

REFLECTIONS

By THE EDITOR

The Imperial Hindu

SURELY the Hindus should recognize that they are making a terrible nuisance of themselves in Western Canada and decide to move out. Nobody loves them and it might be advisable for them to go out into the garden and eat worms. If they persist in trying to maintain their rights as Imperial citizens in British Columbia, then the people of British Columbia will be forced to let the British Empire go to destruction. Surely the Hindu can recognize that this disaster is unthinkable. Just when Sir Richard McBride has the whole province cornered in support of a contribution to the Imperial navy, these sly, turbaned citizens from the south-west Pacific raise all sorts of troubles about their civic rights, and upset the Premier's apple cart.

The New Westminster News, of Dec. 16th, calls upon the editor of the CANADIAN COURIER and the Canadian League to take the Hindu immigration problem as a field for patriotic activity. We are very sorry that we cannot oblige the people of British Columbia with anything more than good advice. Our suggestion is simple: if the people of British Columbia believe in a Unified Empire they must accept the Hindu. If, with Mr. Jebb, they believe only in a Britannic Alliance, with autonomy for each of the separate units, they need not accept the Hindu unless they so desire. This is all the advice British Columbia is entitled to until it decides the principle involved. The arguments are fairly set forth in Mr. Jebb's articles in last week's issue and this.

Election Protests

THE method in which election protests are handled in this country is being discussed by many intelligent citizens. That the situation is a national disgrace is generally admitted. Even the partisan newspapers concede that "sawing off" and dropping petitions before they come to trial is pernicious and destructive of political morality. That fair-minded public journal, the Montreal Gazette, states that election petitions entered in the Province of Quebec in connection with the election of 1911 "have been disappearing in a suggestive way without any noise being made or any signs given that the public conscience was troubled." The Gazette thus puts the responsibility upon the public. No doubt that is where the blame lies. So long as the people are partisan enough to condone these wickednesses in each of the parties, so long will the politicians trifle with the laws and with our political morals.

The attempt to "saw off" the petition in Chateaugay entered by the Liberals, against the petition in South Bruce entered by the Conservatives, seems almost criminal, considering the boasts and charges made by the respective parties. The petitions should either be proceeded with or the Liberals should apologize to the Conservatives for their idle threats and charges; and vice versa. If these petitions are "sawed off" then the public will know that there is no sincerity and not too much morality in either party.

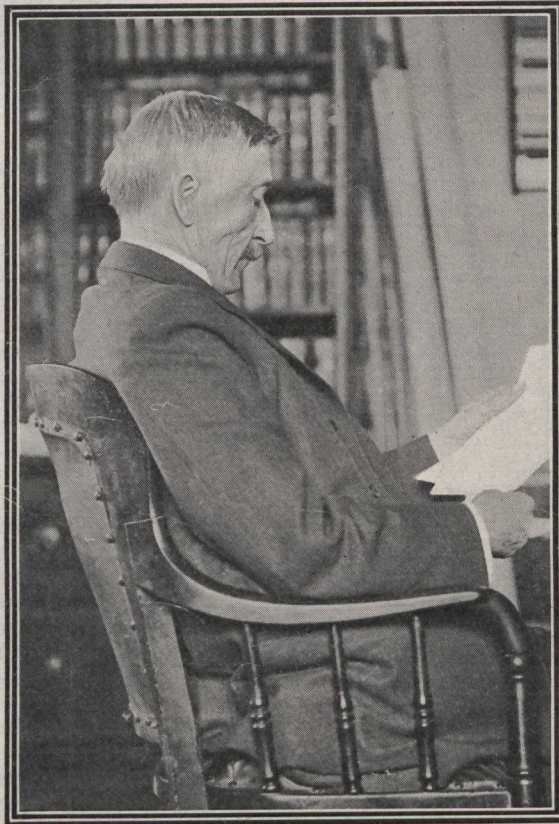
Montreal and the Legislature

AT this time of year Montreal people usually have something sweet to say about the legislature which sits in the city of Quebec in December and January. It is customary for some far-sighted, scheming individuals to visit the committees of the legislature and propose that the city of Montreal be compelled to do certain things which the city fathers have not seen fit to do. This year there were two propositions introduced in this peculiar way. One was that Montreal should be forced to buy a piece of land worth about a million dollars as a public library site. Those who had this suggestion introduced were presumably friendly with the owners of the land designated. The other suggestion was to the effect that the city of Montreal should return to certain taxpayers something over a million dollars which had been collected from them for new pavements.

The Montreal Star, in an article entitled "Our Vivacious Legislature," suggests that there are a few other things which the legislators and lobbyists at Quebec might compel the city of Montreal to do. For example, the legislature might pass laws

that the city expropriate the Canadian Pacific Railway, that it move the City Hall to a site on Mount Royal and that it devote the school taxes to paving the streets. Apparently Montreal people are able to see the humorous side of the situation.

There is this difference between the situation in Quebec and in other provinces of Canada, that none other of the nine would dare do what Quebec tries to do. For example, the man who tried to put legislation through the Manitoba Legislature to compel the city of Winnipeg to take some action on a matter entirely within its own right, would not be listened to by more than one or two members of the Legislature. Indeed, it is probable that the mere attempt would make it so warm for him that his further residence in the province would be neither safe nor agreeable. The people of Montreal should take this hint. They should drive two or three of these buzzards out of the province at the



HONOURABLE FRANK COCHRANE
Minister of Railways and Canals for the Dominion, Who Has Just Returned to His Desk at Ottawa After a Holiday of Several Weeks. Mr. Cochrane is One of the Most Energetic Administrators of a Department That Canada Has Ever Known. It is Hoped That He Will Not Allow the Burden of His Big Department to Sit So Heavily on His Shoulders That His Health Will be Endangered.

point of the bayonet and the rest would probably learn the somewhat difficult lesson of minding their own business.

The Reformers

VARIOUS sorts of reformers are needed in every country and in every age. There are:

- Political Reformers.
- Social Reformers.
- Educational Reformers.
- Moral Reformers.
- Physical Reformers.

Not one of these is more necessary than the other and among all these should be a broad spirit of comradeship and sympathy.

The progress of any nation is not written in its financial and trade statistics alone. Increase in population, wealth and commerce are desirable, but they do not tell the whole story. Canada might have all these and yet be a backward nation such as Mexico, India or China. Our development politically, socially, mentally, morally and physically is fully as important and as indicative of the measure of true progress attained by the nation.

Some leaders will devote themselves to political reform, some to social reform, some to educational reform and others to moral and physical reform. Let each be given his due meed of praise. Let not one be exalted above the other. All are working

towards the same goal—the making of Canada one of the greatest nations the world has ever known. Finally, let every citizen do cheerfully that which his hand findeth to do and all will be well.

Jebb's Sense of Fairness

EVERY one who reads Mr. Jebb's article in this issue will be satisfied that Mr. Jebb has a sense of humour as well as a sense of fairness. When he had concluded reading his paper as to why he favoured a Britannic Alliance rather than Imperial Federation, there was a discussion. One old gentleman remarked that he could not understand why Jebb was allowed in such good company. As for him, he was unwilling to reduce the Empire to a conglomeration of South American Republics. And Jebb faithfully records the incident.

It is characteristic of this great British writer, and of many others, that they are willing to be knocked and that they are able to take knocks with a smile. Here in Canada we are more sensitive than they are in London. When we read papers publicly, the chairman shuts off all discussion for fear the essayist's feelings should be hurt. We prefer votes of thanks, when two prominent members of the audience get up and do their best to conceal their desire to answer the speaker's arguments.

The ancient member of the United Empire Club was displeased and he said so. And Mr. Jebb truthfully records the protest, lest any one should think that he resented it. But then Jebb is a big man and deals with big problems in a big way.

Be British

THERE is a phrase well-known in the Anglo-Saxon world and which was used by the captain of the Titanic to steady the men and women who faced death when that great vessel was going down into the Atlantic. That phrase is, "Be British."

At this particular time Canada needs the steady influence of that phrase. We have been rushing ahead at a tremendous rate. Our material prosperity is overwhelming and the number of millionaires is growing fast. We are extravagant, as seen in the figures which statisticians use to prove that the cost of living in Canada is higher than in any other country in the world—and still going up. Our material progress needs adjusting.

Then the steadying influence of the phrase "Be British" is needed in connection with the education, the Christianizing, and the Canadianizing of the newcomers. Canada is getting new citizens at a faster rate than any other country in the world ever received them. Population compared, the United States never received new citizens at as high a rate as Canada is at the present time. Forty per cent. of them are foreign-born people who know not the English language and nothing of British ideals of liberty and justice. To make these men into good Canadians, to bring their standard of living, and their social, religious and political ideals up to ours, is a tremendous task. The recent history of the United States has shown how dangerous are the foreign population in civic life, when these people are crowded together in "foreign" quarters and left to the tender mercies of the ward politician. A somewhat similar but milder condition already exists in Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg.

Again, the problem of how to "Be British" is one which the French-Canadian portion of our population is struggling bravely to solve. They desire to preserve their own language and their own racial heritage, and at the same time preserve their allegiance to Canada and the British Crown. They need our sympathy and our encouragement. The problem is a complicated one and upon its solution depends much of the future happiness and future prosperity of Canada as a nation. To preserve unity and harmony between the French-Canadians and English-Canadians it is necessary that there should be a constant interchange of ideas and ideals. If this country is to "Be British" it must recognize that each of these two races has rights which cannot be ignored. To preserve these rights to each and at the same time develop Canadian unity is a task to which the most patient form of statesmanship must be applied.

Above all the question of our relationship with the other Dominions and with the United Kingdom is one requiring careful consideration. The ideal of Canada is to "Be British," but the words have not the same meaning to all classes of Canadians. Some would be British by being enthusiastically Canadian; others would be British by suppressing Canadian national aims and aspirations. Let us try to discover what is best for ourselves and best for the other parts of the Empire and then patriotically support that policy.