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EASTER coincides this year with the earliest Spring, within the memory of most of us, in Eastern Canada. There is a hazy general impression that, through some law of compensation or general average, an early Spring is only to be had at the cost of a chilly Summer; and certainly an early Spring has hazards of its own for the blossom and the bud, and consequently for the crop. But it has also such a charm of its own, that Nature's resurrection can hardly come too early in the year. The Winter has been a kindly one and the bright and balmy weather of the last few weeks has given new zest to life, and happy inspiration of hope for a glorious Summer. As late frosts cannot be averted by any amount of taking thought for the morrow, the best thing we can do is to enjoy Spring-time while we have it, and not worry about troubles with which in all probability we shall never meet.

Incidentally the early opening of navigation, following the ignominious collapse of the Winter Carnival through the warm weather, will tend to correct many wrong impressions abroad about Canada's winter climate. For advertising purposes, one early Spring is worth a hundred Winter Carnivals.

TAFT AND THE TARIFF. **P**RESIDENT Taft shows political sagacity and personal amiability in saying nice things about the Payne-Aldrich Tariff Bill that has got him into an exceedingly difficult position; out of which he cannot get without losing more friends than he can hope to make among the interests chiefly affected by his action. Among other things he says that the new law is the best revenue-getter the United States ever had; that it has the largest free list; that the rates under the Dingley Bill have been materially reduced; that by the creation of a Customs Court it has provided means for the speedy and just administration of customs law; that it has done tardy justice to the Philippines; and most amiable of all that it has afforded the executive a leverage to exact from foreign countries fair treatment for American products. Mr. Taft's serenity is contagious and his common sense admirable. Never did Congress give such opportunities to a chief executive to act foolishly and never did a president manifest a greater reluctance to use his powers unwisely. He is being made the target of all kinds of conflicting interests and through it all maintains an attitude of dignified calm, and a quiet determination not to be driven

into running amuck. He is as conscious of his responsibilities as he is of his powers, and we have confidence that he will find a way out of the Canadian tariff question, that will not prejudice the good relations between the two countries. His friendly attitude towards Canada accurately reflects the friendship of the American people and should stimulate Canadian statesmen to meet him in a generous spirit.

THE SPEAKER SPIKED. **O**NE of the quietest and most radical revolutions in all history took place, when on Saturday last an alliance of Democrats and Republicans put the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives in his proper place; the place intended for him by the Constitution and indicated for him by common sense and justice. Speaker Cannon, familiarly known as "Uncle Joe," has unintentionally done the state some service by straining beyond the breaking-point the powers already sufficiently strained by his predecessors. By the arbitrary assumption of despotic powers the speakers have long deprived the House of Representatives of all semblance of representative capacity. In recent years the Speaker has been everything, the House nothing. Only by the sufferance of the Speaker could a member open his lips. Under the British system at home and in the colonies, the Speaker is simply the presiding officer, the servant of the House of Commons; and his highest glory is his absolute independence of party. Under the American system the Speaker has become an autocrat rivalling the President in authority and exercising functions more analogous to those of a Prime Minister than to those of a presiding officer. By a vote of 191 to 155 the House has not only deprived Speaker Cannon of the chairmanship of the Committee on Rules, but it has removed him from membership of that committee. "Uncle Joe" is about as amiable over the change as a she-bear robbed of her cubs; and is talking upon the subject not wisely but too vigorously and too much. There will be little sympathy with him among thoughtful Americans. He represented a principle which was foreign to the spirit of American institutions and foreign to the principle of liberty. Henceforth, every member of the House of Representatives, including Uncle Joe's most docile nephews, will be able to call his soul his own, and every mother's son of them will have the chance to stand up now and then in a representative capacity.