

appointed some of their greedier stockholders but they have shown themselves capable of deciding between private greed and public responsibility. They have not gone as far as they were asked to do in the public interest, but the compromise is sufficiently fair to be deserving of some commendation. When the next issue is made, perhaps the directors will make another forward step and issue it at \$150. When that issue is ready C. P. R. should be selling at \$200, and \$150 would be a reasonable minimum for new stock.



EXTREMELY curious it is how slowly old ideas give way to new. In that excellent periodical, the *London Bystander*, September 29th, there is a picture of Lord Strathcona's new motor-car and the title under the illustration is "A Car for a Great Colonial." Not content with emphasising the word "colonial," the inscription goes on to tell that Lord Strathcona is "High Commissioner for Canada, which Dependency his lordship is at present visiting." And this, too, at a time when we are making plans for building a navy! Dependency, forsooth!

Speaking at Portage La Prairie to the Canadian Club the other evening, Mr. M. E. Nichols, editor of the *Winnipeg Telegram*, repeated the Right. Hon. Mr. Balfour's recent remarks at the Press Conference:

"There was a time when the relation of this country and the offshoots of this country were like the relations between parent and child. But let every man who hears me, who comes from any colony, understand that no politician of any party in this country holds that view any longer. Everybody recognises, so far as I know, that the parental stage is over. We have now reached the stage of formal equality and nobody desires to disturb it."

That is a view which is much more pleasing to Canadians. Perhaps Mr. Balfour would be good enough to send a copy of his remarks to the *Bystander* office so that the education of its editorial staff will be brought up to date. That word "dependency" should be used more carefully by all well-informed British journalists.



BY the way, the address by Mr. Nichols at Portage is worthy of special notice. Its title was "The New Canadianism" and the speaker explained that his Canadianism involved Imperialism. He defined Imperialism as the idea of Empire as opposed to the idea of nation; it embodies the larger national outlook as opposed to the restricted national outlook. Imperialism was larger than nationalism and included it. Canadians are Canadians still, even though keen Imperialists. "To believe in Imperialism is to believe that Canada's destiny lies in her development as a state within the British Empire."

In developing his argument, Mr. Nichols remarked that the nineteenth century was the century of nations, but the twentieth century would be the century of empires. The smaller countries are falling to the rear; the groups of states or nations, known as empires, are forging to the front. Canada's one safe course is to go forward as an integral part of the British Empire. Only by such a course can she secure permanent safety and the greatest measure of progress.

So far most of us can agree with Mr. Nichols. When he went farther and advocated a more tangible definition of our relations with the Empire he took more debatable ground. Those enthusiasts who desire to have our duties and obligations and rights of an imperial nature carefully defined and unequivocally set down in print are searching for trouble. The undefined relation, resting on admiration, good-will and mutual interest, is just as potent and much less irksome than a well defined relation. There is always a danger in reducing love, affection and mutual esteem to definite words and phrases. There is a loss in flexibility and in adaptiveness. The unwritten British constitution is just as effective and much less irksome than the written United States constitution. The unwritten Imperial constitution, now growing freely and vigorously, will be sufficiently definite to meet the needs of the succeeding years. Canadians who are over-zealous in trying to define our relations with the British group of states are doing considerable harm to the great cause which they have at heart.



SOME wise men there were among those who gathered at the eighty-fifth annual meeting of the General Board of Missions of the Canadian Methodist Church which met recently at Ottawa. They actually had the good sense to stand up and boldly declare that the Church was recreant to its trust amongst the newer immigrants. Some one pointed out that in the West there were 160,000 Europeans for whom there was no missionary provision.

Might we suggest that the enthusiastic religionists who are lead-

ing in the Laymen's Missionary Movement should hold a conference with these outspoken Methodists. The Laymen are worrying about Japan and China and India, and forgetting or minimising the need for greater missionary work in the newer parts of Canada. Apparently the Methodists who know believe that the Laymen attitude is wrong.

If we are to be asked to give up our cigars, our clubs, and our automobiles so that our missionary contributions shall be increased, surely we are entitled to know that the policy of the Laymen's Movement is approved by *all* the clergy of the Protestant denominations. This is a *sine qua non*. The Roman Catholic Church has suddenly awakened to its duty in regard to domestic missions, and the Church Extension Society is busy urging Catholics to increase their grants for this work. There should be a similar awakening in the Protestant churches. During three years past Canada has received a larger number of new citizens and created a larger number of possible parishes than in any other ten years of her history. Has ample provision been made for their educational uplift and their religious exercises? Has the expenditure on home missionary work kept pace with the growing demands for such service? We are afraid not.



A LONDON paper, forecasting the next Balfour ministry in case the Liberals are defeated at the approaching general election, gives the Postmaster-General as Sir Gilbert Parker. This would probably meet with the approval of Mr. Henniker Heaton, the postal reformer, who is advocating an Imperial postmaster. He complains that the British postmasters have been parochial. The rates on periodicals sent to Canada are low because Canada pays the difference; the rates to the other colonies are prohibitive and much higher than from the colonies to Great Britain. The rate from New Zealand and Australia to the motherland is one penny a pound, while British periodicals and newspapers sent over the same route must pay four pence a pound. Sir Gilbert Parker would change all that if given the opportunity.

THE DECLINE OF LACROSSE

IS the Canadian national game doomed? For two or three years past there has been a marked decrease in the number of young Canadians playing the game and though during the season just over the Canadian Lacrosse Association has endeavoured to stimulate interest by forming a juvenile series, it has failed to bring its playing membership up to anywhere near its former figures.

Many reasons are advanced for the decline and fall of lacrosse, but all of these reasons combined almost leave one convinced that the lacrosse player will soon be as nearly extinct as the buffalo. These reasons might be condensed as follows: The young men are going west and leaving their lacrosse shoes behind them; baseball is cheaper and more widely advertised; the governing bodies in trying to make an amateur sport out of the national game of a professional country have legislated it out of existence; the game of bowls has become epidemic and absorbs the interest of those who once found their amusement in managing lacrosse teams.

These are reasons enough for a slump of interest in any game and as no one appears with any solution of the question, "How shall lacrosse be kept alive?" it almost goes without saying that lacrosse is dying at the root. It is still, of course, the most spectacular of all games and still appeals to the Canadian more strongly than any other sport. Larger crowds have attended professional lacrosse matches this season than ever before. But with the shrinkage in the supply of lacrosse players the quality of lacrosse must deteriorate and poorer lacrosse will speedily bring poorer gates, poorer press notices and a general lack of interest on the part of the general public.

As a matter of fact this deterioration has already set in. In all Canada there are not more than three first-class teams and the other senior clubs are wildly scrambling after anything that bears a resemblance to talent for senior clubs. Vancouver is trying to gather material from the east while the eastern clubs have also tried to coax players from the Pacific coast.

To boil it all down, there is not enough lacrosse being played to produce players for the senior clubs, the old players are dying out or getting past their usefulness and there are none to take their places. Lacrosse is no longer played in the public schools or encouraged in the towns and villages where it appeared to be firmly rooted. And Canada is in danger of being robbed of a splendid asset in the shape of a national game that has given her splendid men as well as provided her with the best of relaxation and amusement. Who can suggest a remedy?

J. K. M.