

realities for chimerical dreams, and reap the whirlwind of disappointment and regret.

The Beer Plebescite was still another feature. The Government had no policy but to let the House do its will. It gambled and won. The breweries get the prize, the Government gets the credit and some revenue, and the people get the experience. From the ensuing conditions one might pray for deliverance were it not somewhat certain that such measures will in time force the people to turn to prohibition for relief. Till then we can wait with such patience as may be.

Unimportant to the province directly but important as showing how vicious legislation may become, is the Co-operation Act. What its general effect may be it is impossible for us to state, but a bill or act that penalizes one for dealing with a contracted co-operator, if that be the proper description, is vicious in its provisions and most vicious in its tendencies. Nineteen members realized its import—twenty-three either did not realize or did not care.

Taken as a whole the important legislation shows indifference to public interests, a want of sound conception of public duty on the part of the vast majority of the legislators. With a commendable spirit of co-operation, irrespective of party, we have legislation—in its constitutional outlook and conservation of public interest—much below the average legislation of the past decade. All too evidently party considerations displace the greater ones. Self-interest dictates the policy of the legislation, and in many cases a petty self-interest at that.

Out of the general run here and there one or two have shown to advantage. Woodward has probably gained most in standing. He has more than once proven himself head and shoulders above his fellow legislators in business judgment and conception of duty. Others have shone more or less at times; they can be dealt with again. Let us all, irrespective of party, thank Woodward for the manner in which he has really represented the public, at least the thinking public.

The Nanaimo Bank Robbery.

Another successful bank robbery has been perpetrated in B. C. in the recent looting of the Royal Bank at Nanaimo. The case as reported in the press is very illuminative in respect to our police methods in B. C.

The robbery occurred just prior to 3 p.m., and the robbers left the scene in a motor car en route to the point where, we are informed, they embarked in a launch for the land of the free.

We are also informed that a police boat left Vancouver at 5 p.m., the "Patrician" left Victoria at 9 p.m. of the day of the robbery, and an aeroplane left Jericho Beach at 5 a.m. the next morning to catch the robbers.

This reads almost like a "take off" instead of a serious occurrence in life. Aeroplanes are of course very slow in preparation and flight, so the next morning was doubtless the earliest moment one could expect to see an aeroplane in action. How in these days when we are without telephone, telegraph or radio, the police accomplished the Herculean task of starting a launch from Vancouver, 40 miles away, only two hours after that other launch had left for Washington State, must have been a source of wonder. The "Patrician," being a Government boat, actually broke the speed limit by getting into action in six hours. So did the police, who so effectively organized a successful search in such a limited space of time.

Wonders will never cease! Perhaps next time the robbers will be considerate enough to notify the police 24 hours or 48 hours ahead, giving details of their pro-

posed plans. Then we will have the even more wonderful spectacle of a real police capture.

The Union Question.

Voting is now the order of the day in the Presbyterian churches. The result will not be known for some time. Present indications would show that the Union cause will receive very strong support from the church as a whole. Whatever the result of the vote may be, one cannot refrain from deploring the manner in which both sides have conducted their supposedly educational work.

The question was purely a religious one: "Would the Christian conscience, as expressed in the religious life of the denominations concerned, be more conscious of the essential unity of Christian work if those denominations were replaced by one?" was one phase of the matter. "Would the non-Christian men of good moral sympathies be more profoundly impressed by the spectacle of three churches getting together as one or by their remaining as they were?" that was the other phase.

Such issues should have been discussed on a high plane. The differences of opinion on these points were and are differences of principle. Such differences require the utmost consideration, the most careful courtesy and charitable Christian treatment.

Neither side elected so to deal with them. Speeches and literature were mostly of a political order, dealing with secondary and even irrelevant matters. Breadth of conception, deep religious conviction, seem almost totally wanting. Crimination and recrimination were all too evident. Undoubtedly the Christian sentiment of the Presbyterian Church, guided by prayer-sought leadership, will be guided to a right decision in the matter. Ultimately all will be well. If the cause of God requires the Union it will stand. If God be against it, man-made Union can never last. The issue will not be finally settled until the work of the United Church of Canada shall have proven or disproven the advisability of the movement.

There must necessarily be a certain amount of disadvantage in every earthly situation. Any question such as this will result in dislocation, difficult situations, serious differences of opinion, and serious problems. Howsoever wisely handled, they will leave much to regret, much to deplore. Whatever of these things are the absolutely essential result of the issue, we can accept unquestionably as an inevitable part of the law of human life, but who can strongly enough condemn, deeply enough deplore or fully enough atone for, where guilty of them, the needless bickering, the uncalled for appeals to pride, prejudice and the various human emotions that have marked in large measure this discussion.

Taken all in all, the spectacle has not tended to edification unless it be as an illustration of how selfishness and sin prevail in even the deepest matters of our religious life.

A Pleasant Surprise.

One of the most pleasing and startling surprises the writer ever recalls, was learning of the Hon. George P. Graham's speech to a New York audience, dealing with Canadian national aspirations. Not since the Hon. L. M. Pelletier told an American audience, "We like you when you are good, but you are not always good," has an expression of Canadian opinion been so frankly made, or courteously placed before an American assemblage.

That any outstanding Liberal should have grasped the Canadian viewpoint, with its Imperial setting, was pleasant enough, but to have its aspirations firmly