

## THE TERCENTENARY HISTORY OF CANADA

in the summer of 1814, Castlereagh, the British Foreign Minister, agreed to appoint commissioners, and Ghent was designated as the meeting-place. In addition to the three already appointed, two other American envoys were named, Henry Clay of Kentucky and Jonathan Russell of Rhode Island. In August the five met together. Ghent and were confronted by three British envoys, Lord Gambier, Henry Goulbourn, and Dr. William Adams.

"The  
Puritan  
and the  
blackleg"

Space will not admit a recitation of the various proceedings of these envoys. In John Quincy Adams's diary we have some very interesting records of this Yankee's dissatisfaction with his colleagues, particularly with Clay, whose fondness for gambling, card-playing, drinking, and kindred excesses was not relished at all by the Great Man of Quincy, Massachusetts. It was most fitting, therefore, that John Randolph should afterward rise in the United States Senate and point out with his matchless satire "the unholy coalition of the Puritan and the blackleg," by which for the first and only time in the history of the United States, in 1824, the House of Representatives elected a President, Adams being the man, and he selected Clay, one of his opponents in the Presidential contest, to be his Secretary of State.

Differences  
within the  
peace com-  
mission

There were other elements of discord in this commission from the United States. Ross and Bayard were rather colorless; one could be depended upon to pull one way and the other the opposite. Clay was very insistent on the right of the United States to dominate the commerce of the Mississippi, while, on the other hand, Adams was very urgent in protecting the rights of the American fishermen