

Public Opinion.

Ottawa Citizen (Con.): We sympathise entirely with the unwillingness of the present as well as of the last Government to enter into the miserable struggle invited by the alien labour law of the United States.

Ottawa Journal (Ind.): It was a great temperance reform which compelled members of Parliament to take their drinks sitting instead of standing. This is an admirable illustration of the measure of prohibition the country is likely to get from Parliament.

Ottawa Citizen (Con.): Mr. Charles Russell, son of the Lord Chief Justice, thinks that should prohibition carry there will be trouble in compensating the saloon keepers. There would be trouble, no doubt; but the question is not likely even to reach that stage.

Hamilton Herald (Ind. Con.): And so, with a clear majority of some twenty over Conservatives and Independents combined, and with a majority of 34 when its natural allies lend their aid, the Laurier Government is seated firmly in the saddle and may look with confidence to the future.

Toronto Globe (Lib.): We must move toward free trade as fast as a due regard for business safety will permit, and we must absolutely refuse to consider any further increases of tariff duties, no matter what the pressure or how powerful the interest which seeks a business partnership with the Government.

Sydney, C.B., Island Reporter (Lib.): The great difficulty with our American contemporaries is their inability to distinguish truth from falsehood. When the Tory organs tell them that the party comprising a majority of the Canadian people favours annexation they believe it. Here in Canada people have more discernment.

Hamilton Spectator (Con.): It so happened that the first division was on a question the Government side of which recommended itself to the Independents and the Independent Conservatives, and the Government was able to show a majority which it is not at all likely to equal on any other question which may come up during the present session.

Montreal Witness (Ind.): We greatly doubt the wisdom of Mr. Taylor's retaliatory alien labour law. The chief effect of it, if not the chief object of it, will be to make the Americans very angry. The fact that manifestations of anger under the circumstances will make them appear a little silly, will not mend the matter at all. It will rather aggravate the evil.

Montreal Gazette (Con.): The weakness of prohibition legislation lies in the fact that while the average citizen recognizes that there are evils connected with the liquor trade, and while, for the good of his fellows he is willing to submit to the personal inconvenience a prohibitory law may cause to himself, he is not concerned in seeing that breakers of the law are punished.

Victoria, B.C. Colonist (Con.): With such critics as the members of the present Opposition have shown themselves to be, Mr. Laurier and his colleagues will be obliged to pursue a policy which is conducive to the welfare of the country, keep the pledges they have made with respect to economy, and live up to their professions of honesty, or their tenure of office will be very short.

Ottawa Free Press (Lib.): It was very pleasing to see the customary tactics of party hostility dropped for a few moments in the House of Commons last night, and Sir Charles Tupper supporting Mr. Laurier in his contention as to the unwisdom of adopting Mr. Taylor's proposed bill to exclude American labour from Canada, after the manner of our less generous neighbours to the south of us.

Woodstock Sentinel Review (Lib.): Everyone but the bitter partizan must concede that the new Dominion Government is proceeding about its business with an evident desire to do the very best for the good of the country.

It is Mr. Laurier's plain purpose that his Government shall not go about the country on stilts, that it shall keep very close to the people, and that it shall do its work in plain business fashion.

St. John, N.B., Globe (Lib.): Mr. Laurier, on the first test vote—on a question raised by the Opposition as most likely to bring out its full strength—had the substantial majority of thirty-four. This is a majority of four more than the Government of Sir John Macdonald had in the first days of the last Parliament, and it is five more than the same Government had in the first session of the Parliament elected in 1887.

Hamilton Herald (Ind. Con.): Mr. Laurier's promise respecting an alien labour law is partially satisfactory. His promise is that the Government will endeavour by correspondence with the United States Government to bring about the abrogation of the offensive alien labour law which is aimed particularly at Canadians, and that if the United States authorities persist in retaining that law on their statute books, then the Dominion Government would consent to the adoption of a similar law in this country.

Toronto World (Con.): A majority of 34 on a test question is a good working force, provided it can be kept up. Mr. Laurier's compatriots, who, reasonably enough, have shown their confidence in him, form a solid slice in the vote, and they must be expected to look after the interests of their own province. When big questions arise and the claim of Quebec to be considered likewise makes its appearance, it will be seen whether or not the members from that quarter are easily satisfied.

Hamilton Spectator (Con.): Why should there be an investigation? Why should any time be wasted in "consulting" the people, whose wishes are as far apart as the poles? The statesman of The Globe has no difficulty in arriving at a programme for the salvation of his country. Almost every Grit paper in the country has decided what the policy of his party should be. And yet the statesmen whom Laurier has gathered about him must go a-hunting for opinions before committing themselves to any policy.

St. John, N.B., Gazette (Con.): The prohibitionists did not lose much time in asking Mr. Laurier to invite the people of Canada to express their views at the polls. Do the prohibitionists think of the serious character of such a request? The adoption of national prohibition would upset the whole fiscal arrangements of the country. . . . A majority of the people would perhaps vote for the abstract question of prohibition, but not one-tenth of those who voted for prohibition would lift a finger to enforce the law after it was passed.

Montreal Star (Ind.): The reluctant, but unmistakable position taken by Mr. Laurier yesterday in regard to Mr. Taylor's Alien Labour Bill, supported as it was by Sir Charles Tupper and the whole House, ought to give the American Government pause. Whatever may be thought of the policy, it is clear that there is great danger of retaliation from this Parliament if the Americans persist in their stupid and hostile course towards Canadian citizens. It looks as if they could have reciprocity of common-sense or reciprocity of international irritation, just as they choose; but it is plain that they must make the decision soon.

Halifax Chronicle (Lib.): The debate on the Governor-General's warrants which was initiated by Mr. Foster has resulted in showing to the country the superior debating ability of the members supporting the Government and the confidence in the Government which Ontario as well as Quebec entertains. It is significant that although a large number of legal gentlemen in the House took part in the debate yet every prominent lawyer who spoke, except Mr. Borden, justified the interpretation placed upon the statute by the Government, and concurred in the legal opinion given by Sir Oliver Mowat, unquestionably the ablest constitutional lawyer in Canada.

Literary and Personal.

We are pleased to learn that our old and valued contributor, Miss A. E. Wetherald, has at last been persuaded to bring out a selection of her poems in book form, with the title of "The House of The Trees." We have not seen the volume yet, but understand it has recently been published by Messrs. Sampson & Wolfe, Boston. Miss Wetherald's verse always impressed us as possessing a singularly attractive quality and we bespeak for her book a favourable reception.

Cavaliere Cristoforo Negri, whose death was recently announced, was a distinguished Italian scientist and, for many years, a most enthusiastic promoter of geographical research. Born at Padua in 1809, he first devoted himself to the study of law; he held the post of Professor of Constitutional Law at Padua, but was after 1848 compelled to leave the city for political reasons. He was the founder in 1866, and the first President of the Italian Geographical Society. He was for many years an honorary corresponding member of the English Royal Geographical Society.

The Rev. Dr. Watson (Ian MacLaren) was to have sailed from Liverpool on Wednesday last and is expected to arrive in New York about the 25th inst. The six lectures on Preaching (the Lyman Beecher course) will be delivered between Sept 28th and Oct 8th. Dr. Watson is booked for fifty-four lectures. As at present arranged he will visit only four Canadian cities, Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston and Toronto; but it is probable that he will lecture also in Hamilton. He will lecture in Toronto on Monday evening, Oct. 19th, but it is unlikely that he will preach here. The subjects of his lectures and readings are: "Certain Traits of Scottish Character," "Reading from the Annals of Drumtochty, with Notes," and "Two Unpublished Annals of Drumtochty—"How we Kept Christmas at Drumtochty" and "Kildrummie Fair".

In the September number of the Catholic World Mr. Thomas O'Hagan, M.A., Ph.D., has an exceedingly interesting article entitled, "Some Canadian Women Writers," with portraits, arranged in groups, of Agnes Maule Machar, S. A. Curzon, Frances Harrison, Grace Dean MacLeod Rogers, Marshall Saunders, Anna T. Sallier, Maude Ogilvy, Kate Madeleine Barry, Faith Fenton, Janet Carnochan, Lily Alice Lefevre, Elizabeth G. Roberts, Helen M. Merrill, Emma Wells Dickson, Constance Fairbanks, Grace Campbell, Margaret Poulson Murray, Eve Brodlique, Emily M. Blewett, Ethelwyn Wetherald, Emily Jean Manus, Mrs. Everard Cotes (nee Sara Jeanette Duncan), Sophie M. A. Hensley, Helen Gregory Flesher, M.A., Mus.B., E. Pauline Johnson, Madge Robertson Helen Fairbairn, Catherine Parr Trail, and Amy M. Berlin. We shall probably reproduce the article in our next issue, as nearly all the writers mentioned have been frequent contributors to THE WEEK.

The death of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe has naturally revived popular interest in her literary labours, and Houghton, Mifflin & Company announce the early publication of a uniform edition of her works. In this connection The Bookman says: Especial interest will be taken in the limited large-paper edition, for every copy of which the publishers were fortunately successful in securing Mrs. Stowe's autograph early this year. We have been somewhat surprised to note that in all the comments which her death has called forth, the merits of Uncle Tom's Cabin have been allowed absolutely to obscure the beauty and depth of charm of much besides that she has written. It is true that few, if any women among all who have lived, have accomplished a greater work by the writing of one book, for it was Uncle Tom's Cabin, more than any cause, that broke the fetters of the slave. The book itself is full of genius, a Spagnolotto book, as Macaulay called it. But "The Minister's Wooing," "The Pearl of Orr's Island," especially the touching noble, and profound "Old Town Folks," are among the best gifts