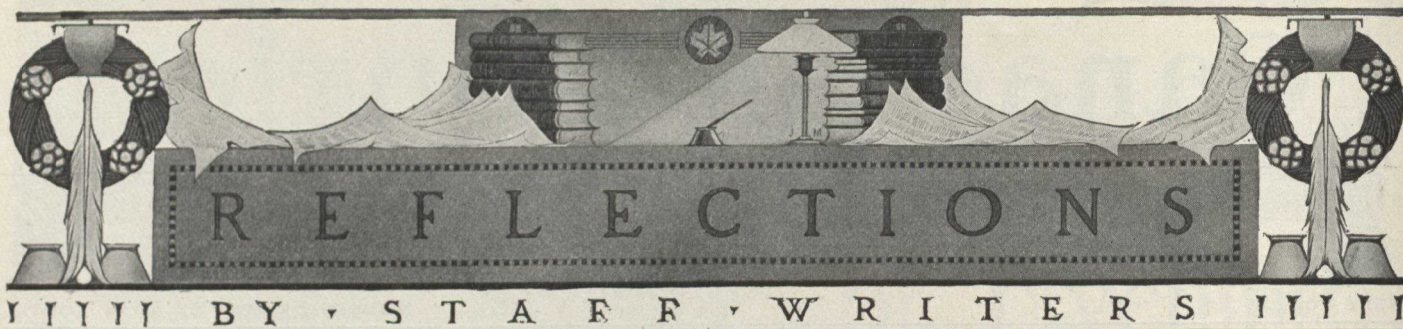




REFLECTIONS

BY STAFF WRITERS

THE people of British Columbia object to the new Sunday laws made by the Dominion Parliament. They say that when they want to stop Sunday newspapers they will pass their own legislation. The Attorney-General of the province, according to the despatches, has announced that he will not be a party to any prosecutions. That makes it easy, because he must be a party to ensure success. There is the same situation practically in Quebec. All the other provinces regard the law as defective in details but desirable in principle.

Keeping Sunday was once a family and religious matter, and the Sabbath was fairly well kept. Since the morals and the religion of the people passed into the keeping of self-constituted bodies like the Lord's Day Alliance, ideas as to Sunday observance seem to have broadened. Any attempt to place morality and religion on a scientific or business basis is likely to end in disaster. It is undeniable that the growth of towns and cities seems inevitably to lead to more freedom of conduct, but it is questionable if the Canadian respect for Sunday will be strengthened or weakened by strict legislation.

A CURIOUS situation has developed in the exchange of newspapers between Canada and the United States. The new Convention, which comes into force on Wednesday of next week, compels Canadian papers to

A CURIOUS SITUATION

pay four cents a pound on all copies sent into the United States. In order to evade this high rate, some publishers proposed to send their papers over the border in bulk by express and mail them there at the domestic rate, thus saving three cents a pound. This practice has been followed for years by United States publications coming into Canada by freight and express. The Canadian publishers argued with themselves that there should be reciprocity in such an arrangement and they wrote to Washington for the necessary permission to register. To the chagrin of all concerned, the Canadians were informed that such a practice was in direct opposition to Article 4 of the Postal Convention and that it could not be done.

Then the question arose: If the United States authorities cannot do it, can the Canadian post-office continue the privilege it has been according to United States publications? The answer of the Canadian authorities has not been made public at the time of writing, but the situation is causing some thought and anxiety.

If the United States interpretation is correct, United States publishers must publish in this country to get much benefit out of this market. All booksellers would be obliged to get their supplies from the United States by express, and the price of all publications from that country would advance. The increase in price will vary in proportion to the distance of each town or city from the United States publishing centres. In the West it would be considerable.

This increase in price will, of course, be counter-balanced to a considerable extent by a reduction in the price now paid for British periodicals.

A CURIOUS incident occurred at Regina a few days ago. At a meeting of the city council, the members were asked to approve a by-law for the purpose of creating Regina into a high school district under the

CATHOLICS WILL FIGHT

new education act of the Province. Under the provisions of this law, a tax of a cent an acre is collected on all farm lands for the purposes of secondary and higher education. Two aldermen, Messrs. Kramer and Kusch, objected. They took the ground that as Roman Catholics they could not admit the principle involved, that Roman Catholic ratepayers should contribute any taxes to general educational purposes. They claimed that under the Autonomy legislation of the Dominion Parliament it was expressly provided that Roman Catholics should contribute only to their own schools, and that this new act of the local legislature was contrary to that provision.

If there is any general feeling of this kind, and there must be, we shall probably find the Roman Catholic authorities appealing to Ottawa for a disallowance of the Act passed by the Saskatchewan Legislature. The point raised would be most interesting, being almost wholly constitutional. If the Act is ultra vires it should be disallowed. If it is disallowed, the movement for provincial high schools, model schools and universities in the two new provinces will be seriously hampered. The situation is one which will be watched with keen interest in every part of the Dominion.

The question of separate schools and their bearing upon national life, is one on which there must continue to be discussion for many years to come.

MANITOBA and Saskatchewan farmers are more than five weeks behind in their seeding. Are they downhearted? Not They! Downhearted folk do not live in the West. They have called history and the almanac to their aid, and they find that the SEEDTIME AND HARVEST IN THE WEST

later the seeding, the better the chances of a bumper crop. Now, most of us would have thought that with late seeding there would exist a strong probability of autumn frosts injuring or killing the wheat. Not so, say the farmers. The long days of summer will ripen the Number One Hard. The shortness of the germinating season not only does not necessarily operate against a good crop, but as a rule the best crops are obtained when the Spring is not exceptionally early or the seeding done at an early date.

Mr. Golden, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Manitoba, has issued a bulletin on the subject, covering conditions for twenty-eight years past. The bulletin seems to show clearly that early seeding does not mean rich fruition. Knowledge and experience have shown that two of the chief factors in the maturing of grain are almost invariably present after a late Spring—sufficient moisture, which in early seeding is often wasted, and the absence of stagnation in the grain's growth. In other words, moisture and a healthy, continuous growth, of which the rapid growth of the hot-house is a parallel, are the important factors in wheat raising in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Thus, evidently, the Western farmer is entitled, not