

REFLECTIONS

By THE EDITOR

Is the World Civilized?

CERTAIN events of recent occurrence would seem to justify an inquiry as to whether or not civilization is progressing satisfactorily. There have been some very glowing magazine articles and some ponderously important books written to show that the nineteenth century brought tremendous progress to mankind in general. We have been told by nearly all the great orators that the men and women of to-day are kinder, broader, nobler, and more unselfish than any people that ever existed on the face of the earth. We have been complimented and flattered till some of us were foolish enough to think that man had almost reached perfection, that international peace and good-will hovered like Noah's dove over the face of the waters and that the millennium was almost in sight.

And yet we find the people of China struggling with each other in as ruthless and as barbarous a fashion as the Goths and Vandals of old. The Russians have swooped down upon Persia and have shown a rather ancient spirit as to the value of human rights and human life. The Italians have gone over into Tripoli, and have vied with the Turks in deeds of stupid and senseless atrociousness. England, Germany and the United States continue to expend the wealth of these nations in planning, inventing and building engines of war. Great Britain and Germany have their hands at each other's throat and the sagest observers maintain that a war between the two great nations is inevitable. Russia and the United States have cancelled a friendly commercial treaty which has existed for eighty years. Japan continues her assimilation of Corea and Manchuria, while Russia takes a similar friendly interest in Mongolia and Turkestan.

The wars and conquests of the twentieth century do not seem to differ greatly from those of the fifteenth century or from even those of the tenth century. Cruelties and barbarities are almost as rife now as at any time since the birth of Christianity. There has been progress of a kind, and it has effected many phases of human life and activity. The sign of the cross, whether at a priest's girdle or upon the band which encircles the Nurses' arm, has attained an enlarged significance, but it is questionable if it has yet become a living force.

All this goes to show that mankind's progress is terrifically slow. The road up the hill of civilization is long and tortuous and stony. There must be many more generations of social reformers and humanitarians before war and rapine are banished from the earth.

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Prince Edward Island.

EVIDENCE accumulates that the elections this week in Prince Edward Island will return a Conservative Government to power in that Province. It has been Liberal for a long time. This, however, is not the hey-day of Liberalism. The shock which it sustained in September last in the Dominion elections will be felt for many days to come.

Moreover, it seems natural that the people in the smaller provinces should sympathize with the rulers at Ottawa and should trim their sails accordingly. It would be unfair, however, to place too much emphasis on this point in connection with the present change in Prince Edward Island. A political change was overdue in that province.

Might I respectfully suggest to Premier Mathieson that there are two things requiring the attention of a courageous public man in his province. In the first place the legislative council should be abolished so as to reduce the size of the Prince Edward Island legislature. The legislative council as they have it in the Maritime Provinces is a relic of mediævalism. If Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, with their larger populations, their tremendous territory and their magnificent problems, can get along with a one-chambered legislature, the little Province of Prince Edward Island should be able to struggle along with the same equipment.

The next step is a corollary of the first. Something should be done to hasten the movement to unite the three Maritime Provinces into one large

and forceful political entity. The publicist of the Maritime Provinces who leads this movement will write his name large on the pages of Canadian history. The future growth and the future importance of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island depend largely on their willingness or unwillingness to subordinate local politics to the commercial development and industrial expansion which is theirs by just inheritance.

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Manitoba Telephones.

AN interesting discussion is proceeding in Manitoba with regard to the new telephone rates recently announced for that Province. The telephone system of Manitoba is owned by the Province and operated under a commission. It was found that the rates were unsatisfactory, being too high in some cases and too low in others. In order to equalize the burden and to increase the revenue it was decided to re-adjust the whole schedule. In Winnipeg the rate for a private telephone is to be four dollars a month. If the subscriber prefers he may pay a dollar and a half a month and two cents per call for all over thirty. The business rate is to be four dollars a month with the privilege of making one hundred calls in that month; excess calls are to be two cents each. In the province outside of Winnipeg the rate varies according to the number of subscribers on the exchange. For business telephones it runs from

TWO MEN NEEDED

Ontario Needs Two Big Men

A COLONIZER AN EDUCATIONIST

The first must have nerve enough to ask the Province for one hundred million dollars to provide ready-made farms and homes for a hundred thousand settlers in New Ontario.

The second must be big enough to find enough and better teachers for the schools in the newer districts of the Province, and also to pull down all the one-roomed country schools in the Province. He must also be big enough to insist that farmers' children be taught farming in consolidated public schools.

twenty-five dollars per annum and for residences from fifteen to twenty-seven dollars.

If the commissioners do not find the book-keeping system excessive, their new scheme seems to be an admirable one. It enables the careful householder and the frugal business man to get a telephone at a low rate. At the same time it makes the large business concerns pay a high price for a large service. A business house, which has over a thousand calls a month would pay twenty-two dollars per month, or two hundred and sixty-four dollars per annum. The small user is benefited, and the large user finds his taxation increased. It will be interesting to discover about twelve months hence what the business men of Winnipeg think of the arrangement. There is scarcely any doubt as to what the householder will think.

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Some Pointers From Abroad.

AT the meeting of the National Civil Service Reform League of the United States, held in Philadelphia recently, many interesting phases of the movement were discussed. Clinton R. Woodruff said he could easily recall the time when honesty was the sole plank of reform campaigns. Now honesty is taken for granted and efficiency is the demand. In the Canadian Civil Service this is equally true. We have an honest civil service, but that is not enough. We also need an efficient civil service.

That a Civil Service Commission may itself fall into bad ways was shown by the criticism of the New York State Commission. During the past ten months, Governor Dix had asked for 478 exemptions

—that is, he suggested 478 appointments without examination. Of these 271 were granted, representing \$660,000 in patronage. "This is the most flagrant disregard of the merit system since the passage of the civil service law in 1883," said Robert W. Belcher, secretary of the New York Civil Service Reform Association.

There is a pointer for Sir James Whitney in the report of William A. Moulton, president of the Illinois Civil Service Commission. He said that there are 55,000 employees now under civil service rules in that state. Ontario has no civil service rules and is therefore far behind the majority of the states of the Union.

Commissioner James Creelman, of New York, predicted that the merit system in civil service has proved so effective and efficient where it has been properly enforced, that it will be extended eventually to every city and town in the United States.

Toronto and Montreal need civil service commissions. Ontario needs one and so do the other eight provinces. The Dominions outside service is not yet on the merit system. There is much need of reform along this line, and yet it is surprising how little interest is taken in this great question even by the more cultured portion of the population. It is surprising how Canadians cling to the patronage system which Great Britain abandoned fifty years ago, and which the United States has been fast eliminating for a quarter of a century.

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Physical Training at Universities.

STRANGE indeed it is that the Universities refuse to assume any moral obligation in connection with the physical condition of the students who attend these institutions. Some of them have gymnasiums and physical instructors, but in none of the universities is the use made obligatory. A student may attend the gymnasium when he likes, do what he likes or fail to visit it at all if he so desires. As for drill or calisthenics in the open, nothing of the kind is known. The few men who follow athletics, foot-ball and other sports, train intermittently and often unwisely. Even the value of walking and of well-aired sleeping rooms is not impressed upon either the men or the women students.

Indeed, the rapid increase in the number of women students emphasises the necessity for greater attention to the physical welfare of university students. Nearly fifty per cent. of the first-year students in Queen's University are women. This probably establishes a new record in co-education, but it emphasizes the problem. These women-students are likely to pay little attention to the rules of health and little attention to physical training unless there is some person in authority to order otherwise. If these women-students were living in university residences under college control it would be an easier matter to see that their food was of the proper kind, that the hours of study were neither long nor irregular, and that their sleeping quarters were well supplied with fresh air. It would also be easy to follow the practice adopted by all the girls' schools and insist upon a certain amount of walking out each day. Since these students live at home or in boarding-houses there is all the more need that they should be subject to compulsory athletics and physical instruction.

It seems strange that in Canadian colleges so much attention should be bestowed upon the mind and so little upon the body. In the Royal Military College at Kingston physical training is made of prime importance, and the young men who graduate from that institution are physically and mentally superior to the average university student. The R. M. graduates sometimes have a touch of snobbery which is not wholly pleasing, but the contact with the rough-and-ready world rapidly removes any portion of this which is undesirable.

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The Sikhs and Their Desires.

AN unofficial announcement from Ottawa declares that the four thousand Sikhs in British Columbia will be allowed to bring in their wives and children if they are fortunate enough to possess them. Whether this means that a Sikh may go to India to seek a bride and bring her back with him is not stated. Nor is it mentioned that a Sikh lady seeking a husband will be allowed to enter Canada. Fuller information will be available when the special commissioner appointed to report on the whole situation shall have returned to Ottawa.

Whatever may be the opinion of British Columbia, it is clear that the Sikhs have rights as British subjects which it will be hard for Canada to permanently ignore. It will be especially difficult for the pro-imperialist members of the Borden Cabinet to be other than actively sympathetic.