This, then, declares the principle of national trade unionism as opposed to internationalism. It would be difficult to find two labor movements more diametrically opposed in character than the Catholic Labor Unions of Quebec and the One Big Union of the West. Statistics of actual numerical or financial strength avail little at the present moment. Adherents of these two opposing ideas form the ultra-conservative and the ultra-radical wings of the Canadian labor movement today; and the future of Canadian labor will be largely determined by the power of appeal. In contrast with the restless desire for "root and branch" change as embodied in the Western movement, is the worship of the divine right of things as they are, inspiring the Catholic labor movement of Quebec. Into the established order of industry as we find it today, the leaders of the Catholic labor movement are trying to breathe the old-world spirit and the simple Catholic faith of the Middle Ages.

The Catholic Union.

The Catholic labor unions had their origin in France as part of the "revival" movement against the Paris Commune of 1871. Their inception was dramatic. Count Albert de Mun, Royalist and devout Catholic, had just returned to Paris from seven months' imprisonment at Als-la-Chapelle, and had seen the great humiliation of Sedan, a year or so previous. Now, from the rising ground of Montmartre, he looked down on the barricades of communist revolutionaries. Men in ragged garments waved their red flags with insolent bravado. He saw the streets filled with the wounded and the dead! And in French forts on the outskirts of the city were Prussian soldiers, their moving figures clearly etched against the sky. It was such a scene as pierced De Mun to the soul. He tells how, on one day in the May of that terrible year for France, he was standing by Gen. Ladmirault, commander of the Lovain troops. "You see," he said, "wounded men were carried by. 'It is a rebel, non general,' remarked a soldier who saluted as he passed. The words aroused the dying man. 'No,' he feebly protested, 'no, it is you who are the rebels, not we.'"

Such scenes had a powerful effect on De Mun. He determined at all costs to attempt to reform the French social structure on the basis of Catholicism. His plan was to do this by the existing system of capitalist and employers' control of industry, but to introduce in it a spirit of Catholicism. This was to be accomplished through establishing Catholic working men's organizations in every industrial centre, and by making employers conscious, as men and Christians, of their duty to their workmen. The nucleus of the organization was found in a small working men's club, founded in Paris by the Brother of St. Vincent de Paul. Before Christmas of the same year (1871), Count Albert de Mun, aided by a group of devoted companions, founded the first Catholic working men's circle.

The circles spread rapidly. Each was preceded by a small study group of workmen, clerics and other devout Catholics. First they outlined the doctrine of the Catholic Church. Then they outlined the doctrine of the union. The idea of a league of classes was opposed to the revolutionary dogma of a war of classes. Pope Pius IX. conferred signal honors on Count de Mun. His successor, Leo XIII., issued in 1891 the famous encyclical "Rerum Novarum," by which Roman Catholicism was definitely and finally aligned against Socialism. The encyclical became the evangel of the Catholic labor movement. Its terms condemned the theory of the abolition of private property and class war. Catholic workmen were strongly advised to erase their names from societies, unions and organizations whose principles challenged those of the Roman Catholic Church, and to join the Catholic working men's unions.

Varying Success.
The Catholic labor movement has spread to Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, Holland and Canada. It has met in the different countries with varying success. It cannot be said to have a very great influence in France. Almost from the beginning the Catholic labor movement has faced against it. The membership of the Catholic unions in France is now about 75,000 at most, according to reports by the French Government; while that of the General Confederation of Labor is over one and a half millions.

In Holland, however, the Catholic labor movement has apparently secured exceptional influence. Leaders of the movement there claim for it a membership of 150,000. That is, the Catholic unions is 230,000; of the Protestants, 70,000; of the Neutrals, about 60,000, and of the Revolutionary Socialists, about 30,000. And the growth of Catholic labor unions in the Netherlands has recently been very rapid. Three of their officers are on the Central Labor Council. Many others are in government positions. The Catholic political party, which gives political support to the Catholic labor movement, has 30 out of 100 members in the national parliament. As a result of its influence (and this, no doubt, largely accounts for its prestige), much progressive legislation has been passed—chief of which being a national eight-hour day, with a 45-hour week.

Since Armistice Day the Catholic labor party has had an unprecedented prestige in Holland. Troelstra, chief of the Socialist party, has thrown down the gauntlet of revolution. "Now," he declared in parliament, "we must have the domination of the Socialist working class in the Netherlands." The breath of revolt has blown in from Germany. Mr. Serrarens, a member of the executive council of the General Confederation of Catholic Trade Unions in Holland, has recently told how the threat was met. Quickly the forces of the Catholic labor party were called together. They decided their policy. They sent to the Dutch Government proposals for social and industrial reform. At the same time, orders were telegraphed to every local. In every centre members of the Catholic unions formed citizen guards. "And," comments Mr. Serrarens, "the government accepted our program in full."

Encouraged by these successes, the Catholic labor party is pressing on to ever wider influence. Its leaders do not disguise their intention of making the organization international. While a branch of the Socialiste Internationale at Strasbourg was desiring the latter day to join the Third Internationale, of which Lenin is chief, leaders of the Catholic labor movement were laying plans to found a (Catholic) Christian Internationale.

In spite, however, of the growing power of the Catholic labor movement, it is doubtful if it will gain any further ground in Canada. Signs are even apparent that it has about reached its zenith, in spite of the active propaganda now in progress. Among Catholics themselves it is meeting with opposition. A strong effort is being made from influential quarters within the Province of Quebec itself to limit religious authority to purely religious matters. Finally, the industrial development of Quebec, with the trade combinations marking the industrial history of Canada today, will tend to force Catholic and Protestant workmen alike into trade organizations far beyond the limits of the different orthodox religions.

A LA NANTAISE



LOVE OF THE WILD

BY ARCHIE P. McKISHNIE.

"There's some adder tongues just peepin' up in the valley, Gloss," he said at last, "you're the Colonel's niece. You come of different stock from us, Gloss. He has any amount of money and we all want you to go and be educated like a lady. Oh, we'll miss you, girl—but that's all there is to it. We want you to go. It'll be best for you." She caught her breath. "Of course, if you want me to go," she said, "why—why, I'll go." "That's a good girl," smiled Boy bravely. "Now for the flowers." "I think I would rather go back," she whispered. "I—I don't want the flowers." They walked back slowly and in silence. McTavish and Injun Noah were still there, looking across at Boy. "I guess we'll all go up to the house," said the big man. "Noah'll watch the bolton' for half an hour or so." They went back along the mossy, springy bush path, drinking in the wealth of wild flowers, drinking in the song of wild mating birds. "I'll come after her again in two weeks," spoke Halibut softly, when Boy, as they walked side by side up the path, told him that Gloss had consented to go with him. "Gloss is here; she has made a new man of me. You don't know what she has done for me. I've been so lonely for years and years—and now it's just like having little Phoebe back with me again. Oh, but God is good!" They were a happy enough gathering at dinner. The Colonel told some of his amusing stories and Paisley related his little experience in hunting bee trees. Boy spoke little, but seemed to enjoy listening to the others. After dinner they all went out again into the sunshine. Wloow loow was there, and she and Mrs. McTavish had their heads together, and Paisley, who had drawn a little apart from Mary Ann said he knew they were plotting a custard or something equally delicious. Under Decidue was there, also; and his large wife and all the little Decidues with the big Biblical names. Peeler, too, with his family, and in fact all of Bushwhackers' Place seemed to be congregated to celebrate the good tidings that McTavish's Gloss had come into a fortune. "What I've missed by not knowing you good people long ago," he exclaimed, "I'm going to make up from this time on. As soon as I get our Gloss comfortably settled in a young ladies' college in the old land I'm coming back here. I love all this wild place, just as you all love it. I know you will let the little girl and me share it with you at times." "We'll all be glad to have you," shouted the Bushwhackers. Gloss was standing with one hand on the old ash leach and now the old man's face and looked across at Boy. "Uncle," she said softly. The big man turned, then came over and stood beside her. "Dear little Gloss," he said, patting the hand that grasped his. She raised her head and looked across at Boy, as she held out her other hand. He came over, his heart beating wildly, the blood pounding his temples. He took the hand and stroked it with a caress belonging to childhood. Colonel Halibut's brows puckered, then he smiled. "Well, I'll be—He checked himself, and glanced from one to the other of the young people. "Suppose we understand one another," he said. "Gloss," he asked, "do you—do you love Boy here?" "Yes," she answered simply. "And you love all this big beautiful Wild, too?" "So much," she said. "And you don't want to leave it dear?" "No." The Colonel's mouth twitched and the girl patted his cheek with her hand. "You love it, too," she smiled. "Why not all stay here together?—surely there is enough for all." "Hurrh," seconded the Bushwhackers. The Colonel chuckled and put an arm about each of the two young lovers. "That's a splendid idea," he nodded. "—a splendid idea. Good people, I'll take you at your word. I'll come and we'll live together. I can't say that I want to leave this place since I've been initiated into the Brotherhood of the Untamed."

Twilight had scratched its purple tally-mark in the fringed west and the ducks were sweeping in from the south in long lines, when Boy and Gloss paused before a spot beside the path. "That's poor Joe's grave," said Boy. "Seems I miss him an awful lot since the birds are comin' back and the world's alive again." "Poor old Joe," sighed Gloss. "He won't lie and watch and sleep by the old ash leach any more, Boy." He drew her close to him. "Let's don't talk of Joe tonight, girl," he said. Let it be you and me and the Wild. And so they passed up the path and the streak of crimson faded to orange in the low sky, and from orange to grey drab. In the lone tree beside the path a little grey bird sang its song. THE END.

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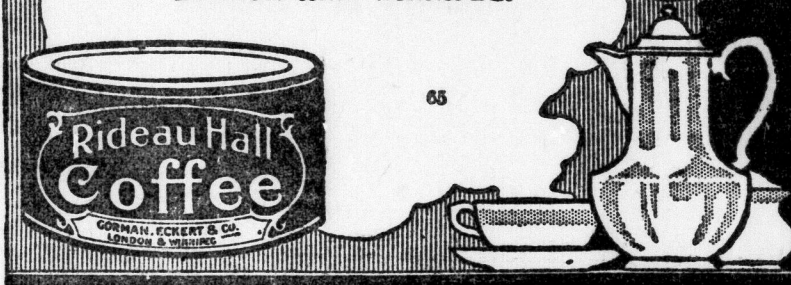
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