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Editorial Notes.

CANADA'S FUTURE.

So far as may be judged from present indications, our country is on the eve of momentous changes of one kind or another. The signs of the times stand out on the horizon with sufficient clearness to show that they *are* signs, though they are conceived in language not very easy to read, and anybody who attempts to spell them out is likely enough to find himself involved in a labyrinth of mere speculation. Still, it is hard to refrain from making some endeavour towards deciphering the handwriting on the wall. It is hard, at all events, to avoid recognizing certain obvious facts, and speculating upon certain probabilities. One fact which can hardly escape observation is that the public mind is pervaded by a vague, indefinite, yet withal a very general feeling of suspense and unrest—a feeling that our affairs are in a transitory and unsettled condition, and that something of importance is looming before us. This state of things is the nearly inevitable precursor of political change, and that it exists in Canada at the present time is sufficiently obvious to anyone who looks about him with his eyes open.

ANNEXATION TALK.

As to the precise nature of the impending changes, he would be a very bold man who would venture to pronounce a dogmatic opinion. The agitation in favour of commercial union is certainly, as far as it goes, an indication of a desire to bring about closer relations with the United States. The advent of an American economist and an Americanized Canadian, both of whom have given free utterance to their views, and who have borne themselves as though they felt that they had a clearly-defined mission to fulfil, are also not without significance. Then, it is certain that very many Reformers are weary of the perpetual exclusion of their party from power at Ottawa, and that they are ready to

welcome almost any change that the whirligig of time may bring about. This feeling is especially prevalent among the young and enthusiastic spirits of the Reform party, as has been made sufficiently apparent by the speeches of certain young Liberals on several recent occasions. But what may be called "annexation talk" is not by any means confined to the Young Liberals, nor even to members of the Reform party. There is more or less of it among persons of all shades of political opinion, and even among persons of no politics at all. And the significant feature is that this talk is indulged in freely and openly, without any pretence of concealment. It is probable enough that the agitation, such as it is, will probably tide over for the present, after which we shall hear no more of it until a commercial crisis or some other extremity again brings the question to the front.

WHAT NEXT?

BUT it is not only with respect to our relations with the United States that the public mind is more or less exercised just now. Any change in those relations, of course, naturally involves changes in our relations to the mother country, so that the one may be regarded as the concomitant of the other. Imperial Federation does not appear to be making seven-league strides. Independence we have practically at the present time. If we had the appointment of our own Governor-General and the negotiation of our own treaties with foreign nations without reference to any authority but our own, we should be as independent as any nation under the sun; and these privileges, we presume, may be had whenever we deem them of sufficient importance to press for them. The only thing certain is that no thinking man seems to regard our present relations with Great Britain as permanent, or even as likely to see the nineteenth century to its end.

OUR POLITICAL LEADERS.

THEN, there are indications of momentous internal changes. Mr. Blake has grown weary of being in perpetual opposition, and is about to withdraw from public life, leaving the Reform party without a head. This is the opportunity for which Sir Richard Cartwright has waited, and the next few months will probably witness the fruition of his hopes. Such is the opinion of those who profess to know whereof they speak. But there are many Reformers who will refuse to accept the headship of Sir Richard Cartwright, and their defection would cause serious disorganization in the ranks. On the Government side, things are in an equally unsettled condition. That Sir John Macdonald will remain much longer at his post is what nobody believes. It is rumoured that he is to receive a peerage and take up his abode in Eng-