



REFLECTIONS

IIII BY STAFF WRITERS IIII

**T**HE development of New Quebec and New Ontario is being duplicated on the south shore of Nova Scotia. Only last year a railway to serve this district was opened and for the first time the people who live in that part of the province had the privilege of riding on a railway train. The coming of the iron horse has awakened the sleeping energies of the people and now there is talk of great development. The town of Liverpool, almost unknown except to the children who learn lists of names in the schools, expects to become a centre of industry, as do Lunenburg and several smaller towns. Pulp and paper mills at Milton are worthy of note as indicating one line along which industry will proceed. The expected tourist trade is likely to be another distinguishing feature, and the summer hotel will soon be a common ornament of the landscape. This apple-blossom sea-shore should attract many weary, nerve-racked men and women from the crowded cities of the Atlantic coast.

**N**OTWITHSTANDING the Monroe Doctrine, the people of this continent are intimately concerned with the relations of the European powers. The New World may not have been called into existence to redress the balance of the old, but the influence of the United States and of Canada (in a lesser degree) upon the affairs of the older world is growing with each decade. For both these reasons, our daily interest in the international kaleidoscope must be ever increasing.

This past week has been especially striking. While Canada was entertaining a Japanese Prince and strengthening the growing bonds of friendship with the inscrutable East, the Second Peace Conference was proceeding at the Hague. In this Canada is not directly represented, but she can take some interest in the work and attitude of Sir Edward Fry and his colleagues, who on this occasion will represent a world-wide Empire. Again, there follows the announcement that France, Britain and Spain have signed an "accord" with regard to the Mediterranean. The contracting nations mutually guarantee their respective possessions and freedom of communication. Germany is not included, which indicates that Emperor William is still filled with ambitions inimical to the world's peace. The International Red Cross Society has been meeting in London, and still further extending those broad-based ideas of which the brotherhood of man is the most general.

The only jarring note of the moment is the abrupt dissolution of the second Duma by His Imperial Majesty, Czar Nicholas. In America, the word Czar is synonymous with autocratic irresponsibility, and this additional evidence of his abruptness will not lessen the impression conveyed by this particular word. It is quite possible that the revolutionary element in the Duma were planning unwise, impolitic and dangerous measures; it is even possible that these representatives planned a coup d'etat which would have startled and shocked the civilised world. If so, there is some measure of justification for the Czar's sudden move. Whatever the circumstances, we are vividly reminded that Russia has not yet learned the secret of constitutional government.

Speaking generally, the accord of Europe seems to be

more nearly perfect than at any time during the past century. Disarmament has not begun but it is in the air.

**S**OME Conservative members of Parliament are speaking of the "bonused" press, the "bribed" press, the "muzzled" press, meaning thereby the Liberal newspapers which have been receiving job printing and advertising from the Liberal government at Ottawa. These men are claiming that it is only job printing and advertising patronage which keeps these Liberal papers loyal to the Ottawa government, and that if it were not for the loaves and the fishes these papers would not support the "reign of debauchery" which is the pleasant and dignified phrase used to describe the present exercise of authority at the capital.

Does it ever occur to these Conservative orators that previous to 1896 the Conservative papers were in the position in which the Liberal newspapers now find themselves? If the Liberal press is muzzled by subsidies, the Conservative press was muzzled in a similar manner for eighteen years.

Aside from the political phase of this discussion, which, to a great extent we are debarred from treating, there is an underlying evil here which requires elimination. It is unfair, unwise and improper for any government to put its advertising only in party papers. There is no doubt that on both sides of politics, advertising of this kind is handed out for political purposes. It is craft pure and simple. All classes of publications share in this graft. The publisher of a country weekly will accept money for an advertisement run in his paper calling for tenders for public works a thousand miles away, advertising which cannot possibly do the government any service. The daily papers are as bad in spirit, though they have more justification in many cases. The evil applies to both opposition and government press and to even religious and class papers.

The remedy is plainly that every government in Canada should put its advertising on a purely non-political basis and have it distributed by an expert. It is said that to a considerable extent one of the provincial governments has done this, but the writer cannot speak with certainty. This is a reform which, like a non-partisan civil service, must come as the country develops.

**C**ANADIANS will learn with pleasure that a movement is on foot in Vancouver, headed by the Canadian Club of that city, to erect a monument or statue to the memory of Captain Vancouver, which shall be, in every way, worthy of the record of that illustrious and picturesque British naval officer. Though the Canadian Club now has the matter in hand, it is said that credit is due for the suggestion to Mr. L. D. Young, managing director of "The Vancouver World," who voiced the proposition more than a year ago.

Exploits such as those achieved by Captain Vancouver are always seen in better proportion with the lapse of time, and it is not surprising that Vancouverites have now a clearer idea of what Vancouver's discoveries have meant for the Empire in general and for British Columbia in particular.

The suggestion is made that the statue be unveiled on