## IN QUEST OF THE TRUTH.

The heart of Sir William Mulock, we are told, was filled with despair, so he resigned his seat in the Laurier government. Why should hope deferred have made the ex-Postmaster-General's heart sick? He had gone from success to greater success in the administration of his department. All his predecessors had scored abject failures in the position Sir William filled with such brilliancy. They had announced repeatedly that, although they had pared the wages of the employees down to the limit, but slightly above, if not actually below, the starvation point, they had no hope of making the Post Office Department pay the expenses of operation. These deficits ranged on the average from a half to three-quarters of a million dollars annually. They laughed in scorn when the reduction of postage rates was suggested. But Sir William pursued the tenor of his reforming way. He wiped out all deficits; he increased the renumeration of a very deserving and industrious class of workers; he reduced the rates on Imperial and domestic mail matter; for the last year of his administration he produced a surplus of nearly half a million dollars. The newly-created labor department, which was the product of Sir William Mulock's broad sympathy with the working classes and his intense desire to work for the industrial peace of the Dominion, had achieved as distinct a success as his administration of the Post Office Department. The old, pernicious system of "sweating" on government contracts—a system which was for years in high favor with Tory contractors and by means of which they waxed exceeding fat—was also abolished under the fair-wage system. In fact Sir William Mulock had the greatest opportunity of any of his colleagues to work reforms. He took the fullest advantage of them. He had the supreme satisfaction of beholding all his labors crowned with abundant success. Furthermore, the government of which Sir William was a minister had just gained a remarkable success at the polls. It is in high favor with the people of Canada. It is established in power for the term of the present Parliament. There is no indication of a change in the tone of public opinion. The whole light of opposition criticism has been playing upon the acts of the Laurier government now for several years. The scrutiny has revealed nothing that will destroy the faith of the public in the administration under which the country has enjoyed such remarkable prosperity—the only really expansive period in the history of the country. There is no indication whatever that in the immediate future that confidence will be withdrawn. Again we ask, why should his heart be filled with bitterness? Why should he at the particular time when his hard work had achieved so remarkable a victory over all obstacles, when he had succeeded so unmistakably where all his political opponents had so confidently predicted disastrous failure, retire in despair from the government?

Sir William Mulock says himself that he was obliged to give up the work in which he was so greatly interested, in which his heart was bound up, and in which he had succeeded beyond anticipation, because his health would not permit of his devoting that attention to it in the future which he had given it in the past. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir William's close friend, sympathetic colleague, and old-time political leader, corroborates his statement. The Premier says the ex-Postmaster-General desired to retire four years ago, and it was only at his personal solicitation that he remained in office up to a couple of weeks ago. But Mr. Tarte knows better. He knows from experience that dissension in the cabinet always precedes the retirement of a member of the cabinet. The opposition in whose breast hope deferred has made the heart sick, rejects the statements of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir William Mulock and receives that of Mr. Tarte. That is perhaps natural. The hope of political success is dependent upon divisions in the Liberal party. But, even if it were true that Sir William Mulock retired because of disagreement with his colleagues, how is that going to improve the prospects of the Conservative party when a strong man like Mr. Aylesworth steps into the shoes of the retiring minister, and the ex-minister takes up duties which close the door of politics to him forever? Therefore what is to be gained by branding Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Willam Mulock as "suppressors of the truth" and holding up the once untrustworthy Mr. Tarte as the one man in which truth has her pure abode? What political point is to be made by that?

## FOUNDATIONS OF PROSPERITY.

"Leaving all other points of divergence aside, there is one essential difference" between the policis of the Liberal and Conservative parties of Canada. "The Conservative party laid the foundation of the prosperity of Canada." That is the opinion of the Toronto Mail and Empire. What a pity it is that the Conservative party took such a long time to lay the foundations of prosperity. It was working like a Canadian beaver for eighteen years, all the time telling the people of the bountiful things that were in store for the country once work could be commenced upon the super-structure that was to adorn the wonderful foundations. A catastrophe came before the task of laying the promising foundations was completed. The whole of the works were torn up by the successors of the foundation-builders. The dismay of the new opposition as they watched the vandals in operation was a wonderful and pathetic thing to see. The leader of the party vowed in the course of the session during which the revolutionaries announced their intentions that already he heard "the wail, the miserable wail of ruined industries" in all parts of the country. However, the situation did not develop according to anticipations. The miserable wail must have died in the throats of the ruined industries, because the face of the country assumed a new aspect once the essential difference between Liberal and Conservative policies became apparent. Under the former regime Canada was always going to be, but never was, blessed by the benign operations of the great Conservative party—the party which governed by instinct and not by reason. Under the present regime the blessings began to descend within a year of the inauguration of the government. So it is not reasonable to contend, as it seems a good many Conservatives have been doing in justification of their intelligent support of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, that there is no essential difference between the policies of the Liberal and the Conservative parties of Canada. There is just as much difference as there is between following the blind promptings of instinct and steering a course by the light of intelligent reason. The people know and appreciate the difference, and therefore they are not disposed to deny the alleged foundation builders whatever consolation they can extract from the claim that they are responsible for the present prosperity of Canada. As the Colonist truly says: "Prosperity is general. Industries of all kinds are flourishing, crops have been unusually bounteous, prices are above the average of previous years, wages are high and the demand for labor good, population is pouring into the West, capital is flowing freely in our direction, new industries are being inaugurated." There is not a "wail" of any kind to be heard in the land save the doleful note of a dismal-minded opposition seeking a reason to impress upon the people why there should be a change of government—and finding none that an intelligent man will bestow a moment's attention upon.

## TAXES ON COMMERCIAL MEN.

The manufacturing and commercial centres of the East, for reasons that may have been principally material and selfish, have not been backward about expressing their opinions upon the subject of the taxes imposed upon commercial travellers by the provinces of Prince Edward Island, Quebec and British Columbia. Certain newspapers of the West, for reasons that are obviously political, have quite as bluntly asserted that but for the fact that Quebec had joined in the movement for the restraint of trade between the provinces of the Dominion, all the acts of the provincial legislatures imposing taxes upon travellers would have been unhesitatingly disallowed. Brushing all selfish and partizan opinions to one side, one fact remains clear and prominent: That such measures do not tend to the unity of the Dominion or the solidarity of a people with national aspirations.

We do not think it will be claimed, we do not believe it has been proved by experience, that the provincial tax on commercial travellers has come up to the expectations of its authors as a revenue-producing measure. It has not accomplished the object for which it was designed, nor would there have been much vehement objection if it had been disallowed on the ground of its being inimical to the true interests of the Canadian confederation.

But the point we wish to emphasize is one made by the Toronto Star. Our contemporary argues that the tax imposed by the province of Quebec upon commercial travellers is different from that imposed by Prince Edward Island and British Columbia, and from the Canadian standpoint it is the least objectionable of the three. Prince Edward Island puts a tax on all salesmen not permanently resident in the province. British Columbia taxes salesmen, not resident in the province taking orders for goods to be brought into the province. The Quebec Act draws the line differently. It taxes non-resident salesmen taking orders for persons, firms, or corporations that do not do their producing in Canada.

The provincial treasurer of Quebec defends the tax as a necessary producer of revenue, yet it seems to be less clearly bent on this object than the tax imposed by the two other provinces. The traveller representing an Ontario manufacturer is not taxed in Quebec, but is taxed in Prince Edward Island and British Columbia. A Toronto traveller representing an English firm is taxed in all three provinces, but in all three provinces the resident representative of an English firm is not taxed. In a word, the Quebec tax differs from those of the two other provinces in this respect, that it exempts those salesmen who are selling goods made in Canada. From the Canadian view-point the Quebec law is the least objectionable of the three, although from the volume of business done it causes a greater annoyance to trade than the acts of the two other provinces.

But the whole business is regrettable. It makes our provincial boundary lines stand up and show spikes, where formerly these lines were purely imaginary in so far as trade was concerned. If such restraits on trade are not beyond the power of the various provinces, and if such methods are necessary for securing revenue for the provinces, any rearrangement of the provincial subsides should be accompanied by stipulations guarding against the placing of tax-men on the provincial boundaries for all time to come.

## ULTIMATE GOAL OF RECIPROCITY.

"In an interview at which Senator Lodge was present, President Roosevelt assured me that he was in favor of continental free trade. He declared that he would do all he could in favor of it. Senator Lodge, as I say, was present, and I challenge him to deny that he heard the president make substantially this statement." These are the words of Henry M. Whitney, Democratic nominee for Lieut.-Governor of the state of Massachussetts, speaking on the subject of reciprocity with Canada, which is always the principal issue in the state. Mr. Whitney said further: "I tell you Republicans of Pittsfield and Massachusetts that the Democratic platform touching reciprocity with Canada is the platform of President Roosevelt. I have it from President Roosevelt's own lips." All of which indicates that our neighbors in certain of the states are deeply interested in the subject of trade relations with this country. But the matter has become one of merely academic interest in Canada. We realize fully that whatever may be the opinion of presidents or minor politicians in the United States, the great body of the people of the United States cannot be aroused to an intelligent interest in reciprocity. Even if it could be demonstrated that the United States was eager to enter upon negotiations for the consummation of a treaty that would be fair to both parties concerned, it is doubtful whether Canadians would evince a great deal of interest. They have long since abandoned the subject as a hopeless one. Their thoughts have been turned in other directions. Men who have given a great deal of attention to the relations of the republic with sister states of rapidly expanding commercial importance realize that the time has gone by for taking occasion by the hand and profiting by present opportunities and keeping a wide-open eye upon future possibilities. One remarks that "Republican statesmen who prefer retaliation to reciprocity are learning that, while it takes two to make a tariff bargain a single nation may pursue such a stiff-necked course as alone to produce a customs quarrel." The New York Times says, "He who will not when he may, when he will shall have a nay," is a "couplet especially applicable to our northern relations. Nothing could have been more friendly than Canada's almost suppliant attitude through long and unbending extortion on this side the border, until finally Canada adopted preference for British commerce, and is now on the verge of adopting a more stringent tariff. For seventeen years Newfoundland gave our fishermen exceptional privileges in hopes of securing commercial advantages to both countries, and now, too, Newfoundland is estranged and reducing her concessions in bitterness of spirit." But our contemporary lets the cat out of the bag in its subsequent remarks. It regards the question of present profit as a matter of considerable moment. But the vital point is the one of ultimate destiny. There is still a lurking hope that in process of time all the northern portion of the American continent may become one in spirit even as it is now one in physique. The Republican policy is mischievous and short-sighted chiefly because it tends to the postponement, possibly to the ultimate annihilation, of that fond hope. "It is not a question of codfish except upon the surface. It is not intrinsically even a question of the entire commercial relations between ourselves and our northern neighbors. Under the surface there are political questions of larger importance. Closer commercial relations across our border could but ripen the Canadian plum. For this we have substituted the development of Canadian resources with American capital and by American emigrants whom we might have retained. And, instead of detaching Newfoundland from the Dominion, we have thrown it into the confederation." We are sorry to be forced to tell our contemporary that the union of Canada and Newfoundland has not been consummated yet, but we have lively hopes for the future—more lively than are the anticipations of the New York Times for the ultimate ripening of the Canadian plum.

## NATURAL ATTRACTIONS.

Speaking of attractions for tourists and comparing the situation of Nelson with Victoria, the Tribune says: "Our natural scenery surpasses that of Victoria, sport of every kind is nearer to our doors and of greater extent." We have often been impressed with the boundless extent and the infinite variety of our contemporary's knowledge of the world and its affairs, but with respect to the statements as printed above we fear the Tribune speaks in ignorance. The natural scenery amidst which the inland city is situated may be beautiful to the point of sublimity, the enchantments of lake and river may appeal with impassioned eloquence to the imagination of the poetic editor, but has he ever in the sunset viewed the Olympic mountains with the majestic waters of the great, restless ocean laving their rugged loins? Has he ever made the trip amidst the countless islands of the Gulf? Has he ever sojourned in Victoria at all, taking in at his leisure from some of the mountain tops in the neighborhood of the city the bewitching loveliness of landscape and lake and ribbon-like streams stretching forth in every direction? If he has not had the opportunity to feast his eyes upon any of these great natural sources of poetic inspiration, he is not qualified to dogmatize upon the subject of scenic attractions for tourists.

As for opportunities for the enjoyment of sport being nearer the portals of Nelson than of Victoria, has the Tribune not read the newspapers? At the risk of bringing about our heads the jibes and jeers of the humorists who delight to harp upon the quiet restfulness and peace which encircles this city as with a garment, we may point out that already this year a goodly number of pheasants—the king of game birds—have been captured within the environs of the municipality. Within the spacious grounds of one resident as many as fifty of these birds of gay plumage and more attractive qualities from the point of view of the epicurean, have been counted in one covey. The unmusical call of the valley quail may be heard in the evening and in the morning by the ears of all whose ears are attuned to the reception of such sounds. A sportsman with a keen eye may go forth in the morning and come back in the evening, making use only of the means of locomotion with which he has been endowed by nature, with his bag stuffed with a choice collection of pheasant, grouse, quail, duck and snipe, proclaiming in unmistakable terms the infinite variety of the sport that is to be had in the vicinity of Victoria. If the said sportsman chooses to go further afield and to scale the everlasting hills, he may add elk, and blacktail deer and mountain quail to his miscellaneous collection. All this he may do without encountering the chilly blasts, the biting frosts and the chilly snows which in less favored regions are the inevitable concomitants of field sports. If our Nelson contemporary were well-informed upon the subject matter of its discourse it would not make such a reckless statement as that "sport of every kind is nearer to our doors and of greater extent" than it is in the neighborhood of Victoria, and draw the conclusion that the inland city should be a place of greater attractions for tourists than the capital of British Columbia. There is no place in the wide world where the opportunities for enjoyment in the field are so manifold as they are here. The one matter which gives concern is the problem of the effective preservation of wild game. That problem has not been solved, and it seems to be an exceedingly difficult matter to impress the legislature of the province with the importance of the subject.

## PRICE OF RAILS AND G. T. P. CONSTRUCTION.

Reference is made in an article on the production of steel rails in Canada, printed in this issue, and copied from the Toronto News, to the improbability of the western end of the G. T. P. being ironed with Canadian rails, for the reason that the low freight rate from Liverpool to the Pacific Coast ($4 to $5 per ton) as against the long haul from the Canadian mills would more than offset the duty to be paid on English made rails—$5.23 per ton. The fact seems to be overlooked that vessels could load at Sidney, N. S., as easily as at Liverpool, the ocean route being open to Canadian rail-makers on the Atlantic as well as to the English makers. Still the admission by the Canadian rail-makers that they have little hope of capturing the trade for the western end of the transcontinental line is interesting in view of the contention that the railway can be built more economically from the east, and that therefore construction should finish and not commence at the Pacific Coast. At half a cent per ton per mile, it would cost $15 per ton to land rails at Vancouver from Montreal, while from Liverpool or Sidney by water the charge would be $5 per ton. Supposing the cost to the railway was only a quarter of a cent per ton per mile, it would still be higher by $2.50 per ton than the water freight. But of course if the C. P. R. could haul for a quarter of a cent per ton per mile, its present tariff could not be maintained. It would seem, therefore, that the cost of the transportation of rails and other supplies should by itself alone settle the question as to the point at which the last rail on the G. T. P. will be laid. That point will not be on the Pacific Coast.

## RUSSIA'S EXTREMITY.

The crown sits heavily upon the brow of His Majesty Emperor Nicholas, Czar of all the Russias. With the people practically unanimous in demanding constitutional government and accompanying reforms, with what is left of the navy in a condition of revolt, with the army (which hitherto could always be depended upon to stand by the ruling classes and to shoot down those who demanded liberty according to modern standards) in open sympathy with the cause of the people, the Russian ruler is confronted by a situation which would test the mettle of a stronger character. Whether the Cossacks, who alone are reported faithful to traditions and to training, will be sufficient unto the evil day which seems to be approaching remains to be seen. Whether M. de Witte will succeed in convincing his master against the counsel of those whose craft is involved that the day of reform in Russia has dawned is a matter that must soon be disposed of. The notoriously procrastinating disposition of Nicholas is again manifesting itself in a situation which should be handled with promptitude and energy. While the Emperor halts between two opinions, swayed by the counsel of the reactionaries on the one hand and by the sage counsels of men of modern views on the other, the crisis grows more acute. The determination to secure reforms has evidently taken firm hold upon the minds of all the intelligent classes of the empire. The ministrations of the schoolmaster were denied the people for long years after education had made its influence felt upon the political thought of neighboring nations. The Grand Dukes had long maintained that the but lately emancipated serfs, whose comprehension of the grave affairs of state was but a degree above that of children, had not attained the mental equipoise necessary to those who should have a voice in the government of the country. But it was evidently the purpose of the Grand Dukes and of the hereditary rulers, in their own interests, to keep the people in their condition of infantile incapacity as long as possible. Evidently the boundary has at last been reached. Russia is no longer content to remain a country of medieval forms of government. Whether the great change is to be effected in a comparatively peaceful manner or whether the infant of reform is to be baptized in blood must to a great extent depend upon the will of Nicholas. It bodes ill for Russia that Nicholas is such a vacillating character, weak of will and yet stubborn enough in spite of his weakness to attempt to stem at the dictation of his interested advisers the strong tide of public opinion that is now sweeping over the country.

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Previous to the resignation of his portfolio in the Dominion government, one of the last acts of Sir William Mulock was to make provision for the employment of deaf mutes in the post offices of Canada. By reason of their affliction and notwithstanding the comparative advantages of modern systems of education, as applied to this class, occupations open to those who cannot hear are limited in Canada as well as in other countries. It was recognition of this fact that impelled Sir William Mulock, whose sympathy with the afflicted has been exemplified in many ways, to consider whether something could not be done to provide government employment for young men who cannot hear and whose powers of conversation with their fellows being circumscribed, their opportunities for work are none too numerous. The representatives of this constituency in Parliament have been informed that there is one position in the Victoria Post Office open to young men of this class. Government positions, for reasons that are not apparent to persons of talent, industry and application, do not usually remain vacant long by reason of dearth of applicants.

* * *

The Toronto Globe, refers to Mr. D. W. Higgins' "Passing of the Race" in terms of the highest commendations. It prints one of the vivid illustrations by Jeffreys, and says that Mr. Higgins is "to be congratulated on the entertaining character of his second venture. He writes interestingly, whether in the presentation of pure fiction or in the detailing of actual occurrences. One might venture the suggestion that with such a wealth of material as he apparently has at hand he should be able to write a strikingly dramatic novel."

* * *

The rash man who bumped his automobile into the carriage of President Roosevelt a few weeks ago was discovered on investigation to be an employee of the United States government. For his act of lese majesty the offender was discharged from his official position. In order that there might be the minimum of fuss about the matter special rules doing away with inquiries in cases of dismissal were made. They could not conduct affairs with a higher hand in aristocratic, autocratic Germany. It is not safe to bump the anointed ruler of the American people. The bumper might be an assassin.

* * *

One case of marriage in which the divorce courts are not likely to be appealed to for some time is noted by an American contemporary. Alexandria Chuski consented to marry Wardiso Boroughoski in the Second District Police Court, Jersey City, after he had signed a contract not to kiss her more than ten times a day. Both are employed by a family in the Guttenburg section. "Often," the girl told the court, in broken English, "he would keep me to kiss me until my dinner would burn and it was late on the table." She had him arrested when no other measures availed to stop his waylaying her. Boroughoski interposed with declarations of his love for the girl, and begged the court to let him marry. The girl's lawyer drew up a parole, which the defendant signed, in these words: I, Wadiso Boroughoski, do hereby promise and swear that during the period of my first year of married life and annually thereafter I will kiss my wife no more than ten times per day, to be distributed as follows: Five before noon; five in the afternoon before supper. And I further promise that should I exceed the ten kisses per diem, as above set forth, my wife, Alexandria Boroughoski, nee Chuski, may complain to Justice Manning of the Second Criminal Court of Jersey City, and I will conskier my parole broken and take the consequences. The judge married them then and there.

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The following notice is exhibited in the window of a Japanese tobacco merchant's shop in Frith street, London: "Russians can now be served at this establishment."


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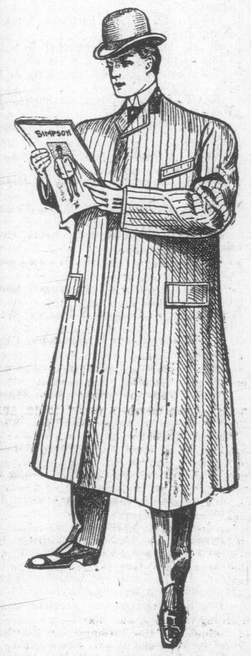


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