

## Public Opinion

"BEACHCOMBER," IN THE "HALIFAX CHRONICLE," REPLIES TO SOME "CANADIAN COURIER" REFLECTIONS:

**T**HE Toronto Canadian Courier says, with that smug superiority and condescension which flourishes in Ontario, and especially in Toronto, as in no other quarter of the habitable globe:

"For forty years the Maritime Provinces have sat back and grumbled. In that period they have lost—what? About half a million of the finest young men and young women ever reared—worth in round figures at least five hundred millions of dollars. If you think the estimate high, work it out for yourself, my friend. A little over ten million dollars a year in young men and young women, given away absolutely without return! Is it any wonder that the population is stationary, that people think that the Maritime Provinces cannot be developed farther?"

"If these three provinces would only forget their petty jealousies and unite for a common good, they could get back a hundred million dollars' worth of those people. I have talked with many of these exiles, and they have declared their desire to go back. It is time for a revolution down by the sea—a real, genuine bloodless revolution."

"Is it any wonder" (to employ the cock-sure phraseology of the editor of the Courier) that the rest of Canada feels a desire to run up on deck and hang over the rail whenever a Toronto man begins to speak? The Maritime Provinces have not sat back and grumbled for forty years, or at all. They have been too busy supplying the brains and energy to govern Canada. The distant rumbling sound this Toronto writer heard was disgust of the mouthy 'loilty' and 'Imperialism' which has its seat in that city and which, when assayed, is 99 per cent. clinkers. Toronto howled for years for Canada to do something for the British Navy, and when they got a party of Jack Tars up there to perform at their Exhibition, they fed them on hay with the elephants. At a rough estimate, we should say there are more Pecksniffs to the square foot in Toronto than in all the rest of Canada combined. Our census may be 'stationary,' but if we had as large a proportion of murders as they have in Ontario, we should probably be wiped out altogether. There was a time when there was a large exodus of young girls from these provinces to the United States, but that is about over. Anyway, we are not sure we should not rather see them go away to begin their career across the line than stay at home and make a start by selling other people's baby carriages after having disposed of the baby by throwing it over an embankment—a Toronto patent.

"We do not compare so badly with some other parts of Canada when you come to look up the facts, but they may not appear to the Courier. We have in Nova Scotia the largest steel industry in Canada—but there is probably no use mentioning this because Toronto will come back and say, 'Look at Charles McGill!' In Halifax there is the largest fish exporting house in the world. Toronto merely sniffs and says something about

the Gamey smell in their own air. We are turning out banks and other financial institutions from Halifax to corral the business of Canada.

"The Canadian Courier says: 'It is time for a revolution down by the sea—a real, genuine, bloodless revolution.' If there is ever a revolution in the Maritime Provinces it will be because the people here will want to rise and kill the near-Yankees in Ontario who, born without gumption, have never acquired courtesy or even a sense of humour to excuse their impertinent attitude toward the rest of Canada."—Halifax Chronicle.

## Paying Duty on Our Own Sea-Fish

**W**HEN the Canadian housewife goes to the fish-merchant's in search of sea-food she is in danger of buying cod or mackerel or halibut or something else that was caught by American fishermen, shipped to the United States by rail from a Canadian port, and bought back into Canada for consumption. Of course, that fish pays duty to the Canadian customs. Also, it pays a profit to the American fish trust. These are the solemn facts, averred in the House of Commons by sundry Nova Scotia members and undenied by Mr. Louis Phillipe Brodeur, Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

Truly, we Canadians allow our governments to be the most complaisant, accommodating set of gentlemen that Washington's practical statesmen have ever done business with. And it is only fair to say that both parties are to blame in this regard. If Sir John Macdonald initiated the system of unearned benefits for the Americans, Sir Wilfrid Laurier has perpetuated it. Time and again the Nova Scotians have protested against the *modus vivendi*. They have been placated with fishing bounties, with wharves and with post-offices. They say they want none of these things. The good old *lex talionis* will satisfy them, and they demand it.

It is safe to say that their demand will go ungratified. Meanwhile the Federal Government will devote \$25,000 to the encouraging of a sea-fish trade with the interior, presumably in the form of securing cheaper express rates on fish caught by our own people. This, of course, is a very superior example of the process of lifting oneself by one's bootstraps. And will the consumer get his fish any cheaper? Hardly. The wholesaler and the retailer will look after that part of the issue. The \$25,000 vote, of course, will be a valuable campaign point when the stumpers are abroad in the misty land of Acadia. The fishermen will see that \$25,000 bulking as large as the Dominion surplus. The citizen of Montreal or Ottawa or Toronto or Winnipeg will not notice that his bank account is any smaller. And his wife will fail to observe that her fish bill has diminished by a decimal of a cent per pound.

More and more it becomes evident that this country must be managed as a self-contained commonwealth. Looking to Washington with expectation has gone out of fashion. Looking to Washington with any kind of fear will never come into fashion if the Canadian people know themselves.

R. K.

COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NAVY LEAGUE, TORONTO BRANCH, 11TH DECEMBER, A.D. 1906.

"That it is not consistent with the true interests of Canada, either from a political or from an economic point of view, that we should continue to neglect all preparation to take our part in the Naval Defence of the British Empire, and that it is a duty we owe to ourselves, to our floating commerce, and to the Empire, that we should lay the foundations of a broad National Maritime Policy, in which Naval Preparation will go hand in hand with the development of a Canadian Mercantile Marine, with the encouragement of the Canadian shipbuilding industry, and with securing for Canada her fair share of the world's maritime transportation."