

Our great prairies, with the civilization they imply, represent not only a huge national investment, to which each man indirectly contributes, but a trust for generations yet to come, the conduct of which demands the united wisdom of the best thought and practical experience the country can supply. The attraction and absorption into our system of the population of other countries cannot be successfully conducted without a due recognition of the many sides and weaknesses of human nature, and a clear appreciation of wide principles only to be learnt by practical experience. The responsibility is felt to be a personal one by many thoughtful citizens interested in the growth of the country; and interest in the subject, though perhaps often, vague and unintelligent, is widespread among the people. The difficulties and inadequate results, which have hitherto attended the settlement of the country, all point to the wisdom of adopting some system which, while nursing and educating the popular interest, will make use of a powerful force of attraction, which has hitherto largely been allowed to go to waste.

Those able Ministers to whom the supervision of this work has been entrusted will be the first to admit that it is only by utilizing more fully the accumulated experience and assistance of actual settlers that we can ever hope to secure an adequate return for the money invested and the treatment of colonization as a practical science. ERNEST HEATON.

The Opening of Parliament.

NEPEAN POINT has roared; the great central and the side "functions" are over; and Parliament sits at the dejeuner provided by "mine host" Aberdeen. The dishes are not few and contain solid stuff, which we hope Her Majesty's loyal Opposition will not find too tough for their loyal digestions. Here they are: The treaty with France; results of the Colonial Conference; the Manitoba School Question; Civil Service Economy; His Excellency's Dominion Tour and its Hopeful Impressions; the Admission of Newfoundland; Bankruptcy, Joint Stock Companies, Insurance, Dominion Notes, Dominion Lands, the Indian Act, Territories Representation, and the Land Subsidy to the Canadian Pacific Railway. Quite a bill of fare for a short session, which may prove a long one after all. Some of the knowing ones predict another session previous to dissolution; but such prophecies are worth what they are worth.

Opening Day was blessed with lovely weather; and the beauty and bravery of Ottawa were well in evidence. Foot guards, dragoons, postilions and bewigged footmen flashed resplendency on the gaping multitude—a very subdued and undemonstrative one—and the Senate Chamber was dazzling with uniforms and woman's loveliness, a remnant of which still exists, despite the prevalent masculinity and our school system. A great annual event for Ottawa, which is quite as conventional as Toronto, and almost as pious. Give me the social individualism of the West, even though marred with the adolescent "previousness" of a Winnipeg. In the nostrils of a Nor' Wester this mixture of frivolty, unreality, and cant is not a little unfragrant.

Thus began the fifth session of our seventh Parliament. Matters of empire-wide importance confront it, and yet the wretched squabble of a little Province may largely monopolise its attention; a squabble raised to divert domestic Manitoban thought from graver matters. Taking a broad view, and endeavouring to pierce the future, the Newfoundland question seems of first-class significance to Canada; and surely the extension of her inter-colonial trade is a matter of intense interest when her nearest neighbour would starve her out from the shelter of the Old Flag. Surely questions like these demand the undistracted efforts of her very highest statesmanship at this hour, and should that hour be wasted on Parliament Hill in a wretched creed-race scrimmage, we may well blush for our country. But, since the incendiary torch has been flung into the temple, the fire must be quenched, even at a humiliating waste of time and money. Is it not a painful reflection that mere Demagogism, utterly irresponsible and indifferent to consequences, should be able thus to clog the wheels of the State and make even a catastrophe possible? Canada has neither time nor money to waste over the demagogue. Solid work, national enterprises lie before her, awaiting achievement. Her greatest need at this moment is breadth of view. Family jars mean retrocession if not ruin. I am amazed at the narrowness and the blindness that pre-

vail. Genuine patriotism calls aloud to-day for calmness, not heat; generousness, not niggard concession; a spirit of conciliation, not the Finn-spirit, vamping of bullets. Loyalty does not threaten rebellion. What Canada wants is peace and harmony, if she is to work out her "manifest destiny," not as a kitchen to Jonathan's big house, but as the right wing of John Bull's lordly mansion. As a Canadian, loyal to my Queen, doubly loyal to the land of my birth, I feel no common pain at the spectacle of loyalty *par excellence* shaking its fist at authority in its noble efforts at comprehensiveness, progress, justice, and peace. If my loyalty must choose between the Queen and the Demagogue, I prefer dear old Victoria.

J. MAY.

Ottawa, 19th April, 1895.

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The Patrons on Railway Passes.

THE Patrons' Bill was defeated, both the Regular Parties voting unanimously against it, and "severely scoring" its supporters. They showed themselves so sensitively that one cannot help wishing that they had been sensitive to some purpose. It may be that a pass is a small matter, but so is "dehorning" or "docking" horses' tails, and neither one nor the other is beneath the dignity of legislation. Life is made up of small matters. A smudge on an honourable member's face is of no great consequence, but it ought not to be there. Surely, the members of the House must feel uncomfortable when they find that their action is condemned not only by the independent press but by the *Globe*, even after the leader of the Government had contended that there was no necessity for Legislation in the line of the proposed Bill. While sympathizing with the Premier's dislike of Legislation on such subjects, it can hardly be said that there is no necessity for legislation when the great majority of members pocket both mileage and passes. It would be interesting to know how many of them ever shared in the compunctions which Sir Oliver ingenuously confessed to have felt when he first had passes sent him. He admitted that he had not used them, but apparently, instead of sending them back to the railway companies, he kept them, and the result was inevitable. Dallying with sin ends always in the same sad way,—

"Seen too oft, familiar with its face
We first endure, then pity, then embrace!"

Sir Oliver persuaded himself that the passes were simply "courtesies," extended by the railways to the representatives of the people, and therefore that they should be accepted. This view of the matter is delightful. We have been accustomed to think of railway managers as men without bowels of compassion in the conduct of affairs. Who has not heard of the answer to urgent pleas, "This road is run on business principles, and our duty is to see that the shareholders get dividends for their money?" But it seems that there is room for the sentiment of courtesy in the breasts of these stern men, and that they are so impressed with the dignity of M.P.'s and M.P.'s that they carry them free, even though the country pays and they receive handsome mileage with which to buy their tickets. Why not send passes also to judges, clergymen, doctors, schoolmasters, farmers and other classes held in deserved honour? Is the doctrine of Equal Rights dead?

This gift of passes is on a level with franking and other privileges which members of Parliament vote themselves. Gentlemen should have nothing to do with perquisites. A gentleman may accept a pass on a special occasion, when nothing but courtesy can be intended; but he will not accept a valuable privilege, continued from year to year, when he has nothing to give in exchange, still less when he may be asked for something in exchange which is not his to give. He has no desire to be a pauper, and he would scorn to be a thief. They have a higher standard on these matters in the Old Country. Why should Canadians be content to remain on the lower level? We have the greatest possible respect for our legislators, and, therefore, would have them, like Caesar's wife, above suspicion. In this particular vote, possibly, they disliked, not so much "the medicine" as the doctor. Let Mr. Marter bring in the Bill next session, and the vote of this session will be reversed. The more promptly he acts the better, or the other side may steal the thunder first.

CANADENSIS.