

REFLECTIONS

By THE EDITOR

The Brock Centenary.

CANADA has had many heroes. Each crisis produces the necessary leader in every progressive race. Some of Canada's heroes have been native-born; some have been British-born; some have been French-born. That they have served Canada faithfully and well is the test—not the accident of birth.

Sir Isaac Brock, whose deeds and daring were celebrated on his centenary day last week, was a British soldier and administrator planted against his will at the then British outpost of York, Upper Canada. He was an ambitious soldier, and chafed somewhat because he was not with the British army in Europe where great campaigns were in progress. But little as he expected it, his great opportunity came. He seized it as became a true soldier and a Britisher, and won undying fame.

One hundred years afterwards, a crowd of Canadians gathered at the foot of his magnificent monument on Queenston Heights, on the shore of the Niagara River, to do honour to his memory and to seek inspiration from a recital of his deeds, achievement and honourable death. His heroic efforts to defend a little population of 320,000 people scattered along a 1,300-mile frontier against invading armies which outnumbered his five to one, is one of the bright pages in Canadian history. It is right that it should not be forgotten.

The British Parliament.

LAST week, the British Parliament re-assembled for the continuation of a most interesting session. The Home Rule Bill will be the chief item on the menu, and a merry struggle is in sight. The Unionists are determined to oppose it to the bitter end. The Liberals have a huge majority in the House, so long as the Labour party and the Irish Nationalists stand by them, and they propose to fight the Bill through as Gladstone did in 1886 and 1893. That they will be more successful than he was is hardly likely.

The Home Rule Bill may not even get through the House. The Unionists will delay it by every artifice known to modern parliamentarians. It may be talked out. The Labour party is restive, and certain smaller sections of the Liberal party are not any too keen on the Bill. Mr. Redmond thinks it will be carried by an overwhelming majority, but he may be wrong. If it does carry, it will be delayed by the House of Lords. It may be defeated, probably will be defeated there. After that there will be a general election.

It is too early to say what a general election will decide. At present it looks as if the results of 1886 and 1895 would be duplicated and the Home Rule defeated. Ulster's repugnance to the measure is shared by a large number of Scotch and English people who, while favouring local control, are not willing to establish an independent Irish Parliament with power to levy taxes and impose customs and excise duties.

Missions at Home and Abroad.

ON several occasions it has been pointed out on this page that our domestic missions were in need of greater attention and support. The argument has been advanced that if this could be done only by retrenching in the foreign mission field, then retrench. Foreign missions are less important than home missions at this stage of Canada's development.

Some of my friends have been displeased with this line of argument. They believe in foreign missions and that it is good for any country to engage in foreign mission work. They also argue that cutting out foreign missions would not increase the funds available for home missions. Some rather angry letters have reached the editor's table, and some hard knocks have appeared in the religious weeklies. But I am still unconvinced and unconverted.

Therefore it is with considerable satisfaction that I note that the General Board of Missions of the Methodist Church have come over to my side—the *Christian Guardian* has not been able to stay the logic of things-as-they-ought-to-be. The Board has decided to send no more missionaries to Japan and China just now. Good; this is a step in the right

direction. It fully justifies everything I have ever written on the subject.

Now as to the Home Mission field, the salaries are to be as usual: \$800 a year for married men in the East, and \$475 for single men; \$850 and \$500 in the West. Truly, it must demand the highest form of self-sacrifice when a young man agrees to go out to Western Canada and labour in that field at \$500 a year. It is not a stenographer's pay. There are women working in Western kitchens that earn more. It is small wonder that the men are hard to find and harder to keep.

The winners of the world's series of baseball matches in New York and Boston receive \$4,000 each, and the losers, \$2,800, as a bonus to their regular salaries. Besides, they are real heroes in the eyes of the public.

Why not go a step further in the logical route and cut out all contributions to the foreign mis-

Brock's Centenary



The Old Ferry Road and Monument Inn at Queenston—Brock's Monument on the Heights.

From an Etching by W. W. Alexander.

sion field for a decade or two? This would enable the churches to put more men in the domestic field and to give them more than starvation wages.

While the Lamp Holds Out to Burn.

THERE is still some hope that the leaders of the two Parties may come together and discuss Canada's future naval policy in a friendly way. The lamp is burning dimly, but it is burning. So long as the Borden policy is neither settled nor announced, those of us who are optimists will continue to hope that something of this kind may occur.

If such a conference were held in the proper spirit the decision would probably be that Canada should begin at once and build a Canadian navy of substantial size. I do not believe that such a conference could agree upon a cash contribution to the navy. It would be hard to convince all the present Conservative and Liberal leaders that Great Britain is in such a financial strait that she needs a contribution from any one of the Dominions. The Canadian navy which would meet with general approval would necessarily be much larger than that which Sir Wilfrid Laurier proposed to build two years ago. It would undoubtedly contain Dreadnoughts and it would not all be built and equipped in Canada. It would be a grander and greater Canadian fleet than any one in authority has hitherto proposed to create. Of it both Canada and Great Britain could speak with pride and satisfaction.

The really difficult point for such a conference

would be that relating to control and disposition. A Canadian fleet which is not at the disposal of the Imperial authorities when the need is urgent could hardly be called a part of the Imperial Navy. Nevertheless, that Imperial control must be modified by the necessity for safeguarding Canada's autonomy. Further, the question of control is inextricably mixed up with the question of Canada's share in the discussion of matters of Imperial defense and foreign policy. With what measure Canada metes to the Imperial authorities it must be meted to her again.

What Canada needs is a permanent policy both in naval matters and questions of Imperial consultation. The framing of such a permanent policy is the largest question, with the possible exception of reciprocity, which has come before the Canadian people in twenty-five years. Only by such a permanent policy can Canada be of increasing value and importance within the Empire. Such a policy should be framed by the leaders on both sides of politics and such a policy should receive the united support of all classes of Canadians. It is with these ideas in their minds that a considerable number of fairly prominent citizens have memorialized the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, urging them to make some attempt to secure unanimity on these great issues.

Universal Training.

AUSTRALIA adopted universal military training of its citizens. Every young man between sixteen and twenty-four years of age must spend a certain number of days each year in physical training. New Zealand has just decided to introduce the same system. Lord Roberts advocates it as the greatest need in Great Britain. Will Canada follow the example of the other British peoples?

Compulsory service or universal training has much to commend it. It takes the young man at a period when his time is least valuable and the physical result most effective. It not only benefits the individual in giving him discipline and in making him well "set up," but it ensures his ability to defend his country if ever called upon to do so. It does this with the least expense to the State and the least possible burden on the individual. In several ways, it seems vastly superior to our present volunteer militia system, which is both expensive and haphazard.

A Bilingual Disagreement.

THOSE who disapprove of Ulster's proposed resistance to a possible Home Rule Act must also disapprove of the action of those in charge of the bilingual schools in Eastern Ontario, who are refusing to obey the regulations of the Department of Education. These regulations may be unwise and unfair, but they are part of the law of the Province and must be obeyed until they are repealed. They are based on a resolution passed in the last session of the Legislature and unanimously approved by its members, including the French-Canadian members of that body. That resolution must remain in force and be obeyed, until such time as the Legislature takes a different view.

If the French-Canadians are opposed to that resolution, they should instruct their representatives in the Legislature to ask for its repeal and to withdraw the assent to it given at the last Session. To vote for it in the Legislature and oppose its effect in the constituencies is not in accordance with the spirit of our constitutional system. Even the representatives of recalcitrant Ulster are not making that error. We are all justified in fighting legislative wrong, but we must observe the usual rules.

Macdonald's Verdict.

THERE will be differences of opinion as to the victory of the Conservatives in Macdonald. The constituency contains a portion of the city of Winnipeg, and hence was not an ideal one for the advocates of reciprocity. Nevertheless so far as that bit of public policy was tested out, the verdict was adverse.

Perhaps it would be safe to say that the election of Mr. Morrison is a personal victory for the Hon. Robert Rogers and Sir Rodmond Roblin. These two Conservative leaders made it a personal fight in the constituency, and they should feel amply rewarded for their efforts. It will bring considerable consolation to the Conservative administration at Ottawa, which had been somewhat worried by the Liberal sweep in Saskatchewan. If the Conservatives can carry Richelieu, the next constituency to be opened, they will face Parliament with renewed confidence.