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THE GREAT LAKES.

The State of Illinois Versus the Nation — A Question in Which Canada is Much Interested.

(From "Greater New York," organ of the Merchants' Association of New York, July 3).

The State of Illinois, in order to drain the City of Chicago, some years ago built a drainage canal southward across the State. Little by little this project has grown until now it has assumed the dimensions of a navigable waterway from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River, with valuable water powers to be developed along the route.

The national government, in order to create a flow of water to carry off the sewage, gave its permission for taking some 5,000 cubic feet of water per minute from Lake Michigan. The State has abused this privilege and is now taking many times that amount of water from the Lake.

It is proposed still further to increase the flow of water out of the lake. The United States Army Engineers have reported that this draft will result in lowering the water level for all the Lakes. The National government has expended enormous sums of money to improve the harbors and channels in the Lakes. The Illinois diversion of water, if permitted, will necessitate the further expenditure of huge sums in order to protect Lake navigation.

The scheme is distinctly selfish. The War Department has appealed to Congress to stop the raid upon the waters of Lake Michigan, which belong to the Nation and not to any one State. The Merchants' Association, after an inquiry into the facts, has registered a strong protest against the proposal of Illinois to impair the tremendous commercial usefulness of the Great Lakes. The scheme should be promptly and decisively nipped in Congress.

The Great Lakes are of the highest value to the commerce of the Nation. Anything that tends to impair their usefulness is a national injury.

The British Columbia provincial elections will be held on September 14, with nominations August 3rd.

Correspondence

THE CASE OF THE FRENCH-CANADIAN.

A few weeks ago, governmental statistics were published showing the numbers, and the percentage to population, of men who had enlisted from the various provinces, for service in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces.

The figures dealing with the Province of Quebec are somewhat low, and have caused much discussion in the country generally. Added to this, a small but very noisy number of French-Canadians, seeking political gain and notoriety, have gone through the province, seeking to deter men from joining the ranks, by dragging out into the broad glare of light, and enlarging upon, the local troubles and grievances, which all communities suffer from.

On the other hand, we have eminent politicians touring the province, scolding and cajoling their compatriots into offering their services to the Army.

All this would lead a superficial observer to think that our French-Canadian confreres are either not so loyal as they might be to the Empire, or that they have no stomach for the rigors of warfare.

A greater mistake could not be made. Certainly they did not throw down their ploughshares and snatch up rifles at the sound of the tocsin in such large numbers as did the English section of Canada; but this did not show either passive or active disloyalty to Canada, the land of their adoption, to France, their good mother, or to England, their protector; whilst all history proves that the French-Canadian is the inferior of no man for soldierly virtues.

We must remember, to understand this question properly, that the French-Canadian habitant is a very different person from the English immigrant. Whilst the British settlers are a more recent arrival (that is, in large numbers), and have lived in the Old World under the shadow of the mailed fist; and have been familiar all their days with the pomp and panoply of military and naval preparedness, the population of France has not been an overflowing one, and the present habitants of Quebec are descended from several generations of hardy pioneers.

They have dwelt in peace and security, under a benevolent, yet an alien flag, free from autocratic and bureaucratic control. A peaceful people, wedded to their concessions and their homes, not unambitious yet not avaricious, the dread of the shining armor and rattling sabre has not entered their hearts as it has the hearts of those in the home countries. Living as large numbers of them do, a calm and uneventful life in the isolated country districts where newspapers are scarce and good books for educational purposes almost unknown, they do not altogether comprehend the terrible conditions of the battlefields in Europe. Many of their forefathers came to the New World to escape such conditions, which were always brought about through the whim of those who had attained to high political positions; and they do not exactly understand why they should leave a land of peace to return to the old haunts of martial ambitions. They are content if they can go through life humbly and industriously earning their living and rearing their children to do the same.

But there is another and a more powerful reason than this why so many are hesitating to offer their lives to the country. Whilst a very large proportion of British men who have enlisted are of the artisan and clerical class, the great proportion of French-Canadians are agriculturists. They have a fixed stake in the country. They have their roots deep in the ground. They cannot break away so easily from an established farm or business, as can a man who is following a daily or weekly employment. It is not easy to find someone who would take care of the farm during the owner's absence, although it is comparatively easy for the government to provide a living for the women and children left behind.

Finally, many are remaining at home because they believe they can best serve their country by so doing. Whilst the beat of the drum and the call of the bugle are as a magnet, drawing men to a stirring life of military glory and adventurous romance, the man is still worthy who closes his ears and eyes to these things, and settles down to the hum-drum laborious toil of providing food for his fellow men. Jean Baptiste may not be enlisting in such large numbers as John Smith, but he is doing his duty as he sees it; and no man can do more.—M.

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CANADIAN RAILWAY LOAN IN NEW YORK.

Prospects of a large loan by a group of New York bankers to Canadian railways, approximating \$100,000,000, is being discussed in Wall Street. Canadian borrowing in that market has not met with popular approval, and it was predicted that if the negotiations for the loan were carried through the issue would be marketed with as great success as the numerous Dominion and municipal issues which are now closely held by American investors.

It was learned recently that the personnel of the group of New York bankers is made up of practically the same banking syndicate which took over the recent \$75,000,000 Canadian loan. Members of the group of bankers, it was said, have assured Premier Borden that they stand ready and willing to furnish the necessary capital, providing the Canadian Government will guarantee the issue when it is made. These bankers, it is said, assured Premier Borden and his committee that the loan with Canada in back of it, could be sold to investors here on an interest basis almost as low as the Canadian Government bonds.