

REFLECTIONS

BY THE EDITOR

The Farce of the Komagata Maru

B RITISH COLUMBIA is still agitated by the bewildering drama of the Komagata Maru, whose shipload of Hindus have for some weeks been quarantined in Vancouver Harbour. The Japanese liner was chartered by Gurdit Singh, a leading spirit in the East India colony, who since the landing of the Maru have been responsible for paying \$14,000 of the total \$40,000 due a few days ago for commission and harbour dues. The immigration department in Vancouver have prevented the Hindus from landing. Counsel for the Hindus alleges that the prevention is illegal. The order-in-council prohibiting the landing of Hindu labourers and artisans, and all Hindus coming in any vessel not sailing direct from an Indian port, is said by Hindu partisans to be inapplicable to the Komagata Maru, which sailed direct from India with a passenger list of Sikh farmers. The Hindu counsel has applied to the Supreme Court for a writ of mandamus against the board of inquiry investigating the case. The Japanese captain is said to be afraid to sail without protection from his passengers, who might commandeer the vessel, and to be willing to sail if under the escort of a cruiser from the Japanese navy, two of whose gunboats were given a public reception in Vancouver Harbour a few days ago. Some Hindus have attempted to board the vessel from a motor-boat. The Vancouver City Council has sent a resolution to Premier Borden. A mass meeting was mooted but withdrawn. Meanwhile, the Hindus held a protest meeting in which some incendiaries went so far as to advise the Hindus to return to India for the purpose of stirring up a hornets' nest against the British Government. British Columbia sentiment is determined that the Komagata Maru shall sail with her unwelcome passengers. At the same time there is nothing to compel the Maru to sail so long as the claims of the shipowners and the harbour-master are paid by the Hindus on shore. Premier Borden has been in direct communication with the Imperial authorities, and it is understood that because of possible trouble in London his government has advised the immigration authorities at Vancouver to allow the Hindus to land until the courts decide the case.

Alarmists on both sides must be given second place to common sense. British Columbia frankly does not want Hindus of any sort. Then it seems reasonable that Hindu farmers should be permitted to go farther and settle upon land in the prairie provinces, where they have as good a chance to assimilate as some of the Europeans already brought out by the Immigration Department. There is a reason why British Columbia should object to the further importation of Orientals for settlement in that province. There is no reason why the Hindu immigration problem should not be settled by a conference between the Ottawa Government and the Imperial authorities.

The Imperial Conference

O BVIOUSLY two principles require to be recognized if imperial co-operation is to be successful, writes Mr. Richard Jebb, in the "Morning Post" of May 20th. The first is that each government must carry out promptly any resolution of the Imperial Conference to which it has been an assenting party. Secondly, no government should abandon a policy which has been so adopted without again consulting the Imperial Conference.

For example, in 1902, the British Government was a party to a resolution in favour of Preferences. That Government was in power from 1902 to 1906, and did nothing to carry out its share of the programme. Again, the Newfoundland Government voted for Preference in 1907, and has never done anything to carry it out. Mr. Jebb deprecates these two failures.

Another failure to keep a pledge was the British Government's promise at a Conference in 1909 to create an "Eastern Fleet," built up of units provided by the several countries concerned—Australia, New Zealand and India.

Dealing with the second principle, he points out that it has been observed recently by South Africa. That country gave a preference on the understanding that a similar preference would be given by Great Britain. South Africa now desires to repeal that preference, but General Smutz and General Botha have declared that they do not feel free to do so until the matter has again been discussed by another Conference.

Newspaper Postage

S EVERAL reasons justify the Postmaster-General in demanding an increase in newspaper postage from Canadian publishers. British publishers mailing to Canada pay three cents per pound, one-

half of which goes to the Canadian Government. United States publishers bring their papers in here fast freight and then mail in this country at one cent a pound, which all goes to the Canadian post-office. Home publishers pay only one-quarter cent per pound, which is considerably less than their British and United States competitors. The Canadian press recognize this and are willing to pay a higher rate.

Under these circumstances, their opposition to the Postmaster-General's Bill, which was defeated last week, requires explanation. The publishers want certain new regulations and are determined to get them when they agree to an increase in rates. Hence they have decided that any Bill which goes through must contain both items—the new rates and the new regulations.

The publishers of Canada, especially those who issue periodicals and technical papers, are entitled

ANOTHER WHITNEY VICTORY.

D ESPITE all the efforts of the Conservatives to prevent it, the chief topic in the Ontario election campaign which closed on Monday last was "Abolish the Bar." The Conservatives believe that this end may best be accomplished by the present Local Option Act, while the Liberals would introduce a provincial prohibition law. The Methodist and Baptist ministers took an active part in support of the Liberals, and their efforts affected the results. The Presbyterians were not as active, and the Anglicans and Roman Catholics were neutral.

When the Legislature was dissolved there were 88 Conservatives and 18 Liberals. Five new seats were created, making the total number of seats in the new Legislature 111. Three Conservatives and one Liberal were elected by acclamation. In several constituencies, there were no Liberal candidates, their place being taken by Independent or Conservative Temperance candidates. The results follow:

Conservatives	82
Independent Temperance	1
Liberals	27
Labour	1
Total	111

Some changes will occur when further returns are in, but the general result is a majority of 53 Conservatives over the Liberal Temperance and Labour representatives combined. Sir James Whitney, the Premier, was re-elected in Dundas, as was Mr. Rowell, leader of the Opposition, in North Oxford.

The temperance candidates were defeated all along the line. Sir James Whitney, when informed of the results, said: "I have had victories before; but this is a triumph." These words tell the whole story.

to special consideration. American papers come in here free of duty, the price of magazine paper is higher here than in the United States, duty has been paid on most of the machinery used, duty is still levied on engravings and electros—the Canadian publisher is thus handicapped by geography and tariff. The only protection, or counterbalancing privilege, the publishers here have, is a lower postage rate. If this is taken away, without other advantages being given, the result might be serious.

Canada needs better and stronger national papers. It is the duty of the Government, of which the Post Office is a part, to encourage weeklies and monthlies which circulate from coast to coast and help to develop a broad national sentiment. This is a point which the Post Office officials have hitherto regarded too lightly.

It is currently reported that the Post Office officials have announced that they desire to exclude trade papers from the newspaper list. This is extraordinary, if true. These papers serve a useful purpose in promoting internal commerce and educating the merchants of the country along national lines. They carry a class of news which is not to be found in daily papers, and yet is important to the commercial life of the country. The lawyer wants his law journal, the doctor his medical journal, the university man his university news, the architect his architectural news, the grocer his grocery paper, and so on. The farmer's trade journal is the agricultural weekly, and he is in the same position as the merchant and professional men. All these papers must have a national circulation or they cannot succeed. Therefore they should have the same low rate over the whole country as the daily papers have in their limited territory.

The Postmaster-General is to be congratulated

upon his desire to increase the revenue of his department. Nevertheless, he must not allow his officials to mislead him. The publishing business in this country has probably paid less profit than any other industry in the country. The publishers who have grown rich can be counted on the fingers of any man's hand. Not more than twenty-five per cent. of Canada's twelve hundred publications pay more than a bare living to their owners. The cost of getting national circulation is enormous, due to the scattered distribution of our population. New York State, for example, contains as many people as Canada, in about one-hundredth of the area. The Postmaster-General must take all these matters into his consideration when deciding upon the policy of his department. Their consideration by his predecessors in office explains why newspaper postage has always been nominal in Canada.

As has been intimated, low postage has been the only sort of protection which the Government could extend to the publishing interests. A duty on newspapers, periodicals and trade papers coming into Canada was not deemed advisable nor possible. Such a duty would be contrary to the spirit of the Berne Convention, which regulates international postal matters. The Canadian papermakers had also to be protected, and this has made Canadian printing paper higher in price here than in the United States or Great Britain. This was an additional reason for low postage.

Post Office officials, in their zeal for revenue, are apt to overlook this history and these conditions, but the Postmaster-General, whoever he may be, cannot afford to do so. The needs of our national life must be considered before Post Office revenues. Otherwise there would be no justification for parcel post and rural mail delivery, or for the extremely low rates paid by the Post Office to the railways for carrying mails. Nevertheless, if the Postmaster-General and the publishers sit down together, to discuss the subject in a friendly manner, a decision will no doubt be reached which will be satisfactory to the Department as well as fair to the publishing interests. An increase of rates is possible without any corresponding rise in subscription rates.

A New National Cartoon

B ETWEEN "Johnnie Canuck" and "Miss Canada," this country seems to be having a hard time to get a national cartoon fit to associate with John Bull and Uncle Sam. And it was forty-seven years ago Wednesday of this week that the British-Imperial Parliament passed the Act of Confederation. All this while we have been muddling along without either a real national song or a national cartoon.

Poor John Canuck always seemed to have been the nice little bib and tucker boy who first sang "The Maple Leaf Forever" at school, with all the other boys and girls joining in the chorus; till he became a compromise between a Calgary cowboy, a mounted policeman and a tailor's model—and then, by the irony of fate, an editor man grabbed him and used him as a name for a paper. And it is some proof that nobody ever took much stock in John C. or there would have been an injunction to restrain that editor from purloining his name. Miss Canada is perhaps a little older, and she has been stuck into cartoons ever since J. W. Bengough printed a certain comic supplement called "Grip." Sometimes she is a trim little fur-wrapt maid that looks like an Ottawa school-girl starting for a snowshoe trip; sometimes a pensive young spinster half-way between a Grecian maid and a heroine from one of E. P. Roe's novels.

The latest reincarnation of Miss Canada was billboarded at the Ad-Men's Convention last week; and this caricature was the ultimate termination sometimes known as "the limit." In the same bi-national poster, intended to symbolize the friendly feeling between US and U.S., there was a superb coloured portrait of Uncle Sam toggled up in Stars and Stripes lifting his hat to the lady. And the lady, looking like a mistaken identity between a cultivated wash-woman and a nice Nauhascape squaw from Ungava, was all shawled up in the Union Jack, doing her best to get a new-moon smile across to the inimitable old Father of the Fourth of July, but looking very awkwardly uncomfortable. In all the post-impressionistic settings of Miss Canada from the days of Lord Dufferin until now, this one was surely the worst. All that was necessary to make her the "ne plus ultra" of burlesque was a disc-machine behind the board giving a cracked mezzo-soprano imitation of "O Canada." Or, if the artist had gone a little further and depicted Uncle Sam leaning over to chug this drab Miss Canada under the chin, we should have been feeling like the late James Russell Lowell, once U.S. ambassador to Great Britain, felt when he wrote that biting essay "On a Certain Condescension Among Foreigners."

It is time we discarded Miss Canada. This country is not that kind of lady. In the forty-seventh year of Confederation we may be pardoned for presuming that any lady who represents this country in a national cartoon should be a masterpiece of womanhood as superbly modelled as the top figure placed by Walter Allward on the monument to the South African heroes of Empire. If the national figure is to be a man, we suggest that it should be some such a man as the same sculptor placed at the base of that monument; a man that looks as though he had the muscular and nervous and mental manhood that came up from the bush in the Victorian era to the conquest of the twentieth century.

Perhaps we don't need a national cartoon at all. But we surely don't need caricatures created by the blundering whims of any puerile artist that takes a notion to mis-express his patriotism by a bundle of dry-goods topped off with a near resemblance to a face. On the forty-seventh anniversary of Confederation, we are entitled to ask the Government of Canada to offer a prize, open to all Canadian artists, for the best obtainable national figure of Canada—or none at all.

NEMO.