

# The Chronicle



Banking, Insurance & Finance.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881

R. WILSON-SMITH, Proprietor

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Vol XXX. No 48

MONTREAL, DECEMBER 2, 1910.

Single Copy - - - 10c  
Annual Subscription \$2.00

## HYPHENATED CANADIANS.

LET there be no hyphenated Canadians, said Dr. Samuel Dyde of Queen's University, speaking at McGill. The trouble is that we are nearly all hyphenated Canadians; French-Canadians, English-Canadians, Irish-Canadians, Scotch-Canadians. The rarest thing in Canada is a Canadian-Canadian. The phrase reminds us of Lord Randolph Churchill's reference to the fourth party of four, in the British House of Commons, as "hyphenated mediocrities." Dr. Dyde is on the right track. Canada will never be a nation until it has discarded about ninety per cent. of its hyphens.

## EMANCIPATE THE SPEAKER.

SCENES in the Canadian House of Commons are becoming of regrettable frequency. Twice within a few days, the House has been in a state of turmoil and on one occasion the Premier was under the necessity of moving the adjournment, because it was manifestly impossible to proceed with public business. The authority of the Speaker was set at defiance and his impartiality questioned. Now, the authority and the impartiality of the Speaker are at the very foundation of British parliamentary institutions; and the first is impotent if the second is called into question. Our conviction is that Parliament will never be seen at its best while the Speakership is made part of the spoils of party victory, by the election of a new presiding officer for each parliament. In England the Speaker is re-elected as a matter of course parliament after parliament; and as a matter of courtesy, his re-election to the House is never contested. He is equally the friend and protector of every member; his impartiality is never questioned except by cranks; and all the members are as jealous of his honour as he is of the dignity of the House. With the best intentions in the world the Canadian Speaker cannot under present conditions escape the occasional liability to have his fairness questioned; and sometimes we regret to add, the doubts are justified. That Speaker Marcell generally intends to be fair, we do not for a moment question; but his rulings on these two occasions were certainly open to criticism and were directly responsible for the disorder which followed. It was a case of one man going scot free after stealing a sheep and another man being hanged for looking over a hedge. Parliamentary government

will be at its best in Canada when it is thoroughly understood that the Speaker is practically elected for as long a period as he chooses to serve; that he is absolutely the servant of the House; that his retirement from the Speakership will be coincident with his retirement from public life; and will ensure him a liberal pension for the remainder of his days. There is no more important or more honourable office than that of Speaker of the House of Commons, and the incumbent should never be under the slightest temptation to think that his future depends in the slightest degree upon the favour of any political party. The "scenes" in the House lately have not been edifying; they are not in the interest of either political party; and they are not creditable to Canada.

## BRITISH ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

THE issues in the British election campaign have been greatly simplified by Mr. Balfour's declaration in favour of a Referendum on the tariff question. The only issues are purely constitutional and on them alone the battle will be lost and won. The abolition of the Lords' veto and Irish Home Rule are big enough questions for one general election. The Asquith Government got into power on a policy of shreds and patches. It does not know itself exactly for what it stands, or for what it does not stand. If it is returned to power, there will be no possibility of the popular verdict being misunderstood. That the situation is a grave one it would be idle to deny. The uncertainty of election results is proverbial and the threats in Ulster of armed resistance to a Home Rule parliament indicate that the Irish Unionists are not without anxiety as to the outcome. Mr. Balfour has shown excellent statesmanship in narrowing the issues of the campaign, in spite of the evident disposition of the ministerialists to have a platform of many planks as in the last general election. Party devotion as understood here is practically unknown in England. The majority of the electors are open to conviction, and the balance of electoral power is in the hands of a constantly shifting element. The average Briton has a profound respect for the British Constitution, and will be chary of any radical changes. Moreover, the politicians who have gone out of their way to identify the permanence of the throne with the permanence of the House of Lords, may have reason to regret their indiscretion. Now