

# REFLECTIONS By THE EDITOR



## Keir Hardie's Dream

**K**EIR HARDIE estimates that if Britain's current expenditure of \$375,000,000 on its army and navy were divided up among the people, it would increase the wages of every man, woman and child in Great Britain by one dollar a week. But would it? And if it did, would it be wise?

If women were to stop wearing fancy hats and dresses, go bareheaded and wear plain Puritan frocks, the annual saving would be nearly as much. But would that saving go to the working people in increased wages?

If the sale of automobiles, except for business use were stopped, the amount of money available would be tremendous. Kill that industry in Great Britain, and would the wages of every worker go up?

The temperance reformers point to the liquor bills and the vast sums spent annually on beer and spirits. They argue that if this expenditure were stopped by a prohibition of liquor selling, the worker would get a higher wage. Yet wages go up steadily while the amount spent on liquor increases. And again, in prohibition districts, wages are no higher than in license districts.

The truth is that the rate of wages is determined by factors other than that which Mr. Keir Hardie emphasises. Our extravagances are paid for out of surplus earnings. Abolish the army and the navy and those surplus earnings would go into some other form of extravagance. Wages depend mainly on the demand and supply of labourers, and are affected neither favourably nor adversely by regular expenditures on the part of Governments.

War should cease. International arbitration and universal peace are supremely desirable. But when these reforms are gained, poverty and the living wage will still be problems of prime importance and grave difficulty.

## The Other Side of the Shield

**C**URIOSLY enough, just as Keir Hardie makes his plea for the cutting down of Britain's war expenditure, Mr. Andrew Miller makes a plea for the restoration of betting on horse-races in New York State. He claims that the business welfare of the city of New York has been injured by the abolition of race-track betting. The great racing stables have been transported to Europe, and with them have gone many "fat purses" belonging to people who spend their money freely. The hotels, shops, merchants, railroads and others who supplied food, transportation and clothing for all the people connected with horse-racing have suffered greatly. Visitors from all over America once came to New York to spend their surplus earnings; now they go to England or the continent. Furthermore, it has crippled the business of raising thoroughbreds all over the United States.

Keir Hardie is at the one extreme; Andrew Miller is at the other. Both Keir Hardie and Mr. Miller forget that if people with money to spend foolishly are denied one method they will seek another. The people who formerly spent their surplus in New York in one way are now spending it in New York in another way. If not in New York, then they are spending it in other places where it will probably do more good.

Education alone will prevent people spending their money foolishly and unwisely. A fool and his money are soon parted is as true to-day as it was in Solomon's time. Sane ideas imbedded in the minds of the people will alone prevent extravagance. Broad knowledge of labour conditions alone will enable the working people to get higher wages.

a large portion of the regularly listed Canadian stocks were also up. It is thus emphasized that only the fools are placing buying orders on the Canadian mining exchanges.

This is not to say that there is no silver in Cobalt and no gold in Porcupine. The ore is there, but it is more profitable to sell mining stock to a gullible people than to dig silver and gold out of the bowels of the earth.

## President Diaz and Gratitude

**P**RESIDENT DIAZ would probably be able to write an interesting essay on the advantages of a monarch ruling by right of succession over a president ruling by right of election. Had he been a king, people would have waited somewhat impatiently but gravely until death removed him from the scene of action. Because he was a president, he must flee in the night, and become an exile from his native land. Kingdoms have at least one advantage over republics—they show both respect and gratitude towards those who rule over them.

Although supreme ruler of Mexico for over thirty years, and although the greatest man of his



MISS DOROTHY CAMPBELL

Champion of Canada and the United States, who recently won the championship of Great Britain for the second time. She may be reasonably styled champion woman golfer of the world.

About two years ago she came to Canada to reside, and now lives in Hamilton.

age in that Republic, President Diaz is driven out in disgrace. That he accomplished much for his country, that he brought order out of disorder, that he established good government and commercial prosperity, none will deny. He had his faults, and the people chose not to overlook them. They forgot what of good he had accomplished, and thought only of the minor evils of his later dictatorship. It is a sad drama, and much sympathy goes out to the eighty-year-old patriot who reaped not the greatest harvest of his sowing.

There are lessons in it for both ruler and ruled in this and other countries. Monarchies are better than republics under modern conditions, because the elected rulers of the country are not raised to such a high eminence that they may not retire gracefully. A cabinet minister, even a great premier, under a monarchy, may retire to public life without losing prestige or reputation. For the president of a republic, the task is much more difficult.

## Nova Scotia Elections

**N**OVA SCOTIA is to have a general election this month. The Liberals of that province have been in power for twenty-nine years, under Mr. Fielding and Premier Murray. In the expiring Legislature they hold 33 of the 38 seats. That they will lose in the present election is not to be expected, though the Conservatives should come back stronger than they have been for ten years.

There are rumours that after the election Premier

Murray will retire. His health is not good, and he has a laudable ambition to give way to a younger colleague. His successor will probably be Hon. A. K. McLean, the present attorney-general, although there are rumours that Mr. McLean also desires to return to private law practice. It is hardly likely, however, that his party will allow him to do this if it can be avoided. He is a strong debater, good organizer, and a persistent political fighter.

It does seem a pity that Nova Scotia should suffer, as other provinces have suffered, from having one party in power so long. More frequent changes in the political administration would be good for that province, for the other provinces, and also for the Dominion. But the people will otherwise.

## Led by Their Women

**A** MOST insidious attack has been made on Canadian judges and lawyers by a prominent divine. In a sermon delivered last Sunday, he declared that these men went to the horse-races because they were taken there by their women. This is a fearful charge. It first implies that the judges and the lawyers are married to or are the fathers of (others cannot possibly be included) some very wicked women. Secondly, it implies that these prominent chief justices, justices, and famous K.C.'s have not sufficient back-bone to prevent their being led around by their women, even to places where danger lurks. Surely, something will happen to Rey. Mr. Pedley if he is ever a prisoner at the bar or a plaintiff in a law suit. It will be cold justice for him, I am afraid.

If horse-races and such pleasures are wicked, why not abolish all pleasures except that of criticising and denouncing our fellow-men?

## Will the Canadian Farmer Benefit

**A**CCORDING to figures published in the *Canadian Farm*, the United States sells to Canada meat and dairy products which average over three millions annually. Pickled pork and lard are the largest items in this, and dairy products are the smallest.

On the other hand, Canada's sale of meat and dairy products to the United States average only a quarter of a million annually, taking the figures for the five years, 1905-1910. Thus the United States sells to Canada more than six times as much of this sort of produce as Canada sells to the United States.

There are two ways of looking at this. One conclusion would be that under reciprocity, this country would be deluged with United States pork and lard. Another equally sane conclusion would be, that as the United States' duties are reduced more than the Canadian, it is probable that Canada will gain most under the proposed rearrangement. Heretofore the duties have not been a serious obstacle to United States sales, and these might not greatly increase. On the other hand, Canadian sales have been small, because of a high tariff against them, and, therefore, the Canadian producer of meat, pork, lard, butter and eggs would gain greatly. Each reader must reason it out for himself and decide which conclusion he will adopt.

## Lloyd George and His Scheme

**L**LOYD GEORGE'S insurance scheme is getting its knocks. The insurance companies and fraternal societies are up in arms against it, and it directly affects their prosperity. Why should a man have private insurance or fraternal benefits, when the State undertakes to look after him for a penny a week, and to provide him with a doctor for six shillings a year? Besides one-half of the cost comes out of the employer.

If Lloyd George can drive this fool scheme through the British House of Commons, then the moral and economic predominance of that body will cease to be the wonder and admiration of the world. Not that his scheme is wholly bad, but mainly because it is ill-timed. Great Britain has not yet had time to find out the effect of old-age pensions, nor the time to thoroughly work out the other recent social legislation. To plunge the nation into a huge insurance scheme at this time, when there are educational and legislative reforms of long standing awaiting consideration does not seem to be a work of wisdom.

No one may doubt this man's ability, nor the spirit which animates his activity. He is a tremendous reformer—a Tolstoi who found himself in power because he makes clever, demagogic speeches. He is trying to use that power for the good of his fellows—his fellow wage-earners. But he should have patience.

## Mining Stock Values

**D**URING the month of May, twenty-two Canadian mining stocks declined in value and ten increased. Neither the declines nor the increases were notably large, but the undoubted tendency was downward. During the same period, seventeen of twenty-four United States industrial stocks showed an increase in value, practically every American railway stock increased in price, while