

Nation Building from the Standpoint of Quebec

BY MR. CHARLES DINGMAN, MONTREAL.

THE oldest province in the Dominion approaches the semi-centenary of a united Canada with an optimism and breadth of vision supposed to be peculiar to the West. It is a mistake in the case of the Province of Quebec to link conservatism and age. No other section of Canada is more alive to the potentialities of our young and vigorous Dominion than the province whose battlefields commemorate the advent of British supremacy; no other



section of the Dominion is more sensible of the privileges, the political liberty and freedom which are hers because British rules. Quebec is proud and happy to belong to the British Empire, and the solid sentiment of the province is undeniably for maintenance of the British connection.

This province's belief in the future of Canada—industrial, commercial, financial, transportation—is reflected in the broad lines and solid foundations underlying the stupendous growth of the city of Montreal, an expansion portraying the large faith and high ambitions of men of vision who see in the Canada of the future a great agricultural, commercial and industrial nation. Canada's ocean gateway, through which flows the increasing tide of immigration, the main outlet to the sea for the country's ever-expanding commerce, Montreal has sought to establish herself as a metropolitan city that shall worthily reflect Canada's future greatness. The construction of great harbor works and transportation facilities in Montreal—a harbor that when completed will outstrip anything on this continent—Montreal's marvelous commercial, industrial and financial development, proclaim in a very real sense this province's faith in the future of Canada. Montreal is doing big things in a big way because her merchant princes and lords of finance, her shipping magnates and industrial leaders see big things ahead for the future of Canada. So to-day Quebec's message to her sister provinces would be: "Build large, for a great future lies before you."

Morally and intellectually the Province of Quebec is forging ahead. Tremendous forces are at work for the emancipation and uplifting of the people of this province. In the matter of temperance Quebec points the way to a sober Canada. Already 69 per cent of her constituencies are under prohibition, and in every remaining district a determined campaign for reform is being carried on. In this great work Protestant and Catholics are as one, the attitude of the Archbishop of Montreal and the work of the Anti-Alcoholic League being strong factors in the temperance cause. In 661 constituencies there are no licenses, while in only 295 are licenses in force.

Quebec is advancing along educational lines. There is yet much to accomplish, but the stupendous task is being attacked with a determination, a fortitude and a courage that must ultimately result in the intellectual awakening and uplift of the people.

In a moral and religious sense the province presents unique problems, which the Church is doing her utmost to solve. These problems present themselves in an acute sense in Montreal, and thus is reflected nation-building from the standpoint of the Church in Quebec. Far outnumbered by those of

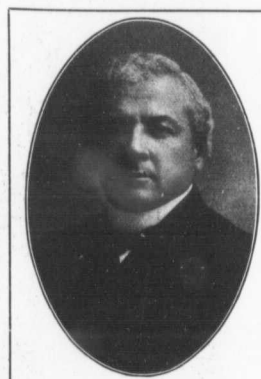
an alien faith or no faith at all, the Protestant Church in this city is confronted with the task of looking after her own, with all that the rapid growth and kaleidoscopic changes incident to a great and growing city involve, and has thrown upon her the additional burden of evangelizing and Canadianizing the thousands of foreigners from the four corners of the earth that in the shifting process drift as by instinct into the cities. Out of a population of 450,000 Montreal has to-day a foreign population of more than 60,000. They come to our shores with different political and religious ideals, and a lower standard of moral and social life, a menace to the city and a potential source of evil to the whole Dominion. It is a heavy task, but with a large faith in God the Church has accepted the work with an earnest determination that if Canada is ever to be truly great her citizens must be imbued with the ideals of Christian citizenship.

The Dominion Elections

Topics of Week beginning July 23rd.

Text-book—Canadian Civics, pages 64-78.
Scripture Lesson suggested for Reading—
Proverbs 24: 1-22.

The Nova Scotia Provincial elections are just over, and rumor says the Dominion elections are "on." It is profitable, therefore, to discuss and study together the principles and methods involved in "an appeal to the people." The greatest achievement of democracy is representative government, and the safeguard of representative government is in frequent appeals to the electorate. Usually when the issues are presented fairly to the citizen voter, the results are satisfactory and in the best immediate interests of the nation. Democracy,



HON. RICHARD MCBRIDE,
Premier of British Columbia.

British Columbia's Premier on Success

"Success is not to be obtained by the mere accumulation of wealth, but by putting forth the highest efforts of mind and muscle to produce the best results in whatever occupation we may be engaged. The office-boy who copies the letters, or the janitor who sweeps the floor, may as truly be as 'successful' as a great physician, or a world-renowned inventor. Success is not measured in dollars and cents, but by the accomplishment of good work."

R. MCBRIDE.

or the rule of the people, is on trial, and my own conviction is that, notwithstanding its weaknesses, it is more and more proving that "Vox populi vox Dei," the voice of the people is the voice of God. The leaders for this meeting should

New Brunswick's Premier to Epworth Leaguers

The future of Canada is wholly in the hands of her young Canadian people. The foundation of a great and a glorious nation has been surely laid. The union of Great Britain and her colonies is more securely cemented than ever before, and ere long the tie that binds different sections and different interests will be indissoluble. In the making of the greatest nation the world has ever known young Canadians will have an important part to play. The Epworth League can do much to encourage among its members those sentiments of loyalty, self-sacrifice and courage, which were the inspiration of the founders of this great Dominion.

HON. J. D. HAZEN,
Premier of New Brunswick.

not only familiarize themselves with Chapter VII. of the Text-book, but should also review the events leading up to responsible and representative government in Upper and Lower Canada. In our day we hold the franchise too cheaply. It is only when we know the details of the long struggle against the dimly compact on behalf of democracy that we can truly appreciate the great boon that our fathers won. An account of those stirring times may be found in any good Canadian history. If you cannot conveniently lay your hands on any other, use the Public school or High school history. The story will inspire you.

Let the speakers inform themselves from the Text-book of the meaning of Sessions of Parliament, Prorogation, Dissolution, Premature Dissolution, Official Nomination of Candidates, Nomination Papers, Method of Voting, Recount, Protest, and so on, and use as illustrations actual facts in Dominion and Provincial history. If I were leader I believe I should like to prepare a paper or an address on "Dominion Elections since Confederation." It would be interesting, and more, it would be instructive. Illustrations of the above terms, the issues involved at the several elections, the leaders and their characteristics, the results, the trend of party government in Canada with special reference to the phenomenon of governments retaining power for lengthy terms, the causes of the phenomenon, the laws governing redistribution and the franchise, the influence on the electorate of new situations such as the National Policy of '78, the Remedial Bill of '96, the Reciprocity Pact of 1911—all this would be ample material for an address or addresses that must interest your audience for at least thirty minutes. Do not be afraid of politics. It is not of necessity an unclean thing. It is a science, a noble science, and an art. By means of it we justify democracy. We remove inequalities, we conserve our resources, and maintain unimpaired the rights of the people. Through its principles we unify races and harmonize differences and develop nationhood. Do not be afraid of politics. Shun partisanship. Look with suspicion upon partyism. But as a Canadian citizen and patriot, and as a citizen of the larger kingdom, make politics a means to the realization of the highest ideals in all relationships of life.