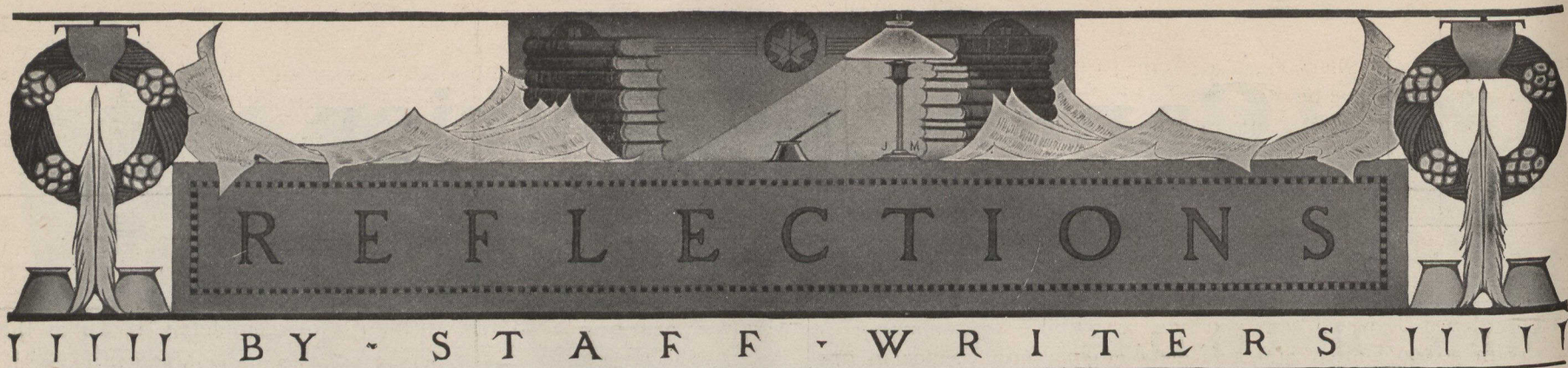




REFLECTIONS

BY STAFF WRITERS

CANADA AND THE NAVY

SIR WILFRID LAURIER'S announcement in the House, just before prorogation on Wednesday of this week, shows that his attitude on the naval question has not been influenced by the recent talk and agitation. He has kept quite cool and has refused to move from what he considers to be a sound, sane and constitutional position. He is in favour of action of some kind, but believes such action should be the result of a well-matured policy, framed after the fullest consideration and widest consultation. He refuses to make a policy over-night.

At the suggestion of Lord Crewe, Secretary of State for the Colonies, there is to be a sub-conference of the Imperial Conference in London in July. The Imperial Conference, which meets not oftener than every four or five years, decided at its last meeting to authorise subsidiary conferences of representatives of the self-governing dominions. This authorisation is taken advantage of by Lord Crewe, to call a meeting in July. Canada will be represented by the Minister of Militia and the Minister of Marine, and the other colonies by similar officers. There will be a confidential exchange of views on technical matters connected with Imperial Defence, and the Conference will consult with the expert advisers of the military and naval departments.

It is quite evident that the present Canadian authorities, while consulting freely with the British authorities, are not in the mood to make any promises as to their future course of action. The Opposition would perhaps welcome a keener interest in the subject, but neither side wishes to be stampeded.

In his explanation, Sir Wilfrid admitted that a certain section of Canadian public opinion was in favour of presenting a *Dreadnought*, making some definite move in that direction. He sympathises with this attitude, but explained how impossible it was to make a definite announcement until a definite Imperial policy is arranged.

With this decision, Canada will undoubtedly be content to wait for next session's announcement.



THE SELKIRK CENTENNIAL

MAYOR SANFORD EVANS of Winnipeg and his travelling boosters have had quite a time in the various cities of the West. Everywhere they have received a warm welcome and an endorsement of the proposed Selkirk Centennial in 1912.

"It is our proposal," said Mayor Evans, "to send to the world this invitation: 'MISS CANADA AT HOME JUNE 1st—OCTOBER 1st, 1912.' Then we will make our displays as a storekeeper displays his goods, and over our door we will put the sign, 'CANADA — UNLIMITED.'"

The proposed Centennial will cost about four million dollars. Winnipeg proposes to raise half a million, gather a million from those who attend, and have the Dominion Government contribute the other two and a half million. The proposition is not looked upon very kindly by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, for the reason that the "fair" business seems to be overdone in his opinion. It looks as if the "lobby" would need to be exceptionally clever if it is to succeed.

Some time ago, the Dominion Government in a moment of generosity gave Toronto \$50,000 towards a Dominion Fair. The natural result followed. Every other city in Canada wanted the same amount of money for the same purpose, and that unfortunate generosity has cost the Government \$50,000 a year for many years, with no end in sight. If Winnipeg gets two and a half million for a centennial celebration, the other cities will be looking up their history to see when the next centennial will occur.

There is no doubt, this Selkirk Centennial should take place, and there is no question that the Dominion Government should help.

Nevertheless one must sympathise with Sir Wilfrid in his hesitation. Two and a half millions is a lot of money, and a government which has been forced to make a cut of twenty millions in its current expenditure is not in a mood to promise donations of such a generous size. It is quite true that if the Dominion would stop work on those useless Ontario public works known as the Trent Valley and Newmarket canals, they could easily save that amount of money. But then politics is politics, as Winnipeg in the Province of Manitoba thoroughly understands.



A NATIONAL SPORT

WHAT makes a sport "national"? This question turns up regularly at times when there is an epidemic of some particular line of sport that for the moment appears to put lacrosse in the background. And at the present writing there is a disposition in some quarters to hail baseball as the national sport of Canada. And this for the reason that it is being played in all quarters of the Dominion.

But baseball is not the national sport of Canada for several reasons and for those same reasons it never can be. The principal of these is that the best baseball in Canada is played by imported players and this best baseball is second rate compared with the best baseball played in the United States. Another reason is that a national Canadian sport must be distinctively Canadian. When men of other countries see it they must exclaim instinctively: "That is the Canadian game." They do this of lacrosse; they can never do it of baseball.

Nor is popularity even an indication of nationality. The Marathon has enjoyed a season of popularity and Canadians have become unusually successful and unreasonably insane regarding it. Yet no one ever thought of dubbing the Marathon a national sport. Bicycling had its craze season and was epidemic over the Dominion, but it was not claimed as exclusively our own. Lawn bowling and curling have even greater claims to nationality than the other two mentioned, for they are played quite as generally in Canada and with more marked success. Yet neither ever aspired to the national title.

When all the claims of all the rival branches are considered, we have only lacrosse, and its winter sister, hockey, all to ourselves. They picture the activity, speed and determination that go to make up the Canadian character. Canadians play them as no one else on earth can play them. Wherever they are played they are greeted as the greatest developers of speed, muscle and character in the realm of sport.

They are Canadian from goal to goal and from the first blast of the referee's whistle till the last sound of the timekeeper's gong.

They are national because they have given to Canadian business and political life strong, energetic men, not content to drift with the tide but determined and trained to take the lead in movements which develop the young nation.



MOVING AN INDUSTRY

ONE day the Hon. A. S. Hardy, then premier of the Province of Ontario, made a new regulation and caused a large portion of the lumber industry of Michigan to move over into Ontario. The mill must go to the raw material when the raw material cannot go to the mill.

The flour mills of the Dakotas and Minnesota are now beginning to perform an overland march similar to that undertaken some years ago by the Michigan sawmills. Already one miller has gone from New Prague to Moose Jaw and the same miller is considering the advisability of erecting a second mill at Moose Jaw or Saskatoon. The big millers of St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth are considering the advisability of migrating northward. The United States Government will not let Canadian wheat into the United States free of duty and