

know that the parliament of the Dominion consists of the Queen, represented by the Governor-General, the Senate, which corresponds to the Imperial House of Lords, and the House of Commons. The members of the Senate are appointed for life by the Governor-General on the advice of the Government in power. They receive \$1,000.00 (one thousand dollars) per



HON. SIDNEY FISHER,
Minister of Agriculture.

annum and ten cents mileage to and from the seat of government. They number at the present time eighty.

The members of the House of Commons are elected by the people for a term of five years and receive the same remuneration as the Senators. In the present House there are two hundred and thirteen members.

The Governor-General selects his Prime Minister and calls upon him to form a ministry, each member of which body is assigned his special work, or, as we say, takes charge of a department. A ministry so formed is responsible for its actions to parliament, and by vote



HON. CLIFFORD SIFTON,
Minister of the Interior.

of want of confidence may be called upon to resign, whereupon the Queen, acting through the Governor-General, will call upon some other leading member of parliament to form a ministry and proceed with the business of the different

departments, which now number eleven, controlled by ministers, namely, Trade and Commerce, Secretary of State, Justice, Marine and Fisheries, Militia and Defence, Post Office, Agriculture, Public Works, Finance, Railways and Canals, and the Department of the Interior, which last named department is most important to us, as the minister is called upon to deal with all matters relating to unsettled lands in all parts of the Dominion, the issue of patents to homesteaders, the control of immigration, in short, such a list of subjects that we would fancy it a tax upon the brain of a pretty clever man to keep in mind all that he is responsible for.

Of late years it has been the policy of Premiers to select for this post some western member, as the department is constantly engaged upon matters relating directly to the new Dominion west of Lake Superior, and when the Hon. Clifford Sifton, a young barrister of Brandon, although he has not yet reached his fortieth year, was chosen for this work, the people of the West, irrespective of party bias, expressed warm approval of the selection, and generally believe that the ministry have in Mr. Sifton a gentleman who not only understands the wants of the West, but has the courage and strength of will to see that his wishes are carried out.

The day of opening, Thursday 25th March, was a typical Canadian day, bright, clear and sunny, and for this reason a large concourse of people assembled on the floor of the Senate Chamber, among the assembly being scores of Canada's charming ladies, dressed in most becoming costumes, for the purpose of listening to the speech from the throne, which was read by His Excellency Lord Aberdeen, who arrived at three o'clock, accompanied by the Prime Minister, the Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, escorted by his mounted guards from Rideau Hall, the official residence near Ottawa.

Shortly after the reading of the speech the Commons came together, took up some routine work and adjourned until the next day at three o'clock, when the real work began. Mr. Russell, M.P. for Halifax, moving the acceptance of the address in a very clever speech, ably seconded by Mr. Ethier, M.P. for Two Mountains, who spoke in the French language. The practice of parliament then calls for the leader of the loyal opposition to criticise the policy of the Government as set forth in the speech, and this duty fell to the old warrior, Sir Charles Tupper, who delivered a caustic address, wonderful in power, when we consider that the hon. gentleman is nearing his eightieth year. So the constitutional warfare has begun, and while the most cursory glance at the ministerial side of the house shows a government composed of men Canadians may well feel proud of, on the Opposition benches there are members full of fight and ready for the fray.

That the deliberations of the eighth parliament of the Dominion of Canada may be carried on to the advancement of the public good is, I feel sure, the wish of every reader of UPS AND DOWNS.

Reports from the Farm, received by the writer at Ottawa, show that during his absence matters have been running on smoothly. Large numbers of applications are coming to the office by each post, and by the time this communication is in print another contingent direct from England will be speeding away to the land of promise, after bidding goodbye to the steamer *Labrador*, now carrying them over the wild Atlantic.

AN OPEN LETTER.

Written by Alfred Johns.

Many a shaft at random sent
Finds mark the archer little meant,
And many a word at random spoken
May soothe or wound a heart that's broken.



THESE are the words, if I remember correctly, of Sir Walter Scott, one of the greatest poets Scotland ever had, and, if these words are true, how careful each one of us ought to be not to say anything that would hurt another's feelings. How watchful we should be over our tongues that they may not lead us astray.

I have met some young men who, I am sorry to say, came from Dr. Barnardo's Homes, who do not try to govern the tongue when it should be governed, or use it when it should be used. I refer now to the work of Dr. Barnardo in general.

It does not look well for a young man who has been helped out of the path of adversity and placed on the path of prosperity, with friends to look after him till he is capable of looking after himself; I say it does not look well for such a one when he is doing well to turn his back upon the friends who have helped him when he needed help. But still I am bound to say I have made the acquaintance of two or three of our young men who not only turned their backs on their friends, but deny that they ever came from the Home. Such young men, though, I am glad to say, are scarce. But facts are facts, nevertheless, and it is the few black sheep that attract the most attention.

Not one of the young men to whom I refer, who deny they came from the Home, ever spoke a word of encouragement to the younger boys who are starting for themselves in a new country. This is the way in which the tongue should be used, and that as often as convenient in giving advice, encouragement, and knowledge to the younger boys.

Not only is it, to my mind, a privilege for the older boys and young men to do this, but to anyone who professes to have a spark of manhood about him, it is a responsible duty. It is a duty which each one of us should attend to and not neglect.

The success of this great work in which we are concerned, or at least should be, namely, "Child Immigration," depends, to a certain extent—almost entirely—upon us.

It will not amount to a very great deal how well Mr. Owen speaks of the boys; it will not amount to much how UPS AND DOWNS speaks of us; it will not be to any very great advantage how hard our old friend Dr. Barnardo works, if we don't do our part in this great and noble work; and our part of the work is to do our duty, and our duty is to lend a helping hand upwards to those who are not as far up the ladder as we are.

I believe it to be the duty of every one of our young men to-day to keep a close eye, if possible, on the younger boys, and visit them from time to time and encourage them to do what is right in the sight of God and man. Nothing would be lost in so doing, the boys would be more contented in their places than they sometimes are, and they would see that we had an interest in them, and in nine cases out of ten they would try with all the might and energy they possessed, to do what is right, if it was only to please those who take an interest in them. And further than that, I'll venture to say, they will in a few years pass the kindness on to someone else who will be coming out in the not very distant future. Thus, as I said before, it is our duty to encourage the boys all we can.

But, not only so, it should be our duty also to fight with the tongue or pen anyone who attacks and tries to overthrow the good work which, for over thirty years, our esteemed friend the Doctor has been carrying on.

There are many good and noble institutions in the British Empire, which are doing a great and benevolent work, and I say "God bless them all," but show me the one that will compare with ours, either temporarily, spiritually, or financially, and you will show me something I have never seen before. But yet, with these facts in view, there are many who are always ready to do all they can to hinder the work and overthrow it. Thus, it behoves each one of us who are interested in the work and who feel we have been helped by the Doctor, to fight for him whenever opportunity shows itself.

Most of our readers remember that piece in the January number of UPS AND DOWNS headed "An Object Lesson," how the *Toronto World*, of Dec. 7th, reported of three "Barnardo boys" who had a very interesting time, trying to sneak across into Uncle Sam's territory, but when the truth leaked out it was found they were not Barnardo boys at all. Here, you see, is one kind of an attack we want to fight against. When we see any paper running down the Doctor or his boys, let us first find if the assertion is true or not, and if we find it is not true, then let us fight till they take it back, and I'll venture to say we shall not be thought any worse off for looking out for ourselves and the "Home" to which we once belonged.

March 9th, 1897.

Alfred Johns