

particular party but should never forget that it is responsible for much that closely relates to the business and domestic life of the people. The Dominion Government deals with harbours, canals, external commerce and transportation of a larger character; the provincial governments deal with private property, the enforcement of law and order, the building and regulation of highways and municipal undertakings, and in numerous ways come close to the domestic fireside. In that lies the reason why a government which is honest, clean, business-like and progressive, need not be daring nor brilliant to win a generous measure of support.

CANADIAN OLYMPIC CANDIDATES.

JUST what measure of success Canadian athletes will have at the coming Olympic games in London, England, is a matter affording much room for speculation. The general opinion is that it will be small. However, it is well that our best men should have an opportunity of testing their skill against the best of other countries. If they are beaten, they will be stimulated to further training; if they win any of the more important events, there will be a further revival of interest in athletic training.

Kerr of Hamilton, Lukeman of Montreal and Sebert of Toronto are our best sprinters and will carry Canada's colours in the 100 and 200 metre dashes. Bricker of Toronto may do something in the hurdle races, the running broad jump and the hop, step and jump. Barber, his clubmate of the Central Y.M.C.A., is a likely candidate in the jumps and hurdles, especially in the running high jump. J. L. McDonald of New Glasgow has an opportunity in the jumps. In the twenty-five mile Marathon Canada will have Harry Lawson of the West End Y.M.C.A., Toronto, which has several good men in the crowd to cross the ocean; W. H. Woods of Brantford, Goldsboro of Central Y.M.C.A., Toronto; Fred Simpson of Peterboro and Tom Longboat of Toronto, two representatives of the red-men; Jas. Lester, Toronto; F. Noseworthy, M.A.A.A., Montreal; and C. Petch, Toronto. The two candidates of the Waverley A. C. of Montreal who did so well in the trials, made a poor showing in the finals. For the long walk, Goulding of the Central Y.M.C.A., Toronto, and for the five-mile run, W. B. Galbraith, a club-mate, and Fitzgerald of Edmonton are all good men. Archibald in the pole vault and Con Walsh in the hammer throw are two men whose names may yet be flashed across the cables. The Argonaut Rowing Club of Toronto have a fair chance in the four oars and a dimmer chance in the eights. In tennis, football and lacrosse, there is little possibility of any spectacular win.

Whether or not any of these men bring back laurel wreaths, the competition for places upon the team has given a great filip to athletic work. It is rather unfortunate that so many of the winners are from Toronto and Montreal, but it is only natural that the stronger athletic associations of the larger cities should be able to present the best-trained men. The bodies are able to pay good trainers and to try experiments which are impossible with individual athletes or small clubs. Moreover, an outsider who shows promise is usually invited to move to the large city before his reputation has become fully developed. However, on this occasion all the competitors will be Canadians and the whole country will be watching their efforts with patriotic hope and pride. We can be confident that none of them desires to win by any but the fairest means.

THE COMING OF A COUNTESS

IT has been remarked more than once that the women of this continent are less interested in political subjects than are their sisters in the British Isles. Those Canadian or United States women who have married British politicians have quickly adopted the methods of British matrons and have thrown themselves into the social side of politics with enthusiasm. The Englishwoman's interest in political matters is not to be confused with the woman suffrage movement. Many women prominent in English political circles are not at all desirous of votes. Mrs. Humphry Ward, who is frequently seen at Liberal receptions, is decidedly opposed to woman suffrage, while Mrs. Felkin, the daughter of Viscount Wolverhampton, whose novels show a decided *penchant* for politics, is also an opponent of the suffragette movement.

This difference of attitude between American and English women gives decided piquancy to the announcement that the Countess of Warwick, who is of English birth and an amateur Socialist, is coming to the United States next August on behalf of Mr. E. G. Wharton, the Socialist candidate for Congress in the Bellefontaine District in Ohio. The Countess has promised to make twelve speeches, the first

of which is to be given before an audience of 15,000 negroes. As the negro vote is an important factor in that district, this performance on the part of a genuine aristocrat will doubtless win many votes for the Socialist candidate. The Countess of Warwick is one of England's most beautiful women, whose socialistic ventures have been considered harmless feminine vagaries. However, her active participation in a foreign election is regarded by serious politicians as of doubtful taste and decorum; but the sensational papers rejoice in the prospect of beholding a rare and radiant aristocrat, of irreproachable gowns and accent addressing a monster audience of applauding Africans. Mrs. Longworth, the eldest daughter of President Roosevelt, has declined to stump the Eighth Ohio Congressional District in favour of Mr. Cole of Findlay. If Toronto Socialists had possessed any enterprise they would have secured the Countess of Warwick for their Ontario Legislature campaign and that dazzling peeress might have been in the oratorical band "gathered in" by the Toronto police last week. Canadian Socialists are sadly wanting in brilliant initiative.

THE CHURCHES IN THE WEST.

THE recent reports in the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, meeting at Winnipeg, show that the Church of Scotland is holding its own in Western Canada and is devoting especial attention to the Sabbath schools in the new settlements. The Canadian churches were wise in the selection of men sent out as early missionaries to the far districts. Such men as Rev. Dr. Robertson of the Presbyterian Church and Rev. George MacDougall of the Methodist are among the most heroic figures of Canadian pioneer life. Of all Protestant churches in Western Canada, the Presbyterians have won most prominence of late years from the simple fact that their doings have found a clerical chronicler in the novelist, Ralph Connor. The Canadian travelling in certain parts of the United States finds it difficult to convince the natives that there is any other church in Western Canada than the "kirk." Have they not read *Black Rock* and *The Sky-Pilot of the Foot-Hills*? Here is proof once more that the songs and stories of a people are mightier than statistics. For some years, it looked as if India, China and Japan were going to obscure the claims of home missions; but the foreign fervour has settled into soberer views and that which lies the nearest in the mission field is receiving the deserved consideration. When Rev. W. E. Hassard, Field Secretary of the Upper Canada Bible Society, states that, with the exception of Johannesburg, the city of Winnipeg last year had a greater diversity of languages spoken within her gates than any other city in the world, it is impressed upon most Canadians that there is a fairly wide field for missionary effort within our own boundaries.

RHETORIC AND POLITICS.

OF the making of speeches, there is no end in Canadian politics. Speeches are numerous, but orations are exceedingly scarce. The orators of the Dominion are mostly French-speaking Canadians, graduates of Laval which is the only university which pays any attention to rhetoric. The Maritime Provinces have produced a few orators, Ontario scarcely any, and the West only one. The French-Canadian has usually a broad basis in principle for his larger utterances. He knows how to treat a subject in a large and brilliant way, clothing his ideas in picturesque language and employing a wealth of striking phrase and brilliant metaphor. Few English-speaking Canadians have any training along this line, and the speeches made by these gentlemen are seldom worthy of being preserved for the quality of their style.

This general situation is having an effect upon our public life. Most debates resolve themselves into assertion and counter-assertion, statement and counter-statement, charge and counter-charge, blackguarding and counter-blackguarding. The speech-maker who knows not principles, whose vocabulary is of the most limited character and who has little appreciation of the finer and more subtle qualities of human reason and understanding is forced to use blunt words and phrases in order to condemn his opponents and their conduct. The orator who deals with principles and appeals to the higher sentiments of his audience cannot mix vulgarity with rhetorical utterances. The differences between the ordinary talk of a coal-heaver or a deck-hand and that of a university professor are much the same as those which distinguish a speech-maker from an orator.

All speeches are not bad, nor all orations good. Yet with a greater attention to rhetoric and logic in our universities, both speeches and orations should improve.