



CANADA'S CENTURY

CANADA has certainly started well in the twentieth century race. While Ireland and Ireland's problems are worrying the statesmen of Great Britain, while the problem of how to manage India is troubling the same group of administrators, and while Australia's federal system stands in danger of falling to pieces, Canada is all peace and harmony. The Provinces have no great differences with the Federal Government, nor has the Federal Government any fault to find with the provincial administrations. The two great races are being drawn closer to each other, and the newer citizens of the country—Ruthenians, Swiss, Swedes, Icelanders or United Statesers—are showing a most commendable and desirable interest in the general affairs of their adopted land. The national unity is undisturbed.

Financially and industrially, Canada is also doing well. The world-wide depression of the past twelve months has limited development but has not stopped it. The harvest prospects are the best of any of the twentieth century years and last autumn's disappointments will soon be forgotten. The Quebec Tercentenary and the Prince's visit have served to emphasise the growing world-importance of the new nation of the North. The world's eyes have been turned this way, and the impression created abroad must be favourable to our national reputation.

Confident, cool, clear-headed should be Canada's attitude. While everything points to a brilliant success, pride and a haughty spirit would certainly rob us of the fruits of a century's planting.

CAMPAIGN FUNDS

AS Canada is approaching a general election in which campaign funds may play an important part, it is instructive to notice what is being done in that politically-wicked country, the United States. The desire for purer elections has gone so far in the Great Republic that Mr. Taft, the Republican candidate, has decreed that the balance-sheet of the Republican campaign funds shall be published after the elections. This means that all contributions from corporations, legislative beneficiaries and contractors will be made known to the people. Mr. Bryan has gone even further and has promised that no contributions shall be accepted from corporations, that no single contribution of more than \$10,000 shall be accepted and that all contributions in excess of \$100 shall be published before the elections; afterwards, all expenditures shall be published.

Of course, it would be easy to say that this action on the part of the two great candidates will lead to evasion. It will. Nevertheless, it will prevent extravagant expenditures and corruption on a large scale. It is a laudable move and one which Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Borden might reasonably be called upon to imitate. We have followed the United States in the matter of civil service reform and we might beneficially follow this newer political practice.

It is probable that no interest would be injured by such publicity in this country, except perhaps the office-seeking interest. Railway and other public service corporations donate very little to campaign funds, confining themselves to "influence" rather than money. They know that seventy-five per cent. of all campaign funds usually cleaves to the hands of the so-called "workers." The chief contributors are those who desire contracts, senatorships and public honours, and the elimination of such practices would be immensely beneficial. The appointment of purchasing agents and the elimination of the patronage lists would serve equally well in eliminating contractors' contributions but that is no reason why publicity should not be added.

Every public citizen with influence and with a desire to see pure elections should at once bring his influence to bear on the party leaders on behalf of this reform. Mr. Borden has already expressed

a willingness to follow a practice of this kind and no doubt Sir Wilfrid would be glad to do so if his colleagues and followers would permit him. The reform can come only from public pressure—the source from which we secured a measure of civil service reform.

COURAGE AND COWARDICE

ALL men are courageous and all men are cowards. This is a paradox, perhaps, but it possesses a large measure of truth. All men are courageous up to a certain point and past that point they are cowards. The point varies with the nature and circumstances of the individual. In some men it is quickly reached under slight adversity or any unusually difficult position. A small pecuniary loss through a trusted friend, the failure of a rose-coloured speculation, the breaking down of a valued friendship or the exploding of a love affair will change men outwardly strong from a bold-stepping individual to a shrinking weakling. The once calm purpose fades away, and indecision and inertness take possession. Then follows a state of inanity, a period of drunkenness or perhaps suicide.

Other men reach mature years through a long period of successful battling with adversity, gaining always a certain measure of success through constant and nerve-wracking struggles. They are known as "strong" men. Yet, unknown to their friends and unknown to even themselves, their power of resistance has been slowly but steadily weakened. A great reverse comes and they go down in a heap like a race-horse at the last hurdle, while the field sweeps on with scarce a thought for the falterer prone in the dust. Their hearts are broken and henceforth they are known as the failures of life.

Thus all men in the struggle of existence are constantly facing the danger of being changed from heroes to cowards. The man who runs the least danger is the man who is unambitious and who attempts little. The labouring man with moderate tastes and limited ambitions is easily satisfied and less subject to great depression. Every few days, however, we hear of some one of this class jumping into the water to soothe his grief over inability to reach success, or losing his mind and committing some offence against the persons in whom he is most interested. The man of education is safer even than the labouring man if he is not ambitious. If his wants are simple, and his aims not too high, reading and conversation supply him with a kind of pleasure which is an excellent substitute for financial, social or political success. Among the business, professional and political classes, the dangers are greatest. Here reverses come to a larger percentage of those who are thus aiming high. Here the gradual or sudden change from courage to cowardice is most notable and most frequent. Here also disgrace is largest and keenest, failure most notable, and the change most pitiable. Social and moral reformers express much sympathy and concern for the aged and worn-out workman, but have no plea whatever to make for the broken hearts and ambitions of the so-called higher classes. Political economy takes note of bodily distress, but almost totally ignores mental distress.

If there is a lesson here, it is that the world should have a larger measure of sympathy for the man who passes from courage to cowardice, whether he be a labourer or craftsman, a teacher or professor, a business or professional man. Nature has endowed us all with hope, ambition and courage. Sin, affliction and misfortune tend to make us cowards. If we remain courageous until the end it will be because we are lucky, have exceptional merit or have a well-balanced, religious nature. If we are so fortunate as to have retained our courage, let us reach out a strong, kindly hand to the man in danger of losing his—remembering always that when he has once lost this jewel it will be too late. In so doing, the courageous shall be rewarded by the beneficent feeling of having assisted a struggling human in the strenuous battle. Perhaps by helping to revive courage