



T H E
Canadian Courier
THE NATIONAL WEEKLY

VOL. 6

Toronto, September 25th, 1909

No. 17



A VERY curious instance of Western optimism has occurred within the past fortnight. The government of Saskatchewan and the newspaper correspondents at Regina have been vying each other in keeping the public guessing as to the amount of wheat produced in Saskatchewan this year. Relying upon government bulletin No. 13, issued August 31st, the Courier last week stated that the wheat crop of Saskatchewan would be 86,000,000 bushels, and that the other grain crops would be large in proportion. These figures made all our readers open their eyes, and some of them had even the temerity to doubt. For several days the Courier staff scorned all these doubters and laughed at their fears.

In the meantime, lest Mr. F. Hedley Auld, chief of the Bureau of Information and Statistics at Regina, should have made a mistake and misled the press of the world, we wired the Premier of Saskatchewan asking for a confirmation of the bulletin. Up to date this confirmation has not been received.

The only piece of information which has since been available is a despatch from Regina dated September 10th. This appeared in the *Toronto Star* on September 18th. It was evidently written by a man who was in close touch with the crop reports of both the Saskatchewan and Manitoba governments and also in close touch with the railway authorities of the West. The Saskatchewan government bulletin, placing the wheat crop of the province at 86,000,000 bushels, was supposed to have been issued on August 31st. The correspondent's letter was dated September 10th. It is reasonable to suppose the correspondent saw the bulletin. Nevertheless he placed the Saskatchewan wheat crop at only 70,000,000 bushels.

The question naturally arises, how did 16,000,000 bushels of Saskatchewan wheat disappear between midnight on August 31st and daylight on September 10th? If we could answer the query ourselves we should be pleased to do so. Just as soon as the answer arrives we shall give it to our readers. We hope that we shall be able to clear the Government of Saskatchewan from all suspicion of having misled the public.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of this discussion may be, it is still indisputable that Canada has just gathered the greatest crop in her history. The Dominion Government estimates the wheat crop at about 160,000,000 bushels. Even taking off the 16,000,000 bushels possibly lost in Saskatchewan, and deducting another 10,000,000 for optimism and possible shrinkage, there would still be left 135,000,000 bushels of real wheat. If this wheat is properly marketed, it will put a larger amount of cash in the pockets of the Canadian farmers than they have ever had before in any one year. Other crops are large in proportion and prices are ruling high.

LORD BERESFORD has reached New York, and has spoken at the Pilgrims' Club. This is an organisation similar to that of the Pilgrims' Club of London. It exists for the purpose of entertaining distinguished foreign visitors who are not on diplomatic missions. It was natural, therefore, that Lord Beresford should be entertained by this New York organisation, which has been called the "International Friendship Cement Company."

Lord Beresford made an international speech. He paid a compliment to Canada, the country from which he had just come, and he also explained that Great Britain was maintaining a strong fleet in order to preserve peace, not to invite war. He then went on to give his real message, viz., that if all the English-speaking countries of the world were to unite to prevent war, they would be successful. He stated his belief that the time had arrived when the British Isles, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada and the United States should unite in a declaration, "There shall not be war."

While the suggestion is not new, it comes at an opportune time. It is most significant that such a declaration should come from a

REFLECTIONS

By STAFF WRITERS

British admiral. It emphasises the fact that the British people are determined to maintain peace if it can be done with honour. It also emphasises a sound belief that no matter how

keen the trade-rivalries of the English-speaking nations, they should all be united on this question of war versus peace. As Lord Charles pointed out, the English-speaking countries are trade countries. Trade is their business, their life and their existence. Any important war would seriously disturb trade prosperity.

LAST week in the city of Montreal a number of representatives from the Canadian Clubs of Canada met to discuss the possibilities of a Canadian Club Federation. They decided that such a union was practicable and that a convention should be held in about a year to perfect the details.

With all due deference to these gentlemen, it is difficult to see how such an organisation is possible. The Canadian Clubs have been successful because they have not taken too decided a stand on the great questions of the day. They have afforded a common meeting-ground for men of diverse opinions and different political affiliations. They have afforded opportunities for men with a message to deliver that message under non-political auspices. In short, they have enabled the young men of the country to hear public questions discussed without committing the listeners to any line of policy or action.

A federation of Canadian Clubs would mean a Canadian Club policy—a third political party. This is not advisable, nor desirable. It would bring the Canadian Clubs into conflict with the political parties and the consequent loss would be mutual.

THE Canadian Manufacturers in annual session at Hamilton, last week, made some interesting suggestions. They revived and approved the idea of taking the tariff out of politics and placing it under a commission. The final decisions would, of course, be made as at present by the Cabinet, but all recommendations for changes would come through the commission. The latter would be a permanent body, continuously studying the relations between customs duties and trade. It would do this on the basis of fair play to the manufacturers and fair play to the consumers.

The idea is an excellent one if feasible. In the first place, it is difficult to know whether the Cabinet could give up any portion of its responsibility to an independent commission without losing prestige. True, it did this in connection with the Railway Committee of the Privy Council which was replaced by the Railway Commission, but the tariff is somewhat different. There was no difference of opinion among the people concerning railway rates and railway responsibilities. There is a great gulf between two sections of the people as to a national tariff policy. The tariff has always been a bone of political contention, and it is doubtful if it will ever be otherwise.

Undoubtedly a commission listening to complaints and suggestions would be a welcome wind-break between the public and the cabinet. If it was understood that the commission was simply an investigating and reporting committee, and was not in any sense an advisory or legislative body, then cabinet responsibility would be maintained. Even this would be an advance on present conditions, though it is doubtful if the manufacturers would be content with so small a concession.

THE manufacturers also took some notice of the possibility of the extension of trade between Canada and Germany. At present, this trade is being slowly smothered by adverse legislation in both countries. The manufacturers, judging by the report of one of their committees, are in favour of continuing the smothering policy. In a rather doubtful spirit, they rise to suggest that to broaden our trade