

claps eyes on so much as the skirt of an obese Galician woman. Be his intentions never so admirable, the Westerner must come East or remain a sad-eyed solitaire. Well, times are good and railway travelling will soon be pleasant. We shall welcome the wifeless Westerner but he must not think that any young Lochinvar can come out of the West and secure a helpmeet without rivalry.

LAST Monday night, at the third annual concert given by the Mendelssohn Choir and Pittsburg Orchestra in the city of Buffalo, the four thousand people who packed Convention Hall showed unmistakably their enthusiastic admiration of "Scots Wha Hae," which they demand as surely as the February concert comes around. To anyone who remembered, even in a casual way, his British history, it was seriously suggestive that two hundred and twenty-five loyal subjects of King Edward the Seventh should be singing, with the heart and the understanding also, the magnificent defiance of Edward the Second, declaring hatred of the English yoke. To the right of the choir stretched the merchant ensign of Great Britain, in which the cross of St. Andrew's is fairly conspicuous. To their left extended the flag belonging to a great nation, undreamed of for centuries after Scots and Englishmen had found a gory bed at Bannockburn.

Just here it may be said that our neighbouring city in the American Republic not only shows an appreciation of Canadian singers but also displays a courtesy towards the British sentiments of the latter that is decidedly graceful. The hotel orchestra even goes to the polite length of contributing "The Maple Leaf Forever" and "Soldiers of the Queen," while the visiting chorus partakes of the soup and salad which fortify the members for the coming ordeal. We sometimes comment on Uncle Sam's carelessness in this regard and forget the occasions on which he makes a genial and kindly host.

BEFORE the Canadian Club of Toronto, the Hon. Mr. Emmerson entered upon a spirited defence of the Intercolonial. He claims that both Conservatives and Liberals have unduly attacked it. Its rates are lower than on any other railway in the world, and if these were raised to the average of the G.T.R., C.P.R., and the United States roads, it could have a surplus sufficient to pay interest on the eighty millions that are invested in it. Moreover, if sold now it would easily bring enough to repay the country for all that has been expended on its construction and maintenance.

The Intercolonial was established to enable the provinces of Ontario and Quebec to trade with the provinces by the sea. Before it came into existence, the people of the Maritime Provinces sent their products to New England and bought their supplies there. Since its influence came into being, the farmers and merchant princes of Ontario gained much from the trade which was developed. Moreover the connection with the St. Lawrence province had brought the sons of the people

in the Maritime Provinces to Ontario and Quebec for their education and had thus cemented the connection between these districts.

He pointed out that the losses on the Intercolonial were not to be compared with the losses on the canals of Ontario and Quebec which no one criticised. Moreover the cost of the Intercolonial was only a small percentage of the amount spent by Canada in improving her transportation facilities. In railway subsidies, canals and navigation facilities, Canada had spent over five hundred million dollars. He thought it had been well spent, but those who agreed with him should not select the Intercolonial to make an exception of it.

Considered as an investment, as a means of binding Canada together and a means of developing inter-provincial trade, it was an institution of which all Canadians should be proud. He was prepared also to prove that it was the most economically managed road to be found anywhere.

THE recent blow which Socialism has suffered at the German polls attracts attention to the increasing weakness of the movement in Germany. For it was not the strong opposition of the Emperor, but its own inherent weakness that was responsible for its falling off in voting strength. In the earlier days when the Markian Socialism was an active force; when the Markian theory that all value was attributable to labour, and its implication that aggregated wealth was the outcome of the exploitation of the labourer held sway. Socialism was truly a vital creed. An acute critic has pointed out that a peculiar danger to the socialistic movement lies in active participation in politics leading to the creation of a distinct party. Active participation in politics of necessity brings up the question of expediency and the endeavour to conciliate different trends of thought. German Socialism has been no exception to this. The German socialistic leaders gradually became frankly opportunist in their point of view. The party endeavoured to use its voting strength to obtain reforms in favour of the working classes regardless of any ultimate theory of social evolution. In other words it became a radical workingmen's party. In England the Fabian Socialists, who have attracted so much attention because of the prominence of Sydney Webb and Bernard Shaw, run much the same course. Both in Germany and in England Socialism has had its period of political success. In both countries it has had to pay the penalty of this success. Its participation in politics has caused its members to align themselves more and more in favour of radical reforms in the present and to concern themselves less with the ushering in of a socialistic millenium. It has thus tended to become part of a general liberal movement. The result is that those of the Socialists who are constructive find their refuge in an existing political party—witness John Burns; while the socialistic movement as a distinct organisation has been more and more left to earnest but erratic critics of the existing system. Back of the whole question is the fact that the workingman has preferred his bread in the present rather than his cake in the future.

Are You Thinking About It?

Canada's greatest need to-day is Civil Service Reform. This would mean the elimination of political patronage, which is the curse of our politics, the bane of our public life. The place-seekers make miserable the lives of members of Parliament and Legislatures. They foment so much trouble that many good men are prevented from entering parliamentary life. They force their way into the civil service positions over the heads of more worthy men, and weaken our administrative efficiency. Are you thinking about it? To bring about the reform, it will be necessary for one thousand citizens to work and vote for it.