

# REFLECTIONS

BY THE EDITOR

## A Wicked Preacher

**W**ICKEDNESS in high places is a constant theme of the journalistic world, and there it cannot be amiss to point out the wickedness of the Rev. S. Wesley Dean, of Toronto. In an address before the religious congress at Ottawa, recently, which congress was masquerading under the title of "Social Service," this Mr. Dean indicated that Canada should clean up its own slums before it essayed to perform a similar office in the slums of China and India. In other words, he slapped the wrists of the foreign-mission enthusiasts.

Now, this is wicked. The editor of the Canadian Courier can produce many letters in proof of this, for he, too, has been guilty on several occasions of uttering similar sentiments. It has often been pointed out that the "foreign" quarters of Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg are in as great need of education and Christianizing influence as any district where British and Canadian foreign missionaries work. Also, it has been suggested that there are numerous districts on the Canadian frontier into which the Christian missionary never goes, because the mission funds are used to support men and women in foreign lands. But the goodliest-goodliest readers of this journal have always protested against such wickedness.

It is therefore with considerable feeling that the editor indicates that Mr. Dean is preaching doubtful doctrine. The editor also warns other intelligent persons against thinking these sane and helpful thoughts aloud.

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## High Finance in Toronto

**A**SPLENDID example of a badly managed business may be found in the municipality of Toronto. What every business concern tries to avoid is paying interest. The less interest, the more profit. Toronto will pay out for interest and sinking fund in 1914 the huge sum of \$3,965,663. This is equal to a five per cent. dividend on \$73,913,260. Therefore, Toronto is borrowing to-day this huge sum of money—more than seventy millions of dollars. And yet the Council goes along blithely, keeping down the tax-rate and boosting the public debt, just as if money was no object. There will be a great awakening in that city some day, and there will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. The business men, as in Montreal and elsewhere, are asleep, and the city government is left in the hands of a few men who cannot count up to one million, much less seventy million.

Toronto collects about eleven and a half millions in taxes this year, so that nearly one-third is used up in paying for "dead horse." Totally oblivious, the financiers of the city propose to add another ten or fifteen million to the public debt this year. Then Toronto will have the highest debt per capita in America.

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## Encouraging Wool Growing

**W**OOL growing is a neglected Canadian industry. The Government of Canada has found it necessary to regulate the buying and selling and grading of wheat, but it has never done anything to regulate the grading and selling of wool. The big wool countries of the world have done for the wool growers what the Canadian Government has done for the wheat growers, and the day is surely coming when regulations of this kind will be worked out here.

The Dominion Department of Agriculture has issued a circular stating that it is prepared to offer practical assistance this year to associations of wool growers. Such an association must contain at least enough sheep to supply one carload of wool. Where an association of this kind exists, the Department is prepared to supply the services of expert wool classifiers who will perform the necessary grading. There will also be a central bureau at Ottawa for the distribution of current information respecting domestic and foreign markets. This is a move in the right direction and should pave the way for the placing of the wool growing industry on a sound financial and scientific basis.

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## Did Bryan Blunder?

**A**N impression seems to be gaining ground that Secretary of State Bryan was the blunderer who caused the present unfortunate state of affairs in which the United States finds itself with regard to Mexico. Bryan was all for peace, yet he was not big enough to see what were essentials and what non-essentials. His predecessors in office, Root, Knox and Hay, would never have forced the issue on so trivial an incident as the insult to the United States flag in Vera Cruz harbour. That ultimatum to a loose-living, half-witted dictator, who

has little or no appreciation of international law and international courtesy was a profound and disastrous error.

Bryan is a faddist, an unconsequential trifler in national affairs. He has something of sincerity and picturesqueness to recommend him, but his very wordiness is an indication of the shallow waters of his mind. He never should have been made the Foreign Minister of the United States, and he would not have received the appointment had President Wilson been free to choose for himself. In every government, under our party system, there are men who have nothing to commend them except long party service. There are men in the present Dominion Government who represent only that principle. In the Ontario Government there are striking examples. Bryan is the distinguished exemplar of this unfortunate political weakness in the United States.

The lesson for the Great Republic is that it must train men to take up the work of Foreign Minister. The relations of the United States with foreign countries has come to be of as much importance as those of Great Britain, Germany or France. Each of these countries must have a Hay or a Lord Grey within call, no matter what administration is in power. The national safety and the world's peace depend upon the quality and genius of the world's greatest diplomats.

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## Western Canada Waking Up

**J**UDGING by a circular now being sent out by the Board of Trade of North Battleford, the western business men believe that Providence helps those who help themselves. They want to hold a convention in North Battleford on May 14th and 15th for the purpose of organizing "The Western Canada Colonization and Development League"—to ensure a population of ten million people within ten years. The purpose of the League shall be to keep before the public of the world the many advantages, resources and possibilities of Western Canada as a whole. In other words, these people propose to do for themselves what has hitherto been done by the railways and the Dominion Immigration Department. Instead of each city advertising its own attractions and own province talking about its own advantages, they suggest that the advertising of Western Canada shall be centred in one organization. There is to be no mad scramble to build mythical cities or to unduly boost some particular section. The new organization would lay the foundations of a vast empire in which no particular part should be built up at the expense of any other part, and which would be normally developed in all its different parts.

The scheme is well worth the effort which is being put upon it, and if the people of the West will cast aside all local prejudices and local ambitions and concentrate on one large campaign, the results will no doubt bring greater rewards than even its promoters anticipate.

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## Animals and Politics

**W**HY should not our political parties have animal emblems? In the United States the system is well established and adds considerably to the gaiety of nations as expressed in the game of politics. Thus symbolism illuminates darkness and aids the dull human understanding. The grand old Republican party is proud of the Elephant as its emblem. It is a wonderfully fine specimen when drawn by a Republican artist or cartoonist, but not necessarily so noble when delineated by a cartoonist drawing on the Democratic salary fund. The Donkey or Jackass is the "totem" of the Democratic party, and his versatile eyes and ears are made to express joy, triumph, sorrow or dejection with the varying moods of the national artists. The stately Bull Moose is the emblem of the Progressives or Rooseveltians, while the uncouth and awkward Camel is used to designate alleged qualities in the Prohibition Party.

Why should not the Right Hon. Mr. Borden select some emblem or totem for the Conservative party? Sir Wilfrid Laurier one for the Liberal party, and Mr. Henri Bourassa one for mugwumps, whom he claims to represent? Then the cartoonist's work would be made easier, and the editor would be able to introduce symbolism into his deadly dull editorials.

Great Britain is blessed with certain emblems which add to the picturesqueness of political and national controversy. John Bull, the British Lion, Britannia, Mr. Punch, the Redmond-Irishman and other less distinguished symbols add to the graphic portrayal of national emotions and give point to political controversies. The Birmingham Fox was a favourite device with Gould, the cartoonist. Our Jack Canuck is not so versatile a figure as John Bull or Uncle Sam, and the Canadian Beaver does not

compare with the British Lion or the American Eagle in its power of expression.

Our cartoonists might set themselves to work on this great national problem.

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## The Decline in C.P.R.

**T**HE financial experts do not know how to explain the recent decline of nearly one hundred points in the market price of the common stock of the Canadian Pacific Railway. When the experts are at a loss the public is usually dumb-founded. If C. P. R. stock were the only stock to show a great decline, there might be some reason to wonder if all were not well with Canada's greatest corporation. But C. P. R. stock has not declined any more than some other railway stocks; notable examples which may be quoted are Rock Island and New Haven in the United States, and Brazilian in South America. Indeed, all railway stocks throughout the western world, including Great Britain, have shown severe declines during the past year.

Even admitting this, and admitting also that business in Canada is not in the boom condition that it was a year ago, or two years ago, there are special reasons why C. P. R. stock should be quoted lower than it was last year. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy conceived the notion some years ago that the Canadian Pacific Railway ought to be known as a corporation without bonded indebtedness. In the last annual report, issued June 30th, 1912, it is shown that twenty-two millions of mortgage bonds were redeemed and cancelled, leaving only about thirteen millions outstanding. There was a slight increase in the amount of preference stock and debenture stock. It was undoubtedly the intention to eliminate the mortgage bonds entirely, and replace them with common stock. This policy has been criticized by certain people who point out that it is bad financing to cancel bonds paying five per cent. and issue common stock calling for ten per cent. dividends. Whether Sir Thomas and the directors of the C. P. R. were right or whether the critics are right is a question which it is very difficult to decide.

The Canadian Pacific Railway is still the greatest corporation in Canada, and one of the greatest in the world. European investors may lose confidence in C. P. R., but Canadians have no right to do so. If C. P. R. can make the success which it has made when the country had seven millions population, its success must be much greater when the country has the twenty millions of people which it ought to have in the year 1925.

## Hands Across the Sea

**U**NTIL recently cable messages from Toronto to Great Britain were sent by telegraph to the cable station in Nova Scotia, there repeated by operators on the cables and again repeated by telegraph operators on the other side. Last week, by means of the Gott invention, a message was sent direct in the Morse dot and dash signals from Toronto to Fermoy, Ireland. The occasion was the annual dinner of the officers of the Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto, and a similar mess dinner of the Buffs, a British regiment now stationed at Fermoy. These two regiments were recently allied by a British militia order and they decided to hold a simultaneous banquet. The one in Toronto began early in the evening and the one in Ireland late on the same evening. At nine o'clock an operator in the Military Institute, Toronto, was connected direct with an operator in the Barracks at Fermoy, and messages were exchanged. It required about fifteen seconds for a signal to pass from Toronto to Fermoy, and messages were sent and answers received in less than ten minutes.

This notable achievement was made, possible by special arrangements with Mr. Clarence H. Mackay, of New York, head of the company which controls the cables. As an acknowledgment of the courtesy of Mr. Mackay, he was made an honorary member of the two military messes. The messages from the Toronto side were sent by General Otter, the oldest living commanding officer of the Queen's Own; Sir Henry Pellatt, honorary lieutenant-colonel, and Colonel Mercer, the commandant. Seventy-two officers and ex-officers of the Queen's Own were present on this notable occasion.

## Second Cadet Tournament

**O**N Friday and Saturday of this week the second annual Canadian Cadet Tournament will be held at the Arena Gardens, Toronto. It promises to emphasize further the success being attained by the cadet and physical training movement in the schools and among the youths of Canada.

The first attempt of the kind, held at the Toronto Armouries last year, proved to be a pleasurable surprise and an education to a large portion of the public.

Schools, colleges, and independent corps have entered teams in drill, physical training, rifle shooting, signalling, and first aid competitions. These will furnish some large and attractive displays. Nor are the competitions confined to boys only. Two classes each composed of more than one hundred junior and senior girls from the Toronto public schools will exemplify the benefits of the Strathcona system of physical training. This particular training is also a part of cadet work.