

REFLECTIONS

BY STAFF WRITERS.

GOVERNOR HUGHES of New York recently surprised his Republican friends by giving them advice on party loyalty, which showed that his idea of party is an inclusion of the public. "No man is a friend of the Republican party who asks me or any one in authority to appoint a man or to retain a man who is not equal to his job." This sentence must have startled many modern politicians whose conception of public service is the greatest good to Number One.

Governor Hughes recommended to the State Senate the removal of the State Superintendent of Insurance and the above declaration is supposed to embody the principle on which he acted. Several of those high in the party management have already attempted to offer Governor Hughes "practical" advice, with the result that he has stood even more firmly by the eternal fitness of appointing the efficient man. Whatever the local boss may think of the Governor of the Empire State, the public, which cannot be fooled all of the time, will come to the conclusion that Governor Hughes is mentally and morally "equal to his job."

AS the Parliamentary talk of last week drew to a close the Third Party in the House of Commons, Messrs. Lavergne and Bourassa, drew further attention to the case of the Hon. Chas. Hyman. Mr. Lavergne wanted the House to declare the seat vacant. The Hon. Mr. Aylesworth, Minister of Justice, thought the House had possibly a right to do so, but that Mr. Hyman should have an opportunity of putting in a resignation in the proper form.

Mr. Bourassa thought that the whole incident was one of the greatest parliamentary jokes ever perpetrated. The whole proceeding looked like a farce to prevent an election in London. In these opinions, Mr. Bourassa will probably find that most people agree. A little bluff in politics is permissible, but this one has been carried beyond the limits of decency. There should be moderation in bluffs just as in jokes and jests. Mr. Aylesworth did his best to defend the position with dignity, but Mr. Aylesworth trying to defend anything of this kind is like a Newfoundland dog trying to swim in a tub of water. He was built for larger operations. The merry jest of the ex-Minister of Justice would have been much more in keeping with the incident.

NEXT to cheap postage rates on newspapers it is advisable to have low rates on the railways. It helps the solidarity of national feeling. It assists in promoting commerce and it tends to banish parochial and sectional feeling. Cheap travel cost is good for the people as well as being extremely pleasing. Therefore the dictum of the Railway Commission that, east of the Rocky Mountains, all first class railway tickets shall be sold at a maximum of three cents a mile, will be welcomed by the people who travel.

Just how it will please the people who are operating the railways and those whose capital is invested in these enterprises is another matter. This is the other side of the question. It is to be presumed that the Commission

investigated both sides before issuing such an important decree. They must have asked the railways for their side of the argument. If the railways did not give it, as is reported, then the arguments against it were probably not of supreme importance. It may just be possible that the railway men held partially to the belief that lower rates would be advisable. Certain recent events give colour to this suggestion.

Railway competition in Ontario and the West is on the increase and lower rates were inevitable. The two-cent in vogue in some of the more densely-populated states is still a dream so far as Canada is concerned, but a straight three-cent rate seems quite reasonable. The railways should not, however, be asked to lower the rates faster than the increase in the potentiality of the passenger traffic.

THIS talk of Church Union in Canada seems to be quite out of place so far as the Church of England is concerned. An organisation that is split into high, low and middle sections ought to unite itself before indulging in generalities about a larger union.

**A CHURCH
DIVIDED** There is a strong tendency in the Church of England to return to methods of "high" worship. This tendency exists among the wealthy and the cultured rather than among the middle and lower classes—if one may be pardoned for using such terms. Further, there is not the slightest inclination on the part of "high" and "low" sections to even get together for a consideration of the situation. In short, the "high" church party will indefinitely postpone union in any form or of any character, and the public may as well realise the situation.

In Ontario, the "high" church party clings to Trinity College and the "low" people to Wycliffe and there is no sign of the one meeting the other on friendly terms even in college work. There is as much need for five wheels on a waggon as there is for two Church of England colleges in Toronto. Yet the two exist, and each is making an appeal for support in the effort to break down the other. It is lamentable; it would be ludicrous were it not so dangerous and pathetic.

The problems which face Canada in the absorption of her new citizens, in the training and educating of them, is so supremely important that church division is the more regrettable. Protestantism is losing to-day because of this dis-union, because of the lack of concentrated co-operation. Petty jealousies seem to thrive best in religious soil—and while these weeds grow, the great West is opening up vast districts to which the gospel cannot go because of the religious disunion in the older parts of the country.

IT is slightly surprising to read of the Lord Bishop of Niagara denouncing from the pulpit the action of the British Government in conferring autonomy on the Transvaal and Orange River Colony. Dr. DuMoulin is reported to have described the Boers as "the bitterest enemies England has had in a century."

**BOER AND
BRITON** Therefore, the Campbell-Bannerman Government is playing into the hands of the Empire smashers by meeting possible sedition with openness and fair treatment