

REFLECTIONS By THE EDITOR



Winnipeg Gives Up

WINNIPEG has at last given up the idea of holding a Selkirk Centennial Exhibition. Its five million dollar World's Fair is now one of the dreams which did not come true. The Dominion Government did not refuse to grant half the amount, but it delayed its answer so long that Winnipeg got discouraged.

Winnipeg's progress will not be impeded by this failure to hold an international exposition. The Big City of the West is striding forward at a tremendous rate, and a World's Fair might have retarded instead of accelerating that stride.

Mr. J. A. M. Aikins is out with a suggestion that a statue be erected to Lord Selkirk, and that this be unveiled in 1912. Such a memorial would be more modest, but it would undoubtedly be more lasting. Winnipeg would do well to take up the idea, act quickly, and perform generously a task which will show that its ambitions are not merely material, and that it has the imagination and sentiment which have been behind all great successes of the race.

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Visiting Press Organizations

CANADA grew tired of the large "press excursions" from the United States because the people who came on these trips were largely summer tourists and not genuine newspaper people. Besides, when a banquet was given them, the body which acted as host usually found itself mulcted for many dollars' worth of silver spoons and other tableware. The ladies of the party were persistent and keen souvenir collectors.

It is now announced that a press party from Ohio will visit Canada this year, exploring the West from Winnipeg to Banff. If the Canadian railway men who are promoting this are wise, they will extract a guarantee that the village editor shall not send his local lawyer or doctor or other chief shareholder to represent him. Otherwise, Canada's reputation for hospitality will suffer somewhat in Ohio. Canada is too busy just now to entertain people who are looking only for free trips on the railways, free meals and souvenir spoons.

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Tax Reform and Churches

TORONTO'S Tax Reform League has sent a circular to some 3,500 Protestant ministers in Eastern Canada protesting against church exemptions. It points out that the "down-town" churches are selling their property at high prices, because the tax-exemption has enabled them to hold these properties for the "unearned increment." This gives the skeptics a chance to jibe at the "tax-dodgers."

It suggests that Vancouver's rule be adopted. Tax the land and exempt the buildings. Thus a \$50,000 church would pay no more taxes than a \$10,000 church if it were built on a lot of the same size. In London, Ont., for example, this would mean the taxing of land to the value of \$202,000, and the exemption of buildings to the value of \$990,000. This seems to be a sensible compromise.

If the Protestant Churches were to support this principle in every Canadian city, it would eliminate much criticism and establish a just and sound practice. It would also make the Roman Catholic churches less anxious to extend their present practice of acquiring much valuable land for educational and other supplementary church purposes, and holding that land for the profit which comes with the general growth of the municipality. Above all, it would shift to the shoulders of the poor a portion of taxation which should rightfully be borne by the richer church members.

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The Religious Turmoil

BOTH Protestants and Roman Catholics are keeping their enthusiasms up to the proper degree of summer heat. The Methodist Conferences have been passing strong resolutions against the Ne Temere legislation, and particularly against the enforcement of it through the Quebec Courts. These resolutions have been passed unanimously with great enthusiasm and with the singing

of the national anthem. Just why the national anthem should be substituted for the Doxology it is difficult to understand. So far as Great Britain is concerned it seems to have submitted to the proclamation of Ne Temere without an official protest. Therefore, there seems little justification in appealing to the British Sovereign by means of the national anthem.

It may be that the Methodist leaders believe that the Roman Catholic Church is anti-Canadian and anti-British. There is little justification for such a belief. The Roman Catholic Church pays little attention to nationality, and seldom if ever fights against it. Its Canadian record shows a strong appreciation of such nationality as we have in this country. The Methodist people have every right to fight Ne Temere, but for relief they must look to Ottawa rather than to London. They desire to prevent any Canadian court from giving legal effect to Roman Catholic ecclesiastical decrees. This desire can be gratified by the Canadian Government more quickly and more naturally than by the British Government.

While the Methodists have been displaying their fervour in Ontario the Roman Catholics have been



OFF TO THE CORONATION.

The Canadian Boy Scouts were inspected at Montreal by Earl Grey (left) and Mayor Guerin (centre) before sailing for England.

displaying theirs in Hull. The other day a Baptist missionary was practically forced out of that town while distributing tracts and selling Bibles. For nearly fifty years the Baptist Grand Ligne missionaries have moved freely among the Catholics of Quebec. It would now seem that the Church there has grown tired of its liberal policy and proposes to restrict the sphere of these Protestant missionaries. Most of the Protestant bodies have avoided sending missionaries among the French-Canadian Roman Catholics, but the Baptists have always considered that this work should be carried on. They were not afraid of being charged with proselytizing.

Of course, the proper solution of the present situation would be a better understanding between the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant bodies. If each would agree to recognize the other and not to interfere with each other's susceptibilities, religious toleration would follow, and religious toleration is probably more to be desired than religious unity. This constant conflict between Protestant

and Roman Catholic ideals is not salutary nor beneficial. The Roman Catholic Church has more privileges in Canada than it has in any other country in the world, and it would be wisely advised were it to act so that none of these privileges are brought into the danger zone. If it assumes too aggressive an attack towards Protestantism something will happen to disturb the national peace.

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Whither are We Drifting?

A WHOLE lot of people are getting strangely agitated about our relations to the other parts of the British Empire. For a few years, little was heard of this puzzle. Everybody seemed to be satisfied, except a few extremists. Col. Denison, Col. Sam. Hughes, and a few of that class wanted some pro-British things they could not get. At the other extreme, was Goldwin Smith and the *Weekly Sun* crowd who steadily preached pro-United States policies. On the whole, however, the general public were pleased and content.

Suddenly all is disquiet and unrest. The Canadian navy question started it and caused the Roblin and Rogers section of the Conservative party to grumble that this was a move towards independence. They wanted to send a ton of gold over to London to be used in repelling a phantom German invasion. At times they got really excited. They took up the morning paper and glanced anxiously over the front page expecting to find that the German invading force had sailed. The news never arrived.

That furore had scarcely died down, before Mr. Bourassa got up a counter-agitation. He saw in the same Canadian navy exactly the opposite danger. It was sure to drag Canada into the wars of Europe and tear the poor inoffensive habitant from his fireside. The Church would be ruined because there would be no one to pay the tithes, or to grow hay and oats for the priests. He got up a fine bit of excitement in Quebec, quite as fine as the militant Tories created in Ontario and Manitoba.

Scarcely had the Nationalist furore died away before Mr. Fielding and Mr. Paterson got in touch with President Taft. The Conservatives and the protectionist Liberals took another fit. Instead of the previous year's charge that Laurier was leaning towards independence, they began to cry out that Canada was about to be annexed to the United States. Still more curious was Mr. Bourassa's change of attitude. He does not fear reciprocity, but he wants to be with those who fear something, and he joins forces with the Opposition.

To cap it all, Sir Wilfrid Laurier goes over to the Imperial Conference and maintains his ancient attitude of "loyalty with autonomy." The *London Globe* and the *Montreal Witness* see in this a chance for a fresh agitation and a fresh "fear." Now Laurier is charged with desiring to break up the Empire. Even the Liberal press is not quite sure about it, and the defenders of the man who has led Canadian opinion for fifteen years are fewer and almost half-hearted. Just why the *London Globe* and the *Montreal Witness* should be accepted as the final authorities on Sir Wilfrid's intentions is hard to explain, but, nevertheless, this is true for the moment.

What will be the result of all this unrest? Nationally the effect should be good. It is well to have things stirred up a bit by new discussions, especially when these relate to really vital aspects of public policy. Canada's status within the Empire is a changing condition, which will always admit of discussion. Our rights and obligations as British subjects vary with our development and with the growth of the Empire itself. Discussion of these impresses each generation as it comes to responsibility with a sense of the breadth, depth and height of imperial citizenship.

Politically it is not likely to have any serious effect upon the fortunes of either party. The status of each, so far as it may be related to Canada's national policy, is fairly well defined. The Conservatives stand for ultra-imperialism, modified by a restrictive trade policy. The Liberals stand for a moderate imperialism, coupled with a fairly liberal trade policy. The division is sufficiently well defined to enable any intelligent person to make up his mind which party he prefers to support. That any important number of voters have swung from either party to the other, as a result of any or all of the exciting discussions of the past two years, is not apparent. The Conservative party has gained slightly, no doubt, and had gained more had it been as compact and as unified as it was when Sir John Macdonald led it. The Liberal party may have lost slightly, but its solidarity and its confidence in its leadership have not been affected to such an extent as to give it cause to fear an appeal to the country.