

REFLECTIONS

NEW YORK announces with a flare of trumpets that the Bank of Montreal has purchased a home in Wall Street at a cost of \$800,000. The New Yorkers seem to think their city must be "all right" when a leading Canadian bank thinks it safe to buy property there. If Canadians, they argue, think the United States is a place where they may safely invest money in competition with the perfect and well-guarded investments at home, then the United States must be getting into the "civilised" class.

Indeed, the United States is making more progress in law-making and administration than either Great Britain or Canada. The great advantages which the two latter branches of the Anglo-Saxon world possessed are being overcome. Administrative reform may be said to be rampant in the United States. Its national Civil Service is almost entirely removed from politics. Juries are showing a keen desire to uphold right and justice. If criminal-law appeals were abolished and judges were elected for ten-year periods, the United States would soon become a model country.

AS for the Bank of Montreal, it owes New York the honour which it has just bestowed. The profits it has made in that city have been enormous. Whenever New York "call loans" get up to eight per cent., the Canadian customers of the Bank know that no extra funds will be available until the rate goes down again. It is said that the Bank of Montreal has occasionally made half a million a year out of New York's periodical financial flurries.

Incidentally a few Canadians will wonder if that fixed item for real estate in the Bank of Montreal's annual statement will take an upward curve now. What a wrench it will be to make a change in that item after twenty years or so of conservatism!

HOW splendidly the Grand Trunk managed that Prince Rupert sale of building lots! How poor is the policy of the other trans-continental railways in comparison! How amateurish the governments that have allowed the new townsites of Canada to be exploited by private capital! Only Sir James Whitney's government has adopted a policy of selling the people's townsites for the benefit of the people.

Just here, many people will naturally ask, "Who will get the townsites along the National Transcontinental from Winnipeg to Moncton?" And echo answers "Who?"

CANADA stands for self-government, national, provincial and municipal, but if that story from Magrath is true the Mormons should be taught that self-government does not mean license. If the Calgary Gentile who went to Magrath to recover his Mormon wife and child, was arrested without a warrant, taken to the station by a "sheriff," knocked down, beaten, thrown through a window and finally driven on to a train—if this story is true, the people of Magrath should be taught a lesson which they will never forget. If it is not true, the man who sent out the report should go to jail.

The Canadian West has a reputation for "law and order" which is a magnificent asset. That asset must not be lost. The Americans who are pouring in are mostly law-abiding people, but no doubt a few of them have been accustomed to looser methods of administering justice than those followed in this country. If any of these people try to introduce "western" methods into Canada, the rebuke should be swift and sufficient. The Government of Alberta has not failed on previous occasions, and we feel certain that this will be no exception.

WHEAT-KING PATTEN of Chicago maintains that the price of wheat will remain high during 1909. The agricultural authorities at Washington incline to the other view. So far Mr. Patten has proved a good prophet. He now says that "the growing crop will be smaller than last year the world over."

While the bread-purchasers of Eastern Canada may be forced to pay higher prices for bread, there is some consolation in the high price of wheat. The farmers, especially in the West, will be greatly benefitted. During the past month, the western farmer who had

wheat to sell could get as high as \$1.25 a bushel cash. If prices do not soon drop, it looks as if he would get higher prices in September and October than he ever got before. This will mean much for general trade and commerce.

Though the spring opened rather badly in the West, the latest reports indicate that the late May weather was exceptionally good. Rain and heat have overcome much of the backwardness of the crops. The acreage sown is also larger than last year, though the date of the last seeding was later than in any previous year with the possible exception of 1907. It is too early to prophesy, but the West's harvest prospects look good.

THE military bands of Toronto have threatened to refuse to play at the Toronto Exhibition because military bands from Halifax and Kingston have been engaged. The former are volunteer and union bands; the latter are permanent and non-union. This is carrying unionism a remarkable distance.

It is announced from Ottawa that Sir Frederick Borden, Minister of Militia, will order the disbanding of the Toronto organisations if the threatened strike is put into effect. This is the correct course for the Minister to pursue, and public opinion will support him in any such action which he may find it necessary to take. For one military band which is composed of union players to refuse to play with another military band which is non-union, is subversive of the primary principles of military discipline. In the meantime, it is to be hoped that reason will prevail and that the Toronto musicians will reconsider their decision.

MOST of us will agree with the *Toronto Star* that it is quite time heresy-hunting in the colleges should be abandoned. Professor Matthews of McMaster is the latest to pass safely through the ordeal. The attempt of men like Dr. Carman, Mr. S. H. Blake and Rev. Elmore Harris to shackle the consciences and the tongues of the theological faculties has fallen flat, and the fate was deserved. The head of a college must be held responsible for his staff, but the college heads are seldom found fighting side by side with the heresy-hunters.

THE Militia Department offers six prizes of \$250, \$150, \$100, \$75, \$50, and \$25 respectively for the six best essays on how to introduce a system of physical and military training into the schools. It is not often that a government department goes to the public for advice, so that the exception is worth noting. Essays must be in by August first.

THE Labour Government of Australia is no more. That it lasted so long is the only wonder. That its opponents should eventually combine against it, was inevitable. The next political move in the Commonwealth will be worth watching.

BASEBALL CONQUERS ALL

INSPECTOR JAMES L. HUGHES explained the popularity of baseball in Toronto in a very few words. "I can equip two baseball teams for the same price I can fit out two lacrosse players," was all he said. Another close observer of sport gives another reason: "You don't waste too much time on baseball. A game lasts only an hour and a half. It can be played in a summer evening or in the fag end of an afternoon when the day's work is practically over."

And for those two reasons some sporting authorities are inclined to believe that the American national game will yet oust cricket among the lower classes of England. The game has a foothold there now and is gaining ground. It remains to be seen whether "An Englishman's Home" is to fall before this playful American invasion.

But there are obstacles for the game to overcome in England that it has never encountered in Canada. There the workingman takes his pleasure as deliberately as he does his beer. He does not object to starting the week with a couple of days off to rest his tired frame and refresh his dormant energies with a two-day cricket match. He has been accustomed to it for so long that it has become a habit, and he who would divorce the Briton from his habits must be of a persevering nature and not afraid of hard work.

Still baseball has come to Canada and gradually overcome every-