

REFLECTIONS

BY THE EDITOR

The National Choir

BREATHE low when you speak, for the National Choir is sad and silent. Whisper it so that the news will not be heard in Washington or Berlin—the songsters of Parliament Hill have lost their voices. Nay, worse—they are afflicted with a great mental depression.

Just as this time of year, in the good old days gone by, it was their habit to tune their lyres and to vociferously, if not melodiously, sing those splendid national anthems, "O Canada!" and "God Save the King." How the chamber rang with the splendid chorus! How the Press Gallery rushed to speed the news from Sydney to Victoria! And the national pulse, how fast it beat on these memorable occasions!

Was that splendid English poet, J. B. Selkirk, who sang his last song just ten years ago, was he thinking of them when he wrote:

"Let not the record be forgot,
Nor drowned in party jar,
'Twas the old sea-dogs of England,
The sailor lads of England,
The dauntless tars of England,
That made us what we are."

The lights on the "Niobe" and the "Rainbow" have almost gone out. The "Egeria" has sunk into a dark oblivion. The Sun of a sport-lived Canadian Ambition peeped over the horizon and beat a hasty retreat. Sir Joseph Pope buried the Maple Leaf flag with suitable obsequies. The Minister of Militia has ordered three volleys from the Ross rifle to be fired over Bisley common. The Union Jack flaps languidly above the chamber, and the music of the National Choir is but an echo from the past.

Ring down the asbestos curtain. The mimicry is over. A great national ambition has been temporarily lost in a fog of partisan unreason.

The Anglican Church

WHETHER the Anglican Church is a Protestant body or a branch of the Catholic Church is a question which is now being debated in England and Canada. Rev. Mr. Waterman, an English Church rector at Carp, Ont., has a letter in a Toronto paper which clearly indicates that he hopes to see the Anglican Catholic and the Roman Catholic Churches united, in preference to a union between the Anglican Catholic, as he terms his church, and the various Protestant bodies. Here is one clergyman at least who does not desire the Anglican Church in Canada classed as Protestant. This must be very flattering to the Roman Catholic people.

Mr. Waterman accuses Archdeacon Cody of talking twaddle when he speaks of "the sister churches of the Reformation," and includes in that the Anglican Church. He insists that the Archdeacon should leave "the church whose bread you eat," if he has ceased to believe that the Church is Catholic, not Protestant.

Over in England they are having a similar controversy, because some Anglican missionaries in Africa dared to hold communion with some "Protestant" missionaries.

If Mr. Waterman and others who think like him are right, why not have the British and Canadian Governments change their census returns and the constitutional documents which describe the Church of England as "Protestant"? If it is a purely Catholic Church, then it should be classed with such in the official documents, and not with the Protestant bodies. If it is Catholic, then the Sovereign of the Britannic Peoples should describe himself as a "Catholic," not as a "Protestant," which is the present practice.

Our Incompetence

CANADIANS are about as green a lot of nation-builders as any in the world, and the chief national vice is incompetence. For every ten Canadians who succeed, about ninety fail. Occasionally a man blunders into the millionaire class, but are there six millionaires in Canada who won their wealth fairly and honestly as a result of their own genius and without luck?

We are building up a great country, but the incidental waste is tremendous. When we want to build a new railway, we appoint a lot of politicians to do the job. Then, when it is done, or nearly done, we appoint some more politicians to investigate the work and estimate how much was wasted. Every session of the Federal Parliament sees half a dozen investigations, and many serious charges of incompetence. The Conservation Commission says that much of our Crown domain, forests and water-powers particularly, are being wasted. Perhaps some day there will be an investigating committee

to look into the expenditures of the Conservation Commission itself. A new Welland Canal is to be built at a cost of fifty millions. Any one who desires to be on the committee to investigate these expenditures five years hence, should get in his application early.

Nor is this inefficiency confined to Federal affairs. Nearly every Provincial Government has one or more investigation in progress or promised. Even the city governments are being investigated—notably Toronto and Montreal. The Citizens' Committee that has been conducting a survey of Toronto's administration finds a waste of about a million a year, and not more than half the field has been covered. This committee is now trying to raise a guarantee fund of \$20,000 a year for five years to continue its fight against incompetence. Montreal is perhaps worse than Toronto, but the fight there is not systematized as yet.

What Canada needs most of all is a renewed belief in "Economy and Efficiency." The idea that the people's inheritance and the people's money should be squandered in a reckless manner needs uprooting. The public conscience needs educating. The people must be taught that waste and extravagance are national as well as private sins. The fight for this reform is much more important than the work of collecting millions of dollars annually for the heathen in Japan and China.

National Decisions

WHEN the whole people of a nation have a chance to express their opinion on a great public question, their decision must necessarily be final and binding on both political parties. If the people of Great Britain were to have an election on the question of the advisability of the present Irish Home Rule Bill, the answer given at the polls would be binding. Canada had such a case when Reciprocity was decided at the polls in September, 1911. But the people of Britain have had no such chance, and the inclination of Premier Asquith is not to give them the opportunity. He has, however, felt it incumbent upon him to meet the criticism levelled against the Bill and to seek some compromise which will ensure peace in Ireland. In short, there may be a bi-partisan or tri-partisan settlement of the Home Rule question.

Here is a lesson for Canada. The people have had no opportunity to render a clear verdict on the navy question. Hence there is nothing to guide either party in its attitude toward the Navy Question except its own opinions. It does not seem feasible or advisable to have a referendum on the subject. Therefore, the one possible solution is a bi-partisan naval policy. Something should be done immediately. The Liberals have pledged themselves to a permanent Canadian navy policy; the Conservatives to a temporary contribution policy. Neither will accept the policy of the other. Therefore the only possible solution is a new policy to which both parties can agree. If this is not done, then our Britannic obligations must remain unfulfilled for some years.

This is a case in which His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, Governor-General of Canada, might reasonably take an active interest. His Majesty, King George, has taken such an interest in the Irish question and used his influence in favour of a bi-partisan settlement. Why should not the Governor-General follow this precedent and urge a similar settlement of the Canadian navy question?

Minimum Wage

WOMEN in Canada are boasting of the larger part they are now playing in various lines of public activity. They are justified in believing that their influence is rising rapidly. One reform to which they should give greater attention is the question of a minimum wage for women and minors. Already there are laws of this kind in Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, Massachusetts and Oregon. There should be such a law in every Province of Canada.

The minimum wage question is not well understood in Canada. Many people think it applies to men, whereas the best economic opinion limits it to women and minors. Again, many think that it is necessary to establish a minimum wage which will be the same over a whole Province, whereas the modern laws make it apply only to a particular locality and a particular trade. For example, the minimum wage for women in a white-wear factory in Toronto might be higher or lower than the minimum wage for a similar factory in Hamilton or London. Further, the minimum rate in a white-wear factory in Toronto might be lower or higher than the rate in a box factory or a candy factory. Usually there are wage-boards appointed, and each

trade in each locality is considered on its merits.

In this way, a minimum wage law does not set one city against another, or one trade against another. It only ensures that all the manufacturers of a particular line in a particular community shall pay the same minimum wage. It is aimed against the mean employer and the "sweat-shop" traffic.

Social reformers throughout Canada should take this subject up and discuss it thoroughly. Minimum wage boards are sorely needed in all industrial centres. As they are created to protect women and children, the women of Canada should be especially interested.

United States Capital

WHY is the United States able to supply capital for its own enterprises, which are numerous and great, and yet have sufficient surplus to invest millions in Canada, Mexico and elsewhere? The answer is to be found partly in the figures of their foreign trade. In 1913, they exported \$700,000,000 more products than they imported. The world had to pay them \$700,000,000 in cash, less what went out of the country to pay interest on borrowings abroad. Add to this sum the annual savings of ninety million people, and the total amount represents the new capital available each year.

Why is Canada dependent on foreign capital largely? Because as yet we buy more than we sell. We must send millions abroad to pay this adverse balance, and also millions to pay interest on our borrowings. Canada is a newer country than the Republic, and it will be some time before our exports equal our imports, but the day must come. When it does, we shall be less dependent upon the conditions of the money markets of London and New York.

The Honour of Quebec

SIR LOMER GOUIN, Premier of Quebec, has had a trying time in recent weeks. When the three members of the Legislature were accused of taking money to assist a bill through the two Houses, he ordered their resignations. Further, he condemned their faults. This, however, was not enough to please some of his political opponents. They demanded further probes. This led Sir Lomer to declare that the whole matter was a conspiracy against the Liberal party. In impassioned terms he declared: "A new page of history has been written in our Provinces. An infamy has been committed which the historian will brand as it deserves."

The whole matter is most unfortunate. Temptation was set in front of three or more men and they yielded. They have quite properly been banished to private life. But apparently seeds of discord remain, and it may take years to fully vindicate the honour of Quebec and to write the last word in the rising partisan controversy.

A Motor-Boat Flotilla

COLONEL SAM HUGHES, Minister of Militia, is reported to have a plan almost ready for the organization of a flotilla of motor-boats as an auxiliary military force. These would bear much the same relation to the Army and Navy, as the aerial fleets of Great Britain and Germany or the Marine Corps and Naval militia of the United States bear to the naval and military organizations in those countries.

The U. S. Marine Corps is a body of soldiers whose particular duty is to garrison navy yards, naval stations, and naval prisons. There are nine navy yards at present, and each has a Marine Corps garrison. There are other detachments at two naval stations in the Philippine Islands, and the stations in the Mariana Islands, Cuba, Hawaii and Key West. There are a dozen other detachments at naval magazines, hospitals and prisons.

The United States naval militia is a volunteer organization now found in twenty-two different States which border the oceans or the Great Lakes. They have over thirty small vessels assigned to them for their use. These vary from 50 to 500 tons register and are mostly armed with small guns. Illinois, an inland State on Lake Michigan, has a naval militia numbering about 600, with 44 commissioned officers and 100 petty officers.

The aviation corps of the United States has 20 machines for the use of the army and about 8 machines for the navy. In 1913, the United States spent about \$140,000 on this arm of the service, while Germany and Great Britain each appropriated about a million and a half.

If Canada is to have a strong national defence there must be similar auxiliary forces, in addition to the active and volunteer militia and the regular naval forces. A motor-boat auxiliary would be as good a beginning as could be made along this line. The motor-boat would be a useful auxiliary to all garrisons, naval or military, situated on lake, river or ocean. It would be an absolute necessity, if Canada were ever called upon to undertake a defence campaign on land, because our inland lakes and rivers are so numerous. There would also be various other advantages, chief of which would be the cultivation of the naval and military spirit in the inland portions of our vast Dominion.

The motor-boat idea is new, but it has numerous possibilities which make it worthy of serious consideration.