

and the French pictures by an art committee in Paris. The Gallery itself and the Canadian collection were under control of the Ontario Society of Artists and the Art Committee of the Exhibition Association. It is estimated that more than 400,000 people visited the Gallery during the ten days it was opened, which is undoubtedly a record for Canadian picture shows.

EXTEND ITS SPHERE

THE question of extending the sphere of the civil service reform movement is a work to which the "Canadian Courier" has decided to devote some attention. Its editor has been a strong advocate of the movement for many years and it is but natural that his work in this direction should be continued by the "Courier" staff.

There are two directions in which extensions are necessary; first, the Dominion Act should be broadened to include the outside service; second, the various provincial civil services should be placed upon an independent basis—so that no politicians may appoint friends, relatives or supporters to any office whatever. The *Toronto Star* has also declared in favour of these two extensions, as the following quotation shows:

"We hope that the working of the system will be so satisfactory that it will be ultimately extended to the outside civil service. It is the outside service that comes in contact with the public, and that may be tempted to use the influence of the Government for partisan purposes. Very important duties, for instance, devolve upon the officials who have to report upon the doing of homestead duty, and these duties ought to be performed without a suspicion of partisan bias. The Dominion Government has now shown its desire to carry out the law in good faith, and the example ought to be followed in Ontario and the other provinces. It is fully as important that the provincial service shall be freed from patronage and other partisan evils as that the remedy shall be applied to the Dominion civil service."

SIR WILFRID LAURIER AT SOREL

THE Premier has opened his campaign in a speech of characteristic political tact and brilliancy. The address to men of his own race found expression in terms with which no Ontario citizen could be offended. He frankly admitted his pride in his achievements as a son of Quebec but said no word which might be regarded as an appeal to race prejudice. The few papers which endeavoured to make any part of his address into a racial "cry" have failed in such a useless attempt. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, even among his French-Canadian brethren, never forgets that he is a Canadian—the chosen First Minister of a vast Dominion.

The audience at Sorel was an interesting spectacle to any Ontario visitor. When Sir Wilfrid Laurier appears upon the platform of Massey Hall, Toronto, there is a wild outburst of cheering, while hats are raised and handkerchiefs fluttered in a fashion thrilling to behold. When Sir Wilfrid is the guest of honour at a Toronto banquet, the enthusiasm is such as would lead the uninitiated stranger to believe that Toronto puts in five Liberals by acclamation. At Sorel, there was little shouting or cheering, for such is not the custom of the Province of Quebec. There was little vociferation as the speech proceeded, but as point after point was elucidated, as the policy of the Premier was made luminous, the eyes of one listener would seek those of his neighbour, while slow smiles and grave nods would be exchanged. A certain Ontario observer afterwards made the somewhat surprising remark that the audience, in its quiet and sophisticated appreciation, reminded him of a Scottish congregation of the old school, following a well-known minister as he proceeds from "firstly" to an ordered conclusion. It seems a far cry from the "auld kirk" silence to a political meeting on the St. Lawrence, but there is evidently more significance in the nod at Sorel than the clamour at Toronto. We have become accustomed to speak of the Anglo-Canadian as stolid and of the French-Canadian as mercurial; but a political audience in the Province of Quebec "gives us to think."

AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES FLEET

THE account of receptions to the United States fleet in Auckland and Melbourne is gratifying to all lovers of peace and commercial prosperity. There is no question that an understanding between the greatest modern republic and the largest empire will go far towards making smaller states feel secure. The people of New Zealand and Australia appear to have greeted the officers and men of the United States navy with an enthusiasm which surprises some editors in the neighbouring republic, who account for the antipodean

warmth in various ways. It must be considered that of late years the Oriental labourer has given Australia a race problem which has recently assumed unpleasant proportions. San Francisco, Seattle and Los Angeles, on the Pacific coast of the United States, would probably find readier comprehension of their Oriental complications in Melbourne or Sydney than in Philadelphia or Boston. There is little use in the man who has never actually faced a "colour question" talking in an academic fashion about its solution. The Australians merely become exasperated when some British Member of Parliament of the stripe of Mr. Kipling's *Pagett* talks sagaciously and exhaustively of the Oriental brother as a competitor in the Australasian market.

However, the United States citizen, especially if he be from the West, is expected to understand just how Australia feels on the matter of yellow interference. Since the Russo-Japanese War, the feeling has become more acute and the cheers which greeted the United States marines were six for Uncle Sam and half-a-dozen for Anglo-Saxon dominance in the Pacific. It was good to the Melbourne or Auckland merchant to see white sailors marching through the streets and manning huge vessels which meant to the Australasian a spectacle of power for the benefit of the Mikado's subjects. The visit of the republican navy has led some of King Edward's subjects in the Pacific to desire a similar glimpse of a line of British men-of-war. In the words of a versifier in a British journal:

"He thought he saw the British fleet
Drawn up in long array;
He looked again and saw it was
The ships of U. S. A.
'I wonder Mother's ships,' he said,
'Don't advertise this way.'"

A DEAL IN DIAMONDS

CANADA does not manifest an overwhelming interest in diamonds, for matters of daily need are too much in the minds of her citizens for such luxuries to be taken into consideration. Yet we read of the fraud practised by the professed chemist, Henri Lemoine, with the degree of interest which such pretenders usually excite. The manufacture of diamonds is a favourite subject with the teller of tales. When the small boy first learns that coal and the diamond are carbonic cousins, he naturally wonders why the manufacture of the gem has not met with shining success. Yet the missing link between anthracite and the diamond seems still to be among the undiscovered benefits.

Lemoine promised to produce large diamonds by chemical process and thereupon obtained large sums of money to build a factory. Several small diamonds were produced but there was a total failure to manufacture any of the promised dimensions. When the former products were examined experts declared that they were not artificial and, in some instances, traced them to the source from which they had been purchased.

Lemoine had deposited in an English bank an envelope containing the magic formula, but before the letter was opened in court the alchemist had disappeared. The contents of the letter revealed nothing which was not already known to scientists and those who trusted to Lemoine for vaster diamonds than have been are now furnishing amusement for the French public. The presence of Lemoine is requested by several of the courts, while Amsterdam rejoices that the manufacture of such monstrous diamonds as the Koh-i-noor or the Cullinan is indefinitely postponed.

BUSH FIRES

THE recent drought has been the cause of much distress, especially in the forest regions. Only those who have known the anxiety which comes to the community surrounded by bush fires can understand the peculiar stress suffered in Muskoka and along the St. Lawrence during the last three weeks. The farmer who has given a lifetime of toil and planning that his homestead and broad fields may be a worthy heritage sees a distant line of smoke, or a lurid sky which threatens destruction of all that he has won from the soil. The ancients regarded the household flame as sacred, guarding the fires which symbolised a city's foundation and a state's development. But sometimes the very element which signifies domestic peace and comfort turns into a hideous, devouring enemy, against which modern machinery seems a puny force. "Rain" has been the one cry from the anxious watchers and only autumn showers can bring relief.