

"Reminiscences"

By GOLDWIN SMITH

To have met the greatest characters of the last sixty years would have been a pleasure and an opportunity to be coveted, but a perusal of the reminiscences of Canada's grand old man, Goldwin Smith, which has just been published by The MacMillan Company, is almost as interesting. During the past ten years Goldwin Smith has been engaged writing these reminiscences, and when he died a few months ago it was left to his secretary, Arnold Haultain (a brother of the former premier of the Northwest Territories) to prepare the manuscript for the publisher, which he did in a thorough manner, and thereby earned a debt of gratitude from the public. Goldwin Smith when writing his reminiscences knew that they would never be read until after his death, and for that reason he speaks very plainly upon public questions and upon public men. In the recollections of his childhood the writer's description of the institutions and customs impresses upon one the amazing march of civilization. Goldwin Smith's physique was always delicate and for that reason he was carefully nurtured in youth and in fact all through life. Despite his wonderful intellect his voice was never strong and this coupled with his natural shyness, which he could never overcome, prevented his ever making a success as a platform speaker. Goldwin Smith states that he never had any desire for a public career, but had he had the power of speech to sway vast audiences supported by a strong body, his towering intellect, would have found himself beside the leading statesmen of the day. The story of his early school days as well as his life at Oxford throw interesting sidelights on those educational institutions which were afterwards remodeled on his own advice. Goldwin Smith was a highly educated man, receiving the best that the educational system of Great Britain had to bestow and polishing this with extensive travelling throughout the old countries. He was a member of the University commission which remodeled the teaching system of Oxford university, and was a member of the teaching staff of that institution, where one of his pupils was the late King Edward. He studied law and was admitted to the bar but had an intense dislike for the legal profession. He said that he never pleaded but one case and he quaintly remarks, "The Court kindly gave a judgment in my favor."

From 1845 to 1861 Smith lived in London and met every person at that time who was best worth knowing. He was impressed with the brilliancy of Macaulay's conversational powers; he frequently met Thackeray and was a great friend of Herbert Spencer. At the house of Lady Ashburton where distinguished persons frequently gathered, Smith met Carlyle and Tennyson. Tennyson liked to read his own poetry aloud, which led to an amusing incident one evening, as Carlyle had been recently publishing his contempt for poetry. Goldwin Smith button-holed Carlyle and took him out in the grounds while Tennyson read his poetry, to the rest. During nearly all his life Goldwin Smith devoted a great deal of time to journalism, from the contributors standpoint, and was one of the contributing editors of the famous "Saturday Review," which was the cream of British journalism. Smith had a great regard for Sir Robert Peel's statesmanship, and was a close personal friend of Gladstone. On the other hand he had an intense hatred for Disraeli and the two crossed swords on a number of different occasions. Smith was one of the students of the famous Manchester school which comprised among its members Richard Cobden and John Bright. Speaking of politics he says: "Bright stood aloof from the two aristocratic parties and compared them to two trading establishments which pretended to be rivals and courted custom by running each other down until each became bankrupt when it turned out that both were the same concern." He gives Bright the foremost place among British orators of his day, and says of Cobden, "It is due, however, to Cobden always to mark that he was a free trader indeed; his heart was with those who purposed absolutely to abolish all import duties and supply their place so far as it was necessary by direct taxation." Goldwin

Smith considered the land question to be the root of the Irish agitation and did not favor Gladstone's Home Rule scheme. To his mind the choice lay between legislative union and independence. He says, "The worst of all politics is home rule, if home rule means a vassal parliament."

At the time of the American civil war when the British aristocracy and the London Times favored the Southerners, Smith remained with those who favored the North and union and stood for neutrality and in 1864 he visited United States to investigate conditions and report. He was taken out to the front and saw battle-fields and went through hospitals and such were his impressions that he was afterwards more strongly than ever opposed to war. At Washington Dr. Smith had the opportunity of meeting all the leading people in social life and was presented to Abraham Lincoln. In 1866 he resigned his Oxford professorship to take care of his father and two years later he joined Andrew White as one of the teachers in Cornell university, then organizing. For a number of years Smith remained as a lecturer at Cornell and acquired a great love for that institution, so much so that he willed his brain to the Cornell museum. He paid two visits to the Canadian Northwest and attended the first meeting of the Manitoba legislature in 1870. In



The Late Goldwin Smith and "The Grange"

speaking of the immigration from United States, he felt sure that Western Canada would one day be American. Smith was a close student of Canadian affairs and it was his settled conviction that the influence of the French Canadians would be lost in the growth of the Canadian nationality. He was greatly opposed to the granting of titles to the colonies and said that, "Canada suffered from the fact that her leading men looked for their titles and honors from another source." He was especially severe upon the political juggling that has marked the course of Canadian history for the past generation. With Sir John A. Macdonald, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier both, Smith was well acquainted. He says, that Sir John A. Macdonald was credited with saying, "That the perfection of the ministry would be twelve men, each of whom, if you liked you could put into the penitentiary," and Smith adds, "he spoke in jest no doubt, but in the jest there was a grain of truth." To Smith both Macdonald and Laurier were manipulators and not statesmen. And he believed Alexander Mackenzie a thoroughly honest man, a servant of the public. Speaking of his beliefs of union between Canada and United States Smith said, "I was led to the conviction that the separation of the two great bodies of English speaking people on the American continent would not last forever, and that union free and equal, was in this case, as it had been in the case of Scotland and England the decree of destiny. The word annexation implying a forced submission on the part of Canada, never passed my lips."

Smith condemns very severely the action of the Dominion parliament and

the Ontario legislature for passing home rule resolutions to capture Irish votes. Of course Goldwin Smith was a strong free trader and was a powerful friend of the organized farmers. He assisted financially in placing the Toronto Sun upon its feet when it was tottering to its fall, and for several years contributed regularly to its columns. He was strongly opposed to the Boer war, and his writings on that subject, reduced the subscription to The Sun one-half. It was in 1871 that Smith came to Canada and in 1873 he married the widow of his friend William Boulton, who owned The Grange, where Goldwin Smith passed the rest of his days. The Grange is a fine old English mansion with beautiful grounds in the heart of the city of Toronto. Upon Goldwin Smith's death this splendid estate was willed to the city of Toronto to be held forever as an Art Museum. Space prevents further attention to this remarkable book, every paragraph of it is full of interest and it is exceedingly difficult to condense. It is a book that will be a valuable addition to any man's library. The book contains 470 pages of large type and is illustrated. It will be sent postpaid to any address upon receipt of \$3.00 by the Book Dept. GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE, Winnipeg.

SIFTON WANTS EQUALITY

Toronto, January 23.—In a ringing fifteen minute speech this afternoon at the Canadian club the Hon. A. L. Sifton, premier of Alberta, made a vigorous plea for the equality of the three Prairie Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, with the other provinces of the Dominion.

Citing the fact that these three prov-

inces do not own their timber or their mines, yet have to spend large sums annually for protecting the lives of miners and the timber lands from fire, Premier Sifton declared that the time would come when these provinces would demand the same treatment accorded New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Ontario on the east, and British Columbia on the west.

"The West has no quarrel with the East," declared Mr. Sifton. "We are not envious or jealous of your greater wealth or your greater political influence. We want to live in harmony with you, but we think it not unfair to ask that we be allowed to own and control all our sources of revenue, just as the other provinces do. When this inequality is removed, then will we work with you of the east, heart and soul for our great Dominion."

Mr. Sifton was willing to admit that at the time these provinces were created, it may have been all right for the government to act as it did, investing the ownership of their resources in the Dominion government. But times had changed. With the growth of population and the advance of the country generally, the time had come when these three provinces were suffering from the discrimination.

ONTARIO HOUSE OPENS

Toronto, Ont., January 24.—At three o'clock this afternoon the third session of the twelfth legislature of Ontario was opened by His Honor, the Lieutenant Governor Hon. J. M. Gibson. The open-

ing ceremony suffered in brilliancy this year by the absence of that much appreciated function, the speaker's reception, for the apartments of Hon. Thomas Crawford have been dismantled on account of the reconstruction of that portion of the parliament buildings, and no other adequate accommodation is obtainable. Over-crowding of the chamber was obviated by the arrangement adopted last session of issuing only a limited number of tickets. One hundred men of the Queen's Own Rifles formed the guard of honor, while a body of the Royal Canadian Dragoons escorted the Lieutenant Governor to the legislative chambers. After the preliminary ceremonies, and when the members had taken their seats, the Lieutenant Governor was escorted to the dais, where he read the speech from the throne.

OFFER PULP CONCESSIONS.

Ottawa, January 24.—The Ontario government is offering for sale two pulp concessions. The larger is the Abitibi section of Temiskaming. Conditions attached to its sale are the expenditure of \$500,000 on buildings and equipment for a saw mill to employ 250 men. The other concession is a St. Mary River one, placed advantageously for the Western Canada trade and accessible to the middle Western States, the successful bidder not having to develop power, as that is already available at Fort Frances at rates under government control. A site is reserved for the mill which, with conditions attached to the sale that the equipment must cost \$350,000, have an output of 50 tons of paper daily, and 200 hands must be employed. The concessions comprise 800 square miles of territory and there is also a large supply of pulp wood available for settlers.

RIOTS IN CHINA

Han Kow, Jan. 23.—American consul-general Robert Brent Mosher today communicated with his government asking that a gunboat be sent here to protect United States interests, in the event of continuations of the rioting which began yesterday. The disorders began following the report that the British police had killed coolie during rioting and considerable damage was done and British and German marines landed from gunboats to defend the foreign community. The firing between the Chinese and the authorities supported by marines, resulted in the death of probably twenty Chinese and injury to several foreigners. Today the foreign concessions are protected by Chinese troops and the rioters have been checked but have instituted boycott against all foreigners. Business in the city has been suspended.

BRITON BUYS BONDS

New York, Jan. 23.—A summary of Canadian bond issues in the last year indicates how dependent the Dominion is on Great Britain in the disposition of its bonds. Of the total of \$231,500,590, eighty-one per cent. was sold in Great Britain, seventeen per cent. in Canada, and 2 per cent. in the United States. No large percentage of permanent capital is supplied by Canadian investors. High grade, low yield securities, possess little attraction for Dominion capital. Bond sales in this country are of negligible amount. Government issues amounted to \$35,000,000, of which 94½ per cent. was marketed abroad. Of the higher yield municipal bonds, aggregating \$35,748,690, Great Britain took 65.3 per cent. Canada 3.7 per cent., and the United States one per cent. The Mother Country took 84 per cent. of the \$69,950,000 railway bonds, Canada taking 11.7 and the United States 4.3 per cent. Of miscellaneous bonds the United States took 35 per cent., Canada 22.73 and Great Britain 79.92 per cent.

M.G.G.A. CONVENTION

The annual convention of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association was held in Brandon, January 23, 24 and 25. A full account will appear in The Guide next week.

OFFICIAL REPORT LATER.

In addition to the papers presented and the general news account of the United Farmers of Alberta convention, at Calgary, which appears in this issue, the official minutes of the big meeting will be reproduced in a near issue.