

OUTSIDE CRITICISM.

Let me, in passing, refer briefly to the attitude of certain writers in the press outside of Ottawa, unfamiliar with conditions here, with respect to Federal grants for the embellishment of the Dominion Capital. You are, of course, well aware that Ottawa is to be the seat of Government "until the Sovereign otherwise directs." It is so decreed by clause 16 of the B. N. A. Act. While the constitution apparently leaves the question open, no reasonable minded man can doubt that for all time to come the Capital of Canada will be on the banks of the Ottawa River. Before many years are over, certainly within the lifetime of some present, the centre of population in the Dominion will be west of the Great Lakes, yet it can hardly be conceived that it will be necessary to change the location of the seat of Government. Just as Washington, on the Atlantic seaboard, is fixed for all time as the Capital of the United States, so Ottawa, one fourth the way across the Continent, is determined as the capital of Canada. Geographical difficulties have been entirely overcome by modern methods of transportation.

Under these circumstances, Parliament has admitted it to be its bounden duty to co-operate with the citizens of Ottawa in making the capital worthy of this great country, to assist in its beautification, to render it attractive in every possible way, so that as a city, it will be regarded with pride and pleasure by every Canadian. Nature has done much for this "fair city crowned with towers" but nature can be assisted, and we may feel, reasonably certain that the policy so happily inaugurated ten years ago, will continue for all time. Is it not about time that a few writers in the newspaper press who are everlastingly carping at Ottawa should cease their unfair criticism? Let these gentlemen ascertain what France has done for Paris, Belgium for Brussels, Austria for Vienna, Russia for St. Petersburg, Germany for Berlin, Great Britain for London, Dublin and Edinburgh; the other British Dominions for their own capitals, and then perhaps they will realise that the nation's capital—Ottawa—should be made worthy of the nation. The two Houses of Parliament have treated Ottawa fairly, although I can hardly say generously. Both parties are pledged now to the policy initiated by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and it should be our duty, as citizens, to co-operate loyally with Parliament in carrying out the policy of 1899 to its full fruition.

ACTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL

The Washington of the North idea thus being so definitely advanced by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the City Council lost no time in preparing its case. A committee was appointed by the Council of 1897, of which I had the honour to be chairman. In order to