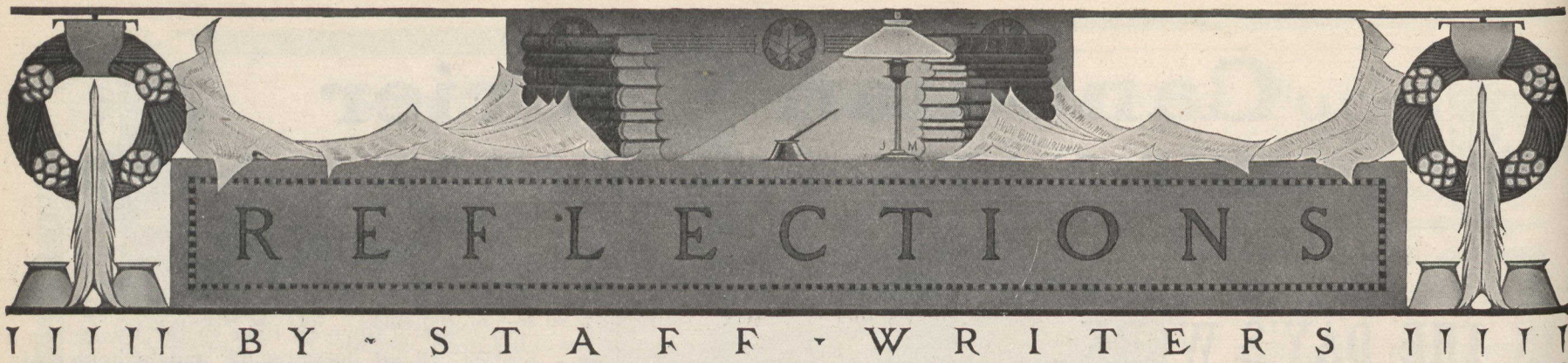




REFLECTIONS

BY STAFF WRITERS

DECREPIT OLD ENGLAND

THAT Dear Old England was growing decrepit we have known for a long time. No person knows this so well as a Canadian, unless it is an American. Stupidity has been taking the place of keen intelligence, and the centre of civilisation has been surely if slowly moving to North America. The correspondent of the *New York Sun* has furnished us with the latest piece of evidence concerning this growing senility of the Mother of Anglo-Saxon Nations—England's interest in prize-fighting has gone. Now this is a marked characteristic, a sure sign of decrepitude. Strong, keen, intellectual nations like Australia, the United States and Canada are keenly interested in prize-fighting. When our own dear Tommy Burns fought a negro named Johnson in Australia, the public press was full of accounts of the preparations, the stakes, the training, the conditions and the prospects. The leading Canadian dailies devoted more space to it than to the opening of Parliament or even to Judge Cassels' Report. The old Corinthian spirit may have dropped many degrees in the social scale in England, but not in Canada or the United States. The fight was the talk of the clubs and the topic of street-discussion. We are young. We are vigorous. We are not yet far removed from the barbaric.

Let us glory in our newness, in the hot, red blood which runs in our veins, in the fighting spirit which we have maintained. Let us glory in the fact that our newspapers may talk strongly for political morality, temperance reform and the layman's foreign missionary movement and yet be unafraid to devote columns to the pugilistic contest between two men who are a dis—. But the libel laws and an enlightened public opinion prevent our completing the sentence.



THE LAST BLAST IN "U" MAJOR

THOSE two estimable journals, the *Hamilton Times* and the *London Advertiser*, take exception to our statement that the man who leaves the "u" out of honour and other such words is "an outlaw and an unpatriotic citizen." The *Times* thinks we are not serious, the *Advertiser*, being less polite, says we are either joking or making a joke of ourselves.

May we be allowed to say again what we have said before that a law is a law until it is repealed, and that no intelligent citizen will break a law or even a regulation even though he believes it is unjust, unfair or even pernicious. To permit any other doctrine to obtain a foothold would bring Canada to the level of the "lynching" states and would destroy all British precedents. The *Courier* has never maintained that using the *u* is good orthography, or that it was the only proper method of spelling. We have, however, maintained that it is the only authorised and legal spelling and that every person who refuses to use it is, in a sense, an outlaw. To our confreres on the daily press, we beg to say that we are quite serious and that we believe our position to be sound as well as reasonable.

The *Toronto Globe's* answer is that the Dominion Executive Council has no authority in matters of education, the subject being expressly reserved, in the constitution, to the provinces. This is a weak argument, but even if it were strong it would only be final if the provincial authorities had legislated on the subject. So far as the provinces have issued regulations at all, they have all and always recognised the British spelling.



A BIT OF CANADIAN ENTERPRISE

EVERY Canadian is proud of Canadian enterprise and glad to hear of every striking example. Here is one which should satisfy the most fastidious. There is a Department at Ottawa known as the Department of Trade and Commerce and it is presided over by that

valiant, if aged, warrior, Sir Richard Cartwright. This Department has a number of trade commissioners and commercial agents on its staff, who live in different parts of the world gathering information which will be valuable to Canadian exporters. This information is sent by cable, or steamer, or sailing-ship perhaps, to Ottawa and there published in the form of a "Weekly Report." Considering that it is a government publication this "Weekly Report" cannot be expected to be as enterprising as a private publication—and it is not. For example, in the issue of February 22nd appears a letter from London dated January 25th, one from Bristol dated January 30th, and one from Capetown dated December 29th. This is not excessively rapid work for a twentieth-century publication, but it is the best to which Canada has yet attained.

But this particular piece of enterprise to which attention is specially directed is yet to be mentioned. This issue of February 22nd contains a letter from Barbados, signed by Mr. E. H. S. Flood, who is not a mere "commercial agent" but a much more important "trade commissioner." In this letter, dated January 30th, 1909, he tells us the value of the coal, flour, bicycle and motor-cars imported into Barbados and the other West India Islands in "1907." It has taken him exactly thirteen months to get the figures, or to be accurate, twelve months and thirty days. There is enterprise for you; there is diligence that should be rewarded!

P.S.—Those sending congratulations to Sir Richard Cartwright, on behalf of Mr. Flood, must remember that telegrams are unlike letters sent to Cabinet Ministers, and should be prepaid. Of course, if the telegraph company will permit, the messages may be sent collect.



GREAT BRITAIN AND GERMANY

CANADA is vitally interested in the relations between Great Britain and Germany, first because there is the danger spot so far as the British Empire is concerned, and, secondly, because Canada's relations with Germany are not in a satisfactory condition. If Great Britain and Germany were to go to war, the German Canadians would not be pleased by the sight of a Canadian army going abroad to fight against the "Fatherland." It would not be a solace to them to know that their taxes were being used to diminish the glory of their ancestors' Empire.

Hence the events of February must have been of unusual interest to many Canadians. King Edward, the Peace-maker, and Queen Alexandra have been visiting in Berlin. They were received by the municipality, were the guests of honour in a procession through the capital to the Royal Castle, were entertained at a State banquet and other functions, and were warmly welcomed by the people of Berlin as well as by the municipal, state and imperial authorities. The preservation of peace and the maintenance of friendly relations were the subjects discussed everywhere. The long-estranged Royal Uncle and Royal Nephew showed undoubted signs of a sincere reconciliation.

At no time in the last twenty years has it been possible to speak so hopefully of the relations of the two Empires. This is especially true since the Anglo-French *entente* came into being. To be a friend and ally of France and a friend of Germany at the same time seemed impossible. Therefore British thinkers, naval experts and soldiers dreamed daily of a coming war with the German. It seemed inevitable. France's trouble with Germany over Morocco made the situation even more acute. And yet here, in the twinkling of an eye, the Morocco trouble is fixed up, France and Germany come to be on better terms than for many years, and King Edward visits the Kaiser.

It may be quite true as the editor of the *London Outlook* says that "Far too much suspicion and far too little common-sense have permeated the discussion of Anglo-German relations for the past fifteen years." This is a truism which usually applies to international relations. Yet it is quite true that the interests of Germany and Britain are not materially in conflict. Germany has been unreasonably jeal-