

THE NATION'S PROGRESS

THE UNIVERSITY COMMISSION

IT has become increasingly evident for some years past that a reorganization of the Provincial University was necessary to maintain its proud position among the great educational institutions of the Continent. The Ontario Government has appointed a Royal Commission to investigate and report on all matters connected with the raising of revenues, the administration of the same, together with the University property, the arrangement of the curriculum, the staff appointments, equipment, etc. The administrative machinery has been complicated and unwieldy; the Executive has been at times weak and at times bewildered; the Alumni have had hardly any voice in University matters, and, generally, University affairs had got into such a state that several unpleasant scandals have resulted. To clear the air, to put the University on a firm footing, and to simplify the administration, is the object of the Government and the Commission. The composition of the Commission, should, we think, meet with general approval. The name of Mr. Goldwin Smith is there by right. He knows from first-hand acquaintance both the English and the American type of university organization. Two commissioners from among the younger graduates, Canon H. J. Cody, D.D., and Rev. D. Bruce Macdonald, M.A., will represent the dominant thought and opinion of Toronto University men, and will be open to impression from other university centres. Two business men of force and outlook, like Mr. B. E. Walker and Mr. J. W. Flavelle, will be invaluable. These, together with Chancellor Sir William Meredith, and Mr. A. H. U. Colquhoun, B.A., a graduate of McGill University, make up a commission at once as strong and as representative as could well be chosen. We may look for sound, intelligent, tangible work, from such a body. If the report should be radical no harm will be done.

LAKE ERIE FISHERIES

CANNONADING on Lake Erie! No, it is not war, only the *Vigilant* after American poachers fishing in Canadian waters. It seems that, through lax and destructive methods, the fishermen from Lake Erie ports, on the American side, have fished out or destroyed their own fisheries. For some years they have been persistently poaching in Canadian waters. Captain Dunn of the *Vigilant* chased and shelled one poacher recently, and shot the craft full of holes. It is a pleasure to record the fact that the American authorities have for once taken a common-sense and neighborly view, and are co-operating with the Canadian officials to put a stop to such illegal fishing. We are glad that Captain Dunn was careful only to wing the American craft, as the loss of a single life in such a matter would be deplorable, but it could not be guaranteed that such would always be the case. The Canadian Lake fisheries are too valuable to allow our greedy cousins to exploit them, especially as their companies now control the bulk of our output of fresh water fish. The cordial co-operation of the American authorities with our Canadian authorities should soon put a stop to this petty theft.

A CANADIAN POLICY

AT a convention of certain American manufacturers recently held in Toronto, some good sensible talk

was indulged in by Canadian speakers, which we heartily endorse. The visitors were made to feel that the occasion was entirely a social one, and that they were more than welcome on Canadian soil. At the same time there was bound to be a little reference in the speeches to fiscal conditions, and it was made plain by the Canadian speakers that this country is going to work out its own destiny, and that reciprocity is far off. Mr. W. K. George and Mr. B. E. Walker dwelt on this particularly. "We are adopting the sincerest form of flattery," said Mr. George, "in trying to develop our country by building up our industries, and utilizing the great wealth of natural resources with which we have been blessed. We are a self-reliant people, proud of our country, and full of enthusiasm for it, determined to achieve its proper destiny. May I say, in all kindness, that until we have achieved a destiny kindred to your own, discussions on reciprocity are labor lost."

"You must get ideas of political relations out of your head," declared Mr. Walker. "I do not wish you to gather that we are not to remain here, a separate country, working out our own destiny. None of you will ever live to see any change in our political allegiance. Take that for granted; realize that there is another nation on this continent that will regard you as friends, but keep its own self-respect, that will trade with you, but not in the old jug-handled way. Then we will grow in amity and friendship, and exchange these delightful reciprocities which take place so often. If you once get political relations out of your mind, our commercial and social relations will quickly widen and strengthen."

THE "SOO" INDUSTRIES

MOST people are familiar with the failure and the bankruptcy of the great industries at Sault Ste. Marie about a year or more ago. The then Ontario Government came to the rescue by guaranteeing the bonds, appointing, of course, Government representatives on the Board, and assisting in untangling the fearful legal muddle into which the former management had contrived to place the company. The works were shut down, the workmen were gone, and a general air of desolation reigned. Thanks to Messrs. C. D. Warren and N. W. Rowell, the whole Company, legal complications and all, were re-organized. The works are running at full capacity. They are to-day turning out enough steel to equip 57 miles of railway. As high as 618 tons of rails have been turned out in a day. The mills are turning out 100 tons of wood pulp a day. The prospects are for a paper mill at the "Soo" within a short time. The recent inspection of the plant is thus described by Mr. Warren: "The whole Board of Directors went with me through the entire works. To a man they expressed themselves as perfectly satisfied with the conditions. Yes, there is no doubt that the new, practical, dividend-paying era of the Soo is here. We are slowly pushing up the Algoma Central. We have 25 miles yet to reach the C.P.R.; after that 100 miles to the Grand Trunk Pacific. Then to Hudson's Bay will be 200 miles further. By that time there will be a new chapter to write in the book of New Ontario." It is a fine achievement to have saved for the Province an immense industry, practically a whole town, not long ago threatened with complete disaster.