



Will some wise prophet arise to explain the significance of the British election results? Final returns assign the Liberals 275 seats in a House of 670; the Unionists or Conservatives, 272; the Irish Nationalists, 82, and the Labor Party 40, while one member is variously classed as Unionist and Independent. The Ministerialists count on negative, if not positive, support from the Labor and Nationalist sections. Just how dependable this may prove, remains to be seen. Meanwhile, we are left wondering what the popular vote really indicated. The primary and fundamental issue should have been the cause which precipitated the election, namely, the Lloyd-George Budget, and the action of the Lords in virtually rejecting it, though doing so in a diplomatic manner, as though simply referring it to the electors for popular pronouncement. But, having forced an appeal to the people, the Lords and the party to which most of them belong complicated the issue by introducing tariff-reform proposals as a substitute for the means and sources of taxation embodied in the budget. Thus, the election was fought, after the usual manner of elections, on a complex issue, complicated by a great variety of personal, political, social and temperamental factors. For instance, rural England, where the people cling conservatively to established institutions, where the influence of the Peers is strong, and where a considerable proportion of the people feel themselves helplessly dependent upon the aristocracy and a maintenance of the existing order of things, gave strong support to Unionist candidates. Intimidation and plural voting were other handicaps of the Ministerialist cause, while the Government's alliance with the radical Nationalist and Labor parties undoubtedly reacted to its disadvantage in many parts of England. About all we are sure of is that Ireland wants Home Rule (though as to what measure of it, the Irish party itself is not unanimous); the great industrial districts are opposed to tariff reform, especially the taxation of food-stuffs; Scotland probably desires free trade and Reform of the House of Lords, while Wales is presumably proud of Lloyd-George, enthusiastic for the Budget, and in favor of disestablishment of the church in Wales. As to what proportion of people throughout the United Kingdom favor the Budget, what proportion favor reform or limitation of the power of the House of Lords, and how strong is the sentiment for tariff reform, we are left each to his own guess. The most positive moral of the outcome is the desirability of a system of initiative and referendum by which the sentiment for or against any particular measure enacted or proposed may be separately sounded, without the complication of the personal factor, or a school of red herrings drawn across the trail.

The enormous strides in the foreign trade of Great Britain and Ireland during the last half century are evident from the following figures: In 1854 the imports of the United Kingdom amounted to £152,000,000, the exports to £97,000,000. Last year, according to recent statistics, the imports totalled £624,000,000, and the exports £378,000,000.

The Board of Agriculture for Ireland is about to establish a School of Forestry at Augrane, Ballygar.

Co. Galway; Augrane Castle, with 300 acres of land, having been recently handed over to the Board by an official of the Estates Commissioners.

Eugene Antoniadi, who has been making a study of the planet Mars with the telescope at Meudon, the most powerful in the Old World, disputes the observations of Schiaparelli, endorsed by Prof. Lowell, that there are artificial canals on the planet. He states that there is no trace of geometrical structure, and that the appearance is perfectly natural, comparable to that of the moon.

Governor Hadley, of the State of Missouri, is a firm believer in life on the farm, both as the ideal existence, and as a partial solution of the high cost of living problem, and recently he demonstrated his sincerity by buying a 120-acre farm, to which he will move his family. He says he will raise stock and poultry, and devote his spare time to scientific farming, as taught by the Agricultural College at Columbia.

Those who are interested in the question of "A More Beautiful Canada," will be pleased to hear that no fewer than 270 municipalities, including the thickly-populated districts of Ottawa and Toronto, have petitioned the Legislature of Ontario to frame the new assessment law so that municipal councils may, if they think it desirable, levy a lighter rate of taxation on improvement values than on land values. If the petition is granted, another relic of the dark ages will have been thrown into the limbo of the things that have been. So far, there has been little encouragement for the land-owner to plant out trees and shrubs, make his lawns beautiful, and put up fences that would be a credit to the place. If he did so, he only had to pay higher taxes, on the ground that "his property was worth more." As a rule, however, the man who beautifies his home is not the one who is most anxious to sell it. One puts down "roots," as it were, with the roots of shrubs and trees, and the tendrils of one's heart cling all the closer to the old home as the tendrils of the vines climb higher and higher. These things of beauty are they which help, as strongly as things inanimate can help, to make the difference between a stopping-place and a home. They certainly bring in no money, and they quite as certainly entail for the owner a great deal of expense and care. Their value is solely an aesthetic value. Why, then, should the man who chooses to indulge a bit of refined taste, be obliged to pay extra for it? Good speed to the petition, and all other efforts to do away with ugliness and promote beauty and refinement.

Macdonald College Principalship.

Macdonald College has reached a critical stage. Planned on a broad scale, it embodies a unique but thoroughly modern concept in education. It is equipped to serve Quebec and Eastern Ontario, as the Ontario Agricultural College and Macdonald Institute serve Central and Western Ontario, training not only agricultural

students, but also school teachers, that they may go forth equipped to commence in the rural public schools the phases of education which culminate logically in the agricultural college and domestic science classrooms. Ideally situated, splendidly equipped, and manned with an efficient faculty, the institution is fraught with possibilities of incalculable service to Canadian agriculture.

Dr. Robertson's departure has left the principalship vacant. If the College is to achieve its purpose, that position must be filled by a strong man. And he must be not only a man of intellectual power and attainments, moral character and social qualifications. He must be a leader. Still further, he must be a thorough agriculturist, a man whose sympathies and interests are heartily with the farm, who has broad knowledge of agriculture and a commanding position among agricultural authorities. Only such a principal can command the enthusiastic loyalty of the staff, giving impulse, direction and character to the work. The history of agricultural colleges in America is studded with examples of those whose identity has been submerged in the large academic institutions with which they have been affiliated, thanks, in part, at least, to presidents who were weak, or whose training and sympathies were too purely academic. The Board of Governors of McGill University must not choose such a man. The principal they select must be a big man, a leader and, last, but not least, an agricultural man in the broad and thorough sense of the term.

THESE WAILS COME NOT FROM THE FARMERS.

"Instead of boycotting beef, why don't you accustom yourself to eating the cheaper cuts?"

"There are no cheaper cuts. There are only the expensive, the more expensive, and the unattainable."—[Chicago Tribune.]

Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was white, 'tis true,
She sold it to the butchers,
They did some fleecing, too.
—[Philadelphia Evening Telegraph.]

Our English Letter.

IV.

HERE AND THERE.

I think I mentioned in my last letter how often the name of Canada appeared in the columns of the English press, not only with direct reference to the political issues of the day, but under such headlines as "The Call of the West," "Ready-made Farms," "Eager Rush to Learn of New Canadian Schemes," "Why Go Out to Canada?" etc. The statement was made that, by the close of 1909, 70,000 settlers would have migrated from the United States into Western Canada, bringing with them an average of £200 per settler, adding, that since this century opened, well over three hundred thousand men from the United States have carried their brains, capital and working knowledge of similar conditions into Canada. The writer adds: "There is no need for Great Britain to supply any answer to Chicago's rather anxious question, 'Why go to Canada?'" A well-known man in the United States has answered it already by the assertion that Canada

has made more progress during this century than any other country in the world."

A few days ago, at the Royal Colonial Institute, a stirring address was given upon the subject of the developments of the Northwest, and, as a means thereto, the scheme for providing ready-made farms for emigrants to Canada, which originated with Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, the President of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, was propounded, and created much interest.

This scheme, it appears, has already met with a remarkable response, and the Land Department of the C. P. R. at Charing Cross was yesterday besieged with applicants. Many of these, indeed the majority, had capital, some more, some less. Some were young farmers, and the better class of farm servants; some were men engaged in London in various callings, but who had originally come from the country, and preferred country to city life; but inquiries came, also, from university men, lawyers, and railway guards, all alike anxious for particulars, without venturing an opinion on the feasibility of the proposed scheme. That it should be considered at all, surely is a proof of the recognition of the great fact of Canada's wonderful progress, and of the opportunities she offers to the intending settler—opportunities, however, which should surely be afforded, first of all, to immigrants hailing from the Motherland, rather than to aliens in whom loyalty to their adopted country may be grafted, but to whom it is not inherent. There seems every likelihood that not only the existing means of transit, but also the new ships which, report says, will supplement them, will be thronged by men, women and children, pressing forward to the new land of hope and achievement.

The problem of the unemployed seems as far off from solution as ever; indeed, farther off, because their ranks are ever growing. This week sees the removal from the London streets of fifty more of the old horse-drawn omnibuses, owing to the amalgamation of the London General Omnibus Company with the Vanguard and Motor Road-car Companies. This at one blow throws out of employment fifty drivers, fifty conductors, and hostlers, stablemen and others to the extent of at least one hundred more. Many of these men had given over thirty years of faithful service. "Most of us," they plead, "have built up decent little homes. We have brought our wages back regularly to our wives and children, and some of us have had to support an old father and mother, too. And now we are, so to speak, upon the kerb." Surely, in such a case as this, special efforts will be made to save them from destitution, from the despair which drives so many human wrecks into that vast army of outcasts who night after night take possession of one of the most magnificent thoroughfares of the metropolis, the Thames Embankment, awaiting their chance for the food and shelter which is extended to as many as their funds permit, by such charitable organizations as the Church Army, the Salvation Army, etc. How to sort out of this "solid phalanx of misery" the deserving, whose cry is "Give us work," from the incorrigible idlers who would not work if it were given to them, is a matter of no small difficulty to the noble men and women who give of their time and their substance in the cause of