

REFLECTIONS

By THE EDITOR

Non-Partizan Naval Policy.

THOSE who have undertaken to advocate a non-partizan naval policy for Canada have a difficult task ahead of them. But even if they do not succeed immediately, the work is worth while. Ultimately Canada must have a fleet of her own, handled by men and officers of her own, and supplemented by drydocks and shipyards of her own. There may or there may not be emergency contributions of Dreadnoughts, but there can be only one permanent policy.

On that one policy all the people of Canada are practically in unison. The only question in dispute is how shall we proceed to put this policy in force. The Liberals claim the glory of first initiating a plan for a domestic fleet. And they are quite justified. The Tories would like to get some of the credit, because they should have been the authors of this policy. Hence the jockeying for party advantage and glory.

After all this jockeying does not signify. Let it go on. It pleases the politicians to think that they are smarter than the public. Let them strut their little struts to the empty plaudits of the partizan press. The real question, the development of a Canadian fleet which will be worthy of Canada and the Empire, is the work of the people. Governments may come and governments may go, but the nation is the same yesterday, to-day, and forever. Therefore let those in favour of a non-partizan naval policy go on with their work in educating the public to a sense of their duties and responsibilities in this matter. When the public makes up its mind, the politicians will be marathoning to get into line.

Two Kinds of Home Rule.

MANY Canadians who are in favour of Home Rule for Ireland are opposed to Mr. Asquith's Home Rule Bill. Few Canadians are in favour of granting to Ireland more powers than are granted to a Canadian province under the British North America Act. No one would dream of allowing the Province of Quebec to add ten per cent. to the customs tariff imposed by the Dominion Parliament. Yet Mr. Asquith makes this and other equally foolish proposals. To allow New York State or Louisiana such privileges and divided sovereignty, as Mr. Asquith's Bill suggests for Ireland, would be laughed at in the United States. On this continent we approve local control in local matters, but we reserve all national functions for the national legislature.

Any one interested in this phase of the question will find in "An Irish Evolution," by Watson Griffin, publicity commissioner for Brandon, a clear presentation of the case. Mr. Griffin believes in Home Rule for Ireland, but not the kind of Home Rule which Mr. Asquith proposes.

In Westminster Abbey.

NO man better deserved to rest in Westminster Abbey than the late General Booth. His ways may not have been our way, but he was a British hero. He did his duty as he saw it. He reflected glory upon Great Britain, through the Salvation Army organization in nearly every country in the world. As a moral and social reformer he has left his impress upon the world's advancing civilization. He came nearer to founding a universal religion than any man of the Christian era. He taught us that theology is less important than practical sympathy with the sinner, whether he be in affluent circumstances or whether he be homeless and friendless.

I went to hear him the last time he was in Toronto. The meeting was in Massey Hall, but most of the audience were members of the Army. I heard him also at the Canadian Club meeting. He was a simple man, with faults like other men, with physical weaknesses which he did not endeavour to conceal, but with a fund of human sympathy and honest conviction which submerged all other qualities. He claimed no perfection, no divine qualities, but simply a divinity of purpose based upon that sympathy and that conviction.

The Salvation Army in Canada has gone into the prairie town, the mining camp, the lumber camp and the fishing village. It has gone ahead of the railway. It was in Edmonton just after the Klon-

dike rush and six years before the railway. The big drum had been heard from the 49th parallel to the farthest north white settlement in Canada. It was in Dawson City in 1908. The extension of the Army's work in Canada has been quite as remarkable in its way as the doings of our great explorers, the rise of the great fur companies, and the building of railways in remote places.

St. Lawrence Insurance Rates.

A FEW days ago, in England, Mrs. Hazen, wife of the Minister of Marine, christened the floating dry dock now being built there for use in the St. Lawrence River. It is a huge affair capable of docking a vessel of 25,000 tons displacement. It will be towed across the ocean and placed in commission shortly.

There is no dry dock on the St. Lawrence capable of accommodating the big ocean liners that thread their way up to Quebec and Montreal. When there is an accident temporary repairs are made, and the vessel taken to Halifax or England. This is inconvenient and expensive.

But more important still, the absence of a big dry dock has enabled the insurance companies to keep their rates at 65 cents to \$1.10 per 100 as compared with 12 to 15 cents on vessels entering New York. This is a handicap which the St. Lawrence cannot stand. If the present insurance companies will not lower the rate when the dock arrives, it will be necessary to create a Canadian Lloyds to take care of this business.

Great progress has been made with the St. Lawrence route. The channel has been widened and deepened, all sorts of gas buoys, flash lights and signal stations have been installed until the route is now fully modernized. Ships of 15,000 tons can now go safely where only vessels of 5,000 tons could go in 1900. The new dry dock and four new elevators at Montreal should ensure nearly all Canadian grain going via Montreal during the season of navigation. When the Welland is deepened, it should all go that way. But in the meantime this question of insurance must be settled and it is the duty of the Dominion Government to act promptly and effectively.

The Surplus Woman.

GRAT BRITAIN has too many women; Canada has too few. How to adjust these conditions is a matter for earnest consideration by the two governments.

Revised census figures show that in England and Wales alone, the female population exceeds the male population by 1,179,276. There are more male children born than female, but the males are harder to raise. Then men are more subject to mortality in industrial pursuits than women. Again, the male emigrates more easily than the female. Hence the net result in England is more females than males and a big suffragette agitation.

Canada could at the present time find places for half these surplus women. Our factories need more women; our homes need more domestic servants; and the prairie homes of the West are sadly wanting in wives. We could give half a million women good homes and high wages, if they would only come. They probably would come if they did not feel that there are many "hardships" in this new country. To let them know the truth is the duty of our Immigration Department. Superintendent Scott is doing something along this line now, but if he were not a confirmed bachelor himself perhaps he would do more. I don't know about Mr. J. Obed Smith, in London, but perhaps he might also increase his activities along this line.

Doubts About "The Emergency."

GRAVE doubts are being cast by certain British publicists and journalists as to the existence of a naval "emergency." The editor of the *Economist*, an acknowledged authority, points out that a similar panic was created in 1909 by Mr. McKenna. He declared that Germany would have 20 Dreadnoughts in 1912. As a matter of fact, Germany will not have that many Dreadnoughts until some time next year.

The editor of the *Economist* thinks Mr. Churchill's

scare has about as much real foundation. He points out that Mr. Churchill declared in his first naval speech in the House that in 1914 Germany would have 29 big ships against Great Britain's 33. Many people accepted this statement and it has since been widely used. But three days later, Mr. Churchill gave revised figures which showed that the real proportion would be 29 to 41. If these revised figures are true, and the *Economist* accepts them, then why this scare? Surely a margin of 12 Dreadnoughts and 28 battleships is sufficient for the next two years!

The *Economist* also points out that an official return of the Admiralty issued in June gives Great Britain 55 battleships, of 868,000 tons, as against Germany's 33 battleships, of 482,000! Not much sign of an emergency in those figures.

In 1909, Mr. McKenna's war-scare was much criticized by Mr. Churchill. He was an anti-naval-expansionist at that time, and actually wrote a book against it. Now, on equally unreliable figures, he is attempting to answer his own arguments. Looks ridiculous, doesn't it?

I shall not go so far as to say that there is no emergency, but I confess that up to date I am not convinced that it exists. If Great Britain is determined on peace, there is plenty of time to call an international conference on the advisability of reducing armaments. If such a conference were called and were barren of results, then Canada might seriously consider that her aid was necessary.

In the meantime, let us bear in mind the *Economist's* conclusion: "We see no reason why wealthy tax-payers should allow themselves to be fleeced for the sake of an unnecessary and provocative programme of ship-building."

Inconsistency Rampant.

NO more inconsistent man ever sought high public office than Theodore Roosevelt, bull-mooser, and presidential candidate of the Progressive Party. Apparently he is willing to enroll anyone under his banner if he will vote "Teddy," and to play any card which will bring him votes. He was once a friend of Lodge and Penrose—two men who are entirely opposed to the principles which Roosevelt is supposed to represent. He would be their friends still, were they of any value to him.

Roosevelt reminds one of the type of political vote-getter which one finds in the councils of Canada's larger cities. They will consort with any class if it will bring them votes. They will espouse any movement if it means more favourable ballots. They will join any society, if it will bring them more strength at the polls. They have no principles, no moral convictions, no ambitions other than to be successful at the polls. Morning, noon and night, day in and day out, week after week, they seek votes. Such is Roosevelt on a larger and more dignified scale.

Roosevelt advocates the principles in which most of us believe; but Roosevelt advocating these for their own sake and Roosevelt advocating them for the sake of votes, are two different men. The one Roosevelt we would respect; the other Roosevelt we detest and despise. He talks much of "higher sincerity of purpose," and his constant use of the phrase indicates his ignorance of its meaning.

Roosevelt and Harriman.

THERE has been much discussion as to whether Roosevelt, while denouncing the money-power, accepted campaign funds from the late Mr. Harriman, multi-millionaire railway owner. The *New York Evening Post*, in a recent editorial, summarizes anew the facts of the case, as follows:

"Mr. Harriman wrote to Sidney Webster, January 2, 1906, that the President had sent for him to talk over the campaign, and that he had undertaken, at Mr. Roosevelt's request, and on condition that Senator Depew be made Ambassador to France so as to make way for Frank Black, to collect a fund for the National Committee. Now comes Odell to bear witness that he had talked the matter over with Harriman, both before and after that gentleman's visit to the White House, and that he personally knew of the money being raised and turned over to Treasurer Bliss. The Colonel would dismiss all this as 'hearsay evidence,' but he must see, as everybody else does, how strikingly confirmatory it is of the Harriman letter to Webster. He may go on reiterating that he 'never, directly or indirectly, asked Mr. Harriman to raise a dollar,' but even he must be aware that the public has made up its mind on that subject with a firmness that no denials from him can shake."