

What Canadian Editors Think

THE BATTLE AND THE BREEZE
(Montreal Star.)

BRITAIN'S wealth and naval power will make her a very powerful factor in any war which takes place in Western Europe. It is her naval power which renders her so strong with Italy, Portugal, and even Spain; and her wealth would enable her to finance active military operations by the two Latin peninsulas in case a great European struggle were to break out. The delicacy of the position of Italy is not always sufficiently realised. It is terribly exposed to naval attack and cannot afford to quarrel with the powers which control the Mediterranean—as Britain and France would—while, on the other hand, she has a historic dread of the Austrian army which Germany might permit to pour down through Venetia. But withdraw Britain's wealth and naval power, and let France and Germany balance each other at sea; and Italy dare not fail to follow Vienna. In the last analysis, this is an age of gold and not of iron. Battles are lost and won in the banking houses of the world; and all that remains is the sacrifice of the men on the red field or in the sinking ship. This is what makes of the American Republic a power, although her army is not, in time of peace, a force of which Continental Europe would take count. This is the weakness to-day of Russia. She has lots of men but no money and little credit. Japan to-day is crippled in her purse, though nowhere else. And, more and more, as the cost of war grows, will the masters of the world's money be the masters of the world's destiny.

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THE GENIAL, UPLIFTING
DRUMMER.

(Vancouver World.)

WHO can imagine a world without commercial travellers, and who, imagining it, would want to live in it? The commercial traveller carries more than his sample-cases. He is not only the agent of his house but the agent of civilisation. Without his welcome visits the monotony of life in the office of the hotel in the small town would never be broken and the rural storekeeper, failing his revivifying call, would decline gradually into that fossilised condition in which advertising is a lost art and the accumulation of old stock gradually locks up the entire capital. Then there is the influence of the commercial traveller on the styles of masculine attire. No matter whether he steps out of a train-wreck or an hotel the bath-room of which is not in commission he always looks the same, tubbed and ironed into a spruceness which is an inspiration and which has an indirect but very perceptible effect in increasing the business of the local tailors and barbers. It is appalling to think to what depths of slovenliness some of the more remote communities might sink were it not for the periodical appearance of the commercial traveller in all his glory.

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A GREAT EXPLORER.

(Toronto Globe.)

THERE is no more interesting or important chapter in the history of Canada than the one which tells how British Columbia came to be British and how it came to be Canadian. There is not among the "makers" of British Columbia a more heroic figure than that of the man who explored the country about the upper waters of the great river by which the province is traversed, who built forts and founded settlements on its tribu-

aries, who descended the river to tide water, and after whom it has been quite appropriately named. A movement has been started to erect a monument to his memory at New Westminster, where his dangerous voyage ended, and Canadians everywhere should not merely take a sympathetic interest in the project, but extend to it such practical encouragement as they can afford to give. The full importance of the work done by Mr. Fraser cannot be appreciated without some knowledge of its relation to that of other contemporary explorers. His immediate predecessor, Mr. Mackenzie, has already been mentioned. The most noted of all, so far as accurate cartographical work is concerned, was David Thompson, who entered the Northwest Company's service in 1796. From that date to 1811 he was occupied with exploratory work in what is now the Canadian Northwest, on the head waters of the Missouri River, and along the whole length of the Columbia. Like Fraser, he lived in eastern Ontario, and died near Montreal at the age of eighty-seven.

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THE TWO NATIONALISTS.

(Ottawa Journal.)

THE disinterestedness of Mr. Bourassa and Mr. Lavergne must be respected as highly as their courage and their independence. Whatever may be the opinion of their policy or ideas, every Canadian has a right to be proud of public men who place principle and conviction higher than immediate personal advancement and profit. Mr. Bourassa never had anything to do but hold his tongue in certain respects to have become a cabinet minister here long before this. Mr. Lavergne has nothing to hope for in Quebec politics which could compensate him for his withdrawal from Dominion politics. But both these public men have a conviction that reform is needed in Quebec in some directions, and they have sailed in to bring it about if they can, regardless of their comfort, their political prospects and their pockets. Such as these must always continue forces to be reckoned with, while they live, and probably both will play a considerable part and a successful part on the public stage for a long time to come.

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SIFT OUR IMMIGRANTS.

(Montreal Standard.)

IT certainly seems rather singular to our British cousins that while bonuses are still being paid to European agencies for the procurement of surplus peoples from Central and Southern Europe, not only is no assistance offered to British emigrants, but they are subjected to a money test which, rigorously applied, would deprive this country of many admirable citizens. A man with thirty pairs of trousers is not necessarily depraved; a man who could not show twenty-five dollars might become a wholesome, virtuous citizen. There are thousands of persons in the Mother Country living from hand to mouth, who could not, on the instant, produce twenty-five dollars, but who, nevertheless, from their habits, their character, their traditions, would make good citizens of this new country. There is something of worth in Anglo-Saxon civilisation. It is of value that the incoming settler is ready to salute the flag, obey the law, and thrill to national feeling. The statement that the Canadian door is closed to British emigrants should not be allowed to go unchallenged. It is not closed. We still need millions; but we have reached the sifting stage.

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