



COLONIAL NAVIES

CANADA may be leading the colonies in some features of modern development, such as immigration, federal administration of a specialised type and military efficiency, but Australia is leading in the development of a definite naval policy. In Australia a naval policy is of greater value than a military policy. In its defence, a navy would be of much more importance than an army. In Canada, the reverse is probably true. Hence it is natural that Australia should show the way in naval development.

The question as to whether the colonies should have separate navies is on the way to a settlement. That is the main feature. When it was first proposed that each colony should have its own navy, many ardent imperialists stared aghast. It seemed an outrageous proposal. It made for decentralisation rather than cooperation and unity of control. Yet these fears have passed away to a large extent, and even the British naval authorities agree that colonial navies are not necessarily a sign of centrifugal development. They have agreed to lend Australia two up-to-date cruisers and to leave the naval defence of that group of colonies, in time of peace, in the hands of the local authorities. Australia will be self-governing in naval as in military and constitutional matters. In time of war, the Australian fleet would come under imperial supervision and direction.

Canada will eventually assume a similar privilege and responsibility. She will build and maintain her own fleet—at first a number of small coast-protectors, and later a number of vessels capable of aggressive action. "Let us build our own navy," will, before many years, become a popular, political cry. Autonomy and self-respect demand it; a rise in the ranks of nations compels it; common-sense and a broader outlook will justify it. If we are to be a partner in the British Empire, we must develop our nation along the broadest and most comprehensive lines. We may all regret that a navy is necessary, but we shall not hesitate to build one which shall truly represent our national and commercial importance.

THE MARATHON CRAZE

MARATHON races date back into ancient history, where the winner of the first one stamped out most of the budding enthusiasm by his timely death. But sport, like the millinery trade, must have something new even if it has to revive something old to get it. Thus the Marathon race came again to modern Greece and it was Canada's bad luck to have one of her sons win it.

When Sherring came home to an accompaniment of municipal receptions, brass bands and ringing cheers, he set his brother Canadians running Marathons and by the time they got nicely started a noble son of the forest, to wit Thomas Longboat, jumped into the game and added the necessary tinge of romance to turn the procession into a craze. And for two years past the air, the newspapers and the concessions of this fair Dominion have been full of running boys with abbreviated clothes and walking barbers with hob-nailed shoes who have been testing their endurance to the limit under the delusion that they were participating in sport. And Marathons have multiplied and covered the land.

But with the doctor's announcement that the terrible strain of long distance contests has affected Tom Longboat's heart and that he must turn to some milder form of amusement comes the question as to whether public opinion should not stamp out an alleged form of sport that must be shortening the lives of hundreds of Canada's most active and energetic sons.

The Ward Marathon, Toronto's contribution to the continual round of pleasure, will have probably 125 starters, most of whom will run till they drop despite the frenzied efforts of trainers to keep them going long after their energies are spent. How many of this hundred

and more boys will not till their dying day feel some of the effects of the awful strain they are forced to undergo?

Is a Marathon sport? It is and of the same variety that the six-day bicycle grind was till public opinion relegated it to the scrap heap; as the six-day go-as-you-please was till its atrocities were laid bare and it also had to go.

Sport is that which helps the young man develop his muscles in friendly competition with others, which helps him attain his full strength and manhood. That which sends him dazed and staggering to the hospital is a relic of barbarism and never should have been dignified with the name of sport.

The thousands who watched the Italian Dorando stagger and fall and rise only to fall again in the Stadium at London would have turned in loathing from a Spanish bull-fight and looked away in pained surprise from anyone who dared to call the torture of animals by such a proud name as sport. Yet they watched the torture of their fellow man and cheered and cheered again as he fell and rose and fell once more in agony.

And of such is the Marathon, the alleged sport that is epidemic in Canada to-day.

WOOLLENS AND THE TARIFF

WHETHER the woollen industry has sufficient protection under our present customs tariff is a question which has been much discussed. To say that the discussion has been misleading and largely foolish is to put it mildly. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's speech on the subject at the recent Manufacturers' banquet in Montreal was supremely foolish. To advise Canadian tweed-makers to cheapen the quality of their goods in order to compete with the so-called shoddy goods of Great Britain was not advice one would expect from Canada's leading statesman. There was something of "the-end-justifies-the-means" in it which made it unworthy of him.

The resolution passed by the Manufacturers' Association at a later session, was equally foolish and misleading. In the first place, the resolution did not correctly represent the views of the Association. It was drawn by Mr. J. P. Murray, a man who represents the extreme section of the woollen manufacturers. It was presented by Mr. P. W. Ellis, who knows as little about the woollen industry as he knows much about the jewellery trade. It was not approved by the committee which has jurisdiction in tariff matters. It was not properly voted upon when it did come before the session. In short it is misleading and valueless.

Some portions of the woollen industry are doing well, some are not. Those doing well need no higher protection—in fact higher protection would do them harm. The carpet and hosiery manufacturers represent this class. Of the portions of the industry not doing well, some of the ill success is due to a lack of capital, education and modern machinery. Perhaps a small portion really does require a higher tariff. To make all this clear to the public and the law-makers, the woollen industry must be divided up into its successful and unsuccessful parts, and each treated according to its needs and deserts.

CANADA AND BRITISH GUIANA

BRITISH GUIANA is to have a special meeting of its Legislature to consider the question of granting Canada special consideration under its tariff. That equatorial colony fears that Canada will make a new trade treaty with Germany whereby that country will put on Canada's intermediate tariff. If that were to occur, German sugar, which is now shut out of this market, would come in again.

British Guiana's most profitable sugar market is Canada since the German surtax was imposed. If British Guiana were to lose the Canadian market it would again be plunged in depression, since the United States practically excludes West Indian sugar. If forced to