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Topics of the Day

BEFORE the Canadian Club of St. John, Dr. Parkin endorsed Lord Strathcona's statement that before the end of the century, Canada will have eighty million people. These honourable gentlemen are entirely too optimistic. Such a growth is not impossible, but it would mean an intermixing of races which would submerge the present people and their descendants. Perhaps Lord Strathcona would not mind cutting his estimate in two to oblige those of us who desire to see the future Canadian nation maintain all that is best in the Canadian people of to-day.

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When the New Brunswick Legislature met on Wednesday of last week, the events were of unusual interest. At noon Premier Pugsley and his four colleagues were sworn in before the new Lieutenant-Governor. The House met at three o'clock and the Hon. Mr. Robinson announced his resignation as speaker. With due formality, Mr. C. J. Osman was elected to succeed him and the House took a recess. At four o'clock, Governor Tweedie entered and the usual ceremony after the election of a speaker was performed. Mr. Robinson, the late speaker, became a member of the cabinet shortly afterwards. It was a wonderful series of kaleidoscopic changes in the various administrative offices.

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From musical and dramatic development, His Excellency the Governor-General has turned public attention to cadet rifle-shooting. He is giving a trophy for cadet corps competition on much the same lines—the most efficient provincial units to meet in a Dominion competition. In encouraging cadet rifle shooting, Lord Grey is following Lord Roberts who has done much to develop this branch of a citizen's education.

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An associated press despatch emanating from Toronto says that in "value of mineral productions" Ontario is first among the provinces of the Dominion. This is not true, if the estimates published by the British Columbia Government are correct. In 1905, the value of the minerals produced in the Rocky Mountain province was twenty-two millions of dollars, while in Ontario it was a little less than eighteen millions. Last year, British Columbia produced twenty-six million dollars worth of minerals as against Ontario's twenty-two. Ontario is doing well, but British Columbia with a per capita production of \$132 a head, is doing even better. In copper alone, the increase last year was almost fifty per cent. This progress has been made without any boom and without the aimless speculation which usually accompanies booms, and the trade would thus seem to be even healthier than in Ontario.

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The nationalisation of the larger ocean ports is one of the great questions before the Canadian people. There must be a national port in British Columbia, or perhaps two or even three. Montreal has been made a national port and Quebec will require more attention. These two

will serve the St. Lawrence trade. Then there must be one or two winter ports in the Maritime Provinces. The dredging of the various harbours, the building of the necessary docks and the providing of freight sheds, elevators and transshipping facilities such as steam cranes, will require vast expenditures. During the next ten years this little item in Canada's development will cost fifty millions of dollars. If the trade of this country is to come and go only through Canadian ports there must be facilities for the greatest vessels afloat. Harbours do not grow, they are made, and the making is a tremendously expensive business. Canada's growing pains are quite noticeable.

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A rather curious coincidence comes to light. At the first meeting of the Canadian Club of Victoria, Chief Justice Hunter advocated a provincial university to keep the young men of that province from going to foreign universities. At the first meeting of the Canadian Club of St. John, Dr. Parkin advocated a central Maritime university for much the same reason.

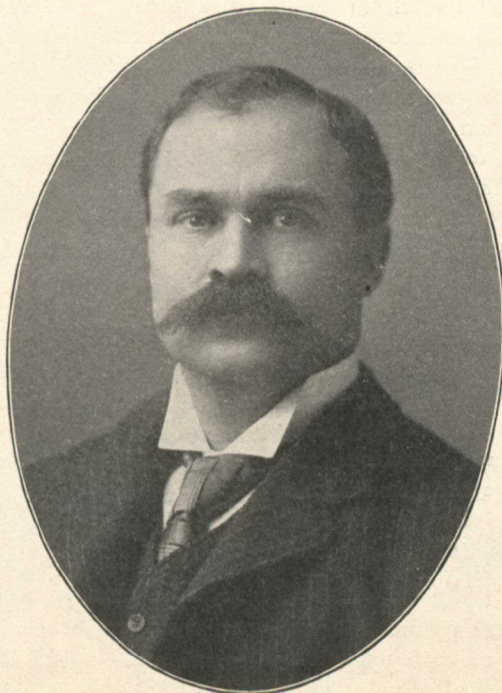
It would seem as if all the great questions of the day are now being discussed before Canadian Clubs. The editor of a national weekly, such as this, must keep closely in touch with these organisations if he desires to record from week to week the various phases of national thought. Canadian Clubs are likely to be a political and social factor of tremendous power and influence.

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"The greatest annual fair in the world" is the phrase which all the enthusiastic citizens apply to the Industrial Exhibition of Toronto. In many respects the statement is correct. This Exhibition has acquired its prominence and its excellence mainly because of the quality of the men who have composed the Board and filled the Executive offices. These men have performed valuable but purely voluntary service. The presidency has come to be one of the high honours of the city. At the recent annual meeting it was bestowed upon Mr. W. K. George, a gentleman who distinguished himself as president of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association in the year of its visit to Great Britain. Mr. George will worthily maintain the traditions of the office.

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The Manitoba Elections are now but a memory. Mr. Roblin has been sustained by a stout majority, although the Opposition has slightly increased in strength. In other words the people have told Mr. Roblin's Government that they have more confidence in it than in its opponents, but that there is no intention of giving it a majority which will be productive of a proud and haughty spirit. The result also indicates in a measure that the postage-stamp province is ambitious to reach Hudson Bay. If the Conservative premier of Manitoba and the Conservative premier of Ontario could agree upon the division of the undivided northern lands, there is little doubt that such an agreement would necessarily carry much weight at Ottawa.



Mr. W. K. George

President Toronto Industrial Exhibition Association.