

REFLECTIONS

By THE EDITOR

Again, the British Born.

MR. ARTHUR HAWKES, editor of *The British News of Canada*, has replied to some remarks which appeared in this column. The basis of the charge was that Mr. Hawkes was trying to "arouse the British-born" for certain purposes, and that this is the kind of campaign work which Mr. Bourassa is carrying on among the French-Canadians. It was intimated that if Mr. Bourassa is working against the broader national interests of this country, so is Mr. Hawkes.

Mr. Hawkes states that he is not appealing to "racial prejudice" because he has never written a word against any other "racial element." Neither has Mr. Bourassa. He always has kind words to say of others; but he appeals to "racial prejudice" just the same. Mr. Hawkes' answer is not satisfactory, and he will kindly excuse me if I refuse to accept it as such.

Mr. Hawkes also denies that he is pursuing a campaign of advising Englishmen to buy of Englishmen; that he is trying to unite the British-born for self-protection, or that he is working against a truly Canadian national ideal. These denials are just as evasive and bear as little weight as his denial that he is appealing to "racial prejudice." When he says that he is advertising Canada to the Britisher his statement is satisfactory and I accept. On the other points, his denials he is still charged with a narrow, racial propaganda.

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The Evidence Against Mr. Hawkes.

MR. HAWKES' paper, of June 17th, contains the following paragraph:

British-Born Declare.

Here is a resolution that says something for itself:

"Resolved, that this meeting of the British-born in Oshawa, declares its belief in the policy of increasing the power of Canada within the British Empire, and its hope that the British-born in Canada will unite to secure that end."

Oshawa, thirty-four miles east of Toronto, is a typical Ontario manufacturing town, its factories half hidden behind fine avenues of trees. The British-born in it are strong enough to raise a decisive voice in any question that divides the town. That is true of them in many places. We are just beginning to look at ourselves.

Is not that a straight appeal to the British-Born to get together and control the political and municipal situations? Substitute the word "French-Canadian" for "British-Born" and you have a splendid type of Bourassa resolution. If Mr. Hawkes is right, then Bourassa cannot be wrong.

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And Then Some More.

THE Toronto Globe of August 6th contains a news item headed "The British-Born Enter the Campaign," and reading on one finds that on the previous evening there was a meeting of the Canada-British Association. Mr. Hawkes was chairman and a hundred members were present. It was decided to hold meetings in all the manufacturing centres of Ontario to educate the British-Born on Canadian nationality, which being interpreted, means to vote against reciprocity.

Now Mr. Hawkes has a perfect right to talk against reciprocity if he so desires. Free speech is as much the inherent right of a man living in Canada as of a man living in England. But why should he disguise it under a professed desire to educate the British-born on Canadian nationality? Why should he adopt the hypocritical method which has marked the methods of the nationalist party in the Province of Quebec?

Mr. Hawkes and Dr. Evans are to speak together. What lovely company! Ask the people of the city of Kingston what they think of Dr. J. Gwalia Evans, and you will hear some strange stories. Truly, Mr. Hawkes deserves a better fate.

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And Now the Conclusion.

MR. Hawkes is an able journalist, publishes a readable paper, and is undoubtedly honest in his intentions. It is not too late for him to switch back and get on the main line. Let him go

straight to all the public with his propaganda, fight squarely in the open, and everybody will respect his worth and ability. But he should not adopt any such narrow, sectarian policy of appealing only to one section of the people and basing that appeal on racial differences. Let him appeal to Canadians as Canadians, whether they be British-Born, French-Born, American-Born, German-Born, or Canadian-Born. This country does not desire to see its citizens organized on either racial or religious lines.

The Sons of England as an organisation have never interfered in politics, although their influence has been felt at times in certain places. Why did Mr. Hawkes break away from the ordinary lines of prudence as followed by that organisation? Was it because that society refused to allow him to turn it into a political machine? Was this the reason why he found it necessary to have a society of his own, to be known as the Canada-British Association? Was this the reason why he sent out 3,000 letters and three million leaflets?

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The Homeless City Girl.

ATTENTION is being given by the General Synod of the Church of England to the dangers which beset the homeless city girl. The Committee on Social and Moral Reform propose that in all large centres there should be a female officer or officers whose duty it shall be to meet unattended girls and women coming into the district and give them advice. This would be a difficult task, but it might save some of them. But something else might be done. There might be a committee of women to look after the homeless girl who has already arrived and is living in lodgings

Reciprocity Contest.

Do you think you can write a hundred-word letter better than anybody else in Canada? Then here is your chance. We shall give a small prize to the voter who will send us the best hundred-word letter beginning with either of the following phrases:

"I shall vote Conservative because"

or

"I shall vote Liberal because"

This will not be a test of handwriting nor of literary skill only. Cleverness will be the chief feature for which the judges will look. Not exactly a hundred words, but as close to that number as you can come conveniently. As between two letters of equal merit, the first received will get the prize. Each letter must be signed by an assumed name, but the name of the writer should be attached on a separate slip of paper. The best letters will be published as soon as received. Contest closes September 7th, and the prize-winner announced in our issue of September 16th.

Besides being a contest, we hope these letters will interest our friends during the election campaign. Even if you don't care about the prize, perhaps you would like to give the readers of *The Canadian Courier* your best reasons for the faith that is in you.

or in boarding-houses. Occasionally a girl is tricked at a railway station, but not often. The majority of those who go astray are those who, deprived of home restrictions and the company of relatives, are driven to make friends in the store and on the street. These are the lambs for which the shearers look. Between eight and ten o'clock in the evening, they are found in hundreds on the leading streets of the big cities. They are seeking amusement and company. They find it, and the descent is gradual. This is the numerous class and this is the class which greatly needs advice and protection.

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Canada's Navy Recognized.

DURING the recent imperial conference, the status of the navies of Canada and Australia were defined. That Canada's navy will be subject to the same rules and have the same privi-

leges and restrictions as the Australian navy, shows clearly that the two Dominions are working along the same national lines. This will make it increasingly difficult for any person to criticise the Canadian navy as a "separatist" influence.

That the status of the Dominion navies has been defined with the agreement and approval of the British authorities still further emphasises this point. If the ideas of naval control possessed by the governments of Canada and Australia are satisfactory to the British authorities, there will be no room for local criticism.

An examination of the agreement arrived at reveals the common-sense in the arrangement. Each government controls its own navy, while in its own waters. When a dominion navy goes into other British waters or into foreign ports, it passes automatically under the control of the Admiralty or the nearest senior British naval officer. In time of war, the dominion navies come under the central control as soon as their parliaments give consent. Dominion naval officers will be named in the British naval list and have their seniority according to British rules. In other words they will be British naval officers for all practical purposes. In time of peace, the training will be done at home and will be uniform with British training. When these ships join the British navy for training purposes, they will be merged in the British fleets. The dominions' ships will fly the Ensign at the stern and the dominion flag at the flagstaff.

In short, the Dominion agree to conform in their regulations and conduct to British standards and rules, while the British naval authorities agree to recognise the dominion navies as part of the King's navy at all times, leaving the local control to the local authorities. Autonomy is profitably amalgamated with co-operation and centralization.

Even those who feared that autonomy in naval matters meant separation and divided authority must admit that everything in connection with Canada's navy has worked out satisfactorily.

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Concentrating Our Army.

FOR the first time in three years and for the second time in its history, Canada's permanent militia is assembled for special training. Nearly two thousand permanent soldiers are assembled at Petawawa camp for special manoeuvres under General Mackenzie. The Strathcona Horse of Winnipeg and the permanent units from London, Toronto, Kingston, St. John's, Fredericton, and other points are there.

Only about one-third of Canada's army is present at this camp, since the permanent force now numbers between five and six thousand. The country is so broad that it is practically impossible to collect the whole force at one point. However, General Mackenzie will have a fairly large force under his eagle eye and the result must be very beneficial.

Let us hope that Canada will never have any considerable use for this little standing army. It is not much more than a nucleus for an army division should one ever be required for service at home or abroad. Its main present usefulness is to supply drill sergeants for the active or "volunteer" militia in which are now enrolled some 60,000 able-bodied citizens. In so far as it performs this function successfully it justifies its existence.

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Selecting a Fire Chief.

ATTENTION of the editor of *Saturday Night* is directed to the method adopted by New York City in selecting a new fire-chief. They held a test examination and the present deputy-chief got the highest marks. Of course, *Saturday Night* will think such a proceeding childish. "To the victor belongs the spoils" is still the motto of this journalistic opponent of civil service reform. Fortunately for both the United States and Canada, nine-tenths of the press realize that no public service will be efficient if it is bedevilled by the craft and guile of political patronage.

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The Cruelty of Peace.

IF the Germans destroyed the British fleet and starved the British people, the world would stand aghast at the cruelty of war. But when the dock-labourers unions go out on strike, causing starvation prices to reign, and women and children to suffer because food is scarce, then we may also speak of the cruelty of peace. Some of us would choose the tyranny of war rather than the tyranny of unrestrained and unbridled trades-unionism. An intelligent, educated despot is always to be preferred to an ignorant, untrained demagogue. However, peace in the industrial world will come as peace in the political world is coming.