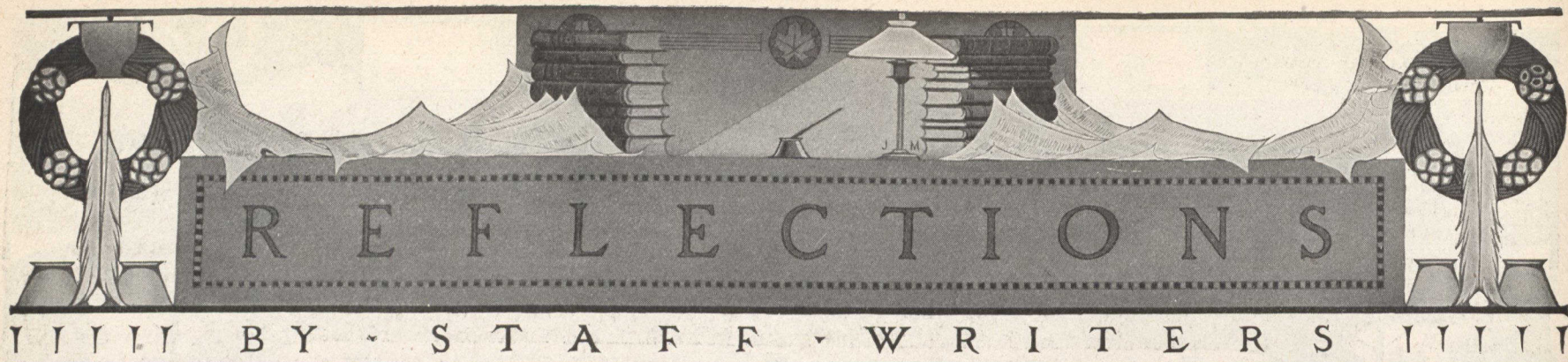




REFLECTIONS

IIII BY STAFF WRITERS IIII

NOVA SCOTIA'S PULPWOOD

FISH, coal, iron ore, statesmen and educationists are the chief products of Nova Scotia, according to general repute. It now seems that to this must be added pulpwood. One expert estimates that if the supplies of pulpwood are properly conserved Nova Scotia could supply two and a quarter million cords per annum for ever. As raw wood, this would mean a revenue to the people of about \$11,000,000 a year. Ground into pulp it would be worth about three times that amount. Made into news-print, it would bring a gross income of one hundred millions a year at present prices.

As the consumption of paper on this continent is not likely to decrease, and as the supply of pulpwood in the United States will not last more than another twenty years, it looks as if Nova Scotia had an asset which would prove most valuable in the years to come. Of course, much depends on the policy which the Government now pursues in regulating the cutting and protecting the future growth.

THE COUNTRY HIGH SCHOOLS

MANITOBA and Ontario are awakening to the fact that the present high schools are educating the youth for the professions and taking them off the farms. In Ontario, the Minister of Education is encouraging what are known as continuation classes in the public schools. This practically means that the rural schools are to have high school features added to them and that the features will be along the line of agricultural knowledge and science. In Manitoba, Dr. Fletcher, the Deputy Minister of Education, is advocating a similar remedy.

Especially in Ontario, the high school system has spoiled many good farmers by making young men into doctors, dentists and lawyers. The Agricultural College was instituted to stop the process, but one college cannot offset a hundred high schools. Now the college is to be carried to the farmers and the influence of the high schools curtailed. The movement is a most commendable one, and its effect will be closely watched by the newer provinces who have not yet advanced to the stage where every farmer's wife tries to make at least one of her sons a clergyman, and another a doctor, selecting the dullest to stay at home on the farm and get rich.

POLITICS IN ONTARIO

IN a couple of months, perhaps sooner, Ontario will be in the throes of a provincial general election. Already every budding politician, every prospective K.C., and every aspirant for a provincial "job," are sitting up nights working on voters' lists and making imaginary speeches. Business throughout the province is none too good, and people have ample time to discuss the situation.

When Mr. Whitney appealed to the people before, it was as leader of the Opposition. The Hon. G. W. Ross was premier, but he has since retired to the Senate. Hon. G. P. Graham was one of Mr. Ross's colleagues, but he too is at Ottawa, directing the Department of Railways and Canals. The Hon. Richard Harcourt is still in the Legislature, but the mantle of Mr. Ross missed him and fell on the Hon. A. G. MacKay. Mr. Whitney and Mr. MacKay are now the rival chieftains.

There does not seem to be any great issue to decide, beyond what majority Mr. Whitney will have in the new House. The most interesting feature of the campaign will be the development of the Hon. A. G. MacKay. People who will vote for him and many who will vote against him, will watch his conduct closely to see if he has real leadership in him. If he is made of as good stuff as his followers think, he will enhance his reputation. He is not likely to be premier, but he may become one of the leading Liberals of the province and thus be marked for future honours either in Toronto or Ottawa.

Mr. Gamey's part in this election will not be so striking as in the

last, but the Hon. Adam Beck, with his free-as-air-hydro-electric-power-from-Niagara-Falls policy will be one of the prize exhibits. Treasurer Matheson, with his money-bags packed full, will be trotted out to show that, as in the days of John Sandfield Macdonald, the revenues of the province are greater than the expenditures. Mr. Hanna will talk about his prison reform schemes, Mr. Cochrane about the riches of New Ontario, and Dr. Pyne about cheap school-books and how he got them. Nevertheless, the chief figures will be the honest, blustering Premier and the skilful, genial Leader of the Opposition.

A MEASURE TO BE ADMIRER

HON. W. J. HANNA, the hard-working Secretary for the Province of Ontario, who is a pleasing raconteur in his hours of ease, made a masterly stroke of penal reform when he brought in a bill to abolish contract labour in the prison. The change is in keeping with the most modern methods of penology and, what is a minor consideration, pleases the trade-unions without seriously injuring the agricultural community. The latter, having as yet no union organisation of the advanced sort, will not be in a position to make any concentrated protest against this "back to the land" policy for such as break the laws. Nature study, we are told, has a healing effect and will cause the erring citizen to reflect on the sweet reasonableness of keeping in harmony with the views of the magistrate. This latest reform not only does the greatest good to the greatest number, but also secures a vaster vote than has been. The brooms of the Central Prison are to be swept away, to be succeeded by the cultivation of the onion and tomato. The bizarre uniform with stripes is to give place to garments of inconspicuous design. Altogether the Ontario Government is to be congratulated on such a humane and statesmanlike reform, while Mr. Hanna, who is a successful moose-hunter, has proved himself an adept at killing several birds with one extra-smooth stone.

THE CORPORATION'S EMPLOYEE

"WHEN is a man a corporation slave and when is he a respectable citizen?" is a question which requires asking and answering. If a man, employed in an executive capacity, by a corporation, ventures an opinion on public affairs he is silenced with the charge: "You have no right to speak; you are a corporation slave." If a man has been known to sell goods or expert services to a corporation at any time in his career, he is ipso facto believed to be unworthy thereafter to exercise the duties and privileges of citizenship. He cannot write a letter to the newspapers, be a respectable member of any public-spirited organisation, take a public part in any municipal or parliamentary election, or be a candidate for public honours of any kind.

This situation seems to apply to all who make money out of a corporation by doing business with it which is more or less personal, to those who are employed by it in any capacity where wages are not figured by the day. The street-railway conductor, the electric lineman, the telephone pole-erector, the steam-railway trainman or baggage-smasher, or the man who works for a public utility corporation for a daily wage is not supposed to lose his manhood or his ability to act occasionally in the public interest. These men are honest, industrious citizens who think only of what is best for the country, are always well-informed and always able to cast an intelligent ballot or to make a high-minded speech. In fact these perfections of citizenship are to be found most highly developed in policemen, city firemen and employees in city halls. Yet as soon as one of these men passes from a job worth \$3.00 a day to another worth \$17.00 a week, he loses all respect at the hands of his former admirers. He is henceforth a corporation slave, and is not worthy to open his mouth in a public place.

What a ridiculous situation! Why this distinction between a