

## Prominent Topics.

**Nicaraguan Protectorate.** The State Department at Washington is being urged to establish a protectorate over Nicaragua as was done in Cuba and Santo Domingo. Protectorate is a beautiful word, it has a fatherly sound about it, not a bit like "annexation," but in the long run it is apt to come to about the same thing. Yet there are Canadians who while they would regard the annexation of Canada to the United States as the worst of political fates, are willing to depend upon the United States for the protection of the Dominion! Once give our esteemed neighbours the right to protect us against foreign foes and they will assume the responsibility of protecting us against each other. If we show no signs of needing protection against each other, a few walking delegates could stir enough trouble in Canada in a week, to render an invasion necessary. Uncle Sam once in possession might be trusted to leave—when John Bull gets out of Egypt. All the same, there is much to be said in favour of a Nicaraguan protectorate.

Sir Lomer Gouin was the guest of "Here We Are!" honour of the Canadian Club of Toronto on Wednesday, and took the opportunity to make a speech ringing with loyalty to his native province, to Canada, to the Empire and to the King. His cordial expressions of good-will to the sister provinces were most cordially received, Canada is all the better and all the stronger for such meetings. Discussing the naval question, Sir Lomer said:

"We feel that Canada is a growing nation, a part of the greatest Empire that has ever been. She must bear her burden. Whatever is decided, we citizens of Quebec will bear our part of it. The descendants of Champlain and Jacques Cartier have lost none of their loyalty and enthusiasm. We showed Canada Quebec's loyalty and sentiment in the blood of those lost in the lands of the Dark Continent. As you are in Toronto, so we in Quebec, here we are."

That is the attitude that will make Canada one of the greatest nations of the world.

**Insurance Institute Debate.** On Saturday evening, the Insurance Institute of Montreal held an interesting debate in the Y. M. C. A. Hall, Dominion Square, on the following resolution:

"Resolved that Canada should make a direct cash contribution to the Imperial Navy, in preference to establishing a Canadian auxiliary fleet, for the purpose of assisting to assure Great Britain's absolute supremacy of the seas."

The president, Mr. G. H. Allen was in the chair, and the gentlemen selected to debate the question were: Messrs. Henry Timmis, Thomas J. Parkes and R. L. Calder, who supported the affirmative

side of the question, and Messrs. B. Hal Brown, W. H. Clark-Kennedy and B. W. N. Grigg who opposed the making of any cash contribution and favoured the establishment of a Canadian Navy. The judges chosen to decide the relative merits of the arguments were Messrs. David Burke, G. F. C. Smith, G. E. Moberly, R. Wilson-Smith and C. J. Alloway.

The gentlemen who argued on the negative side, like the coloured troops in the American war "fought nobly," but lost the day. They were allowed, however, to march out with the honours of war. The judges decided unanimously in favour of the affirmative, and the judgment was confirmed by the audience.

**Notre Dame de Grace.** The Annexation Committee of the Montreal City Council has reported in favour of the annexation of Notre Dame de Grace upon the terms asked for by that municipality; the principal condition being that the city shall expend a million dollars on public works in the new ward within three years. The proviso was hardly necessary because in the ordinary course of events, the city will have to spend at least \$333,000 a year for the next three years in that rapidly developing suburb. The town has a debt of only \$700,000, against a valuation of \$7,000,000 and the drainage system of Mount Royal Ward will have to pass through the municipality, whether annexed or not.

**New York Sugar Frauds.** Messrs. Arbuckle Bros., sugar refiners, have, as a result of the prying curiosity of the United States Government voluntarily paid \$695,573 on account of shortage in duties paid to the United States Customs. Assistant Attorney General Stinson says: "This payment has been accepted by the secretary of the treasury in full payment of all civil claims against the Arbuckle Brothers. This settlement in no wise affects the criminal prosecution of any individuals who may be shown to be responsible for the commission of frauds in respect to any of these matters, and the investigation and prosecution of any such persons will be vigorously pushed."

**British and German Naval Officers.** It is nice to be assured on the authority of Prince Henry, of Prussia, that there is the most friendly feeling between German and British naval officers, and that Germany has no intention of attacking England. We have no hesitation in accepting the first part of the statement. Both navies are officered by gentlemen capable of appreciating each others' qualities. But if the latter part of the statement happened to be incorrect, personal friendships would not prevent German and English naval officers from killing each other gently, but firmly. On the whole it is better to keep our powder dry.