

Liberals. A discussion of the interrogatory part of the statement would be out of place here, because this journal concerns itself with impressions and results rather than advice.

Mr. Bourassa spoke at Montmagny the other day and declared that there is more corruption at Ottawa to-day than during the Conservative regime. If this be true, then it is well that leading Liberals speak out. In so doing, they may give the Conservative press the text for many editorials, but that should not deter them. They must do right regardless of what the other side will say. It is the only policy which right-minded men can pursue, and it is the policy which will entitle them to the national confidence and esteem. At a time when cabinet reorganisation is in the air, such utterances are as timely as they are beneficial. The most effective criticism of any party is that which comes from within and which comes in the period when that party is girding its loins for a great battle.

THE Dominion Educational Association meeting at Toronto was not distinguished by a large attendance, but it brought forth a number of excellent ideas. If the report of its meeting and the papers presented are to find their way later into the hands of leading educationists throughout the country, much good may result. Throughout the proceedings the national ideals and the national problems seem to have been kept well to the fore. The suggestion that there should be a national set of readers for use in the public schools of the nine provinces is not wholly new, but has never before been so strongly supported. This is an idea which deserves the cordial support of all classes of citizens.

A Dominion Educational Association is another sign of the developing national feeling. Canada is slowly but surely learning to think nationally. We must think nationally before we can think imperially, though attempting to do the latter may help us to attain the former. Though the Dominion is forty years of age, national thinking is a virtue of slow development with us. The different provinces have been inclined to work out their own salvation independent of each other. This provincialism must eventually merge in nationalism or at least become somewhat subservient to it. When the desires and needs of a particular province run counter to the desires or needs of the country as a whole, the broader need must have precedence.

It is well that the educational aims and ideals of all the provinces should be periodically compared and unified. The youth educated in Nova Scotia should receive much the same impressions and ideas as would be given him in British Columbia. The history taught him should be national rather than provincial. The duties which he will be required as a citizen to assume should be depicted with their national as well as their local significance. It is exceedingly pleasant to note that our leading educationists recognise this and are endeavouring to lead their fellow-workers to take this broad view of their opportunities and responsibilities.

THERE is a supposition that July is the month of holidays and general picnic life, when the high collar is a burden and the laundry bill for the week makes a large fracture in a five-dollar bill. But the seventh month of this year has been already marked by conventions of more than usual interest and the speakers at these glad gatherings have addressed earnest, if perspiring hearers. It is difficult for Canadians to refrain from conventions and exhibitions, even when the mercury indicates that ideas of any sort are too serious for human consideration. Chemical authorities have met in international council at Toronto and enjoyed such social joys as their technical discussions

allowed. Then the Dominion Educational Association made Queen's Park of the same assembly-loving city look quite pedagogic while the authorities of the East and West discoursed on the shape in which Canadian twiglets should be bent. The central districts have taken to exhibitions, Portage la Prairie holding a highly successful fair and Winnipeg making a great advance this week on her former exhibitions. And also, 'way out by the Pacific, the National Council of Women hold their annual meeting in the City of Vancouver. This organisation, in which Lady Aberdeen took so fosterly an interest, has become a great unifying force for all women's societies and will doubtless find this year's work more extensive than any previous record. Next week also the capital of the country opens a scene of carnival and reunion which will make the summer of 1907 memorable in the Ottawa annals. Thus, in the sultry summer time do we Canadians keep the convention and the home-comer habit in force and prove that we are able to combine vacation and edification.

FEW men have crowded more fun into a fortnight than Mark Twain has managed to pack into his recent visit to England. He has made more friends in less time than any other recipient of Oxford honours.

A MAKER OF MIRTH There is something incongruous about the spectacle of "Tom Sawyer's" creator among the pageantry on the Cher, but no one would enjoy the incongruity more than the humourist himself. He delighted in the accusation of having walked off with the Ascot cup and the Irish regalia and kept the reporters cheered by references to his elaborate obsequies. No wonder that he has decided to postpone his funeral. The next time Uncle Sam takes a fancy to Canadian islands or Newfoundland fisheries, he is welcome to them on condition that he lends us Mark Twain for a fortnight. He beats a Hague conference to a finish as a maker of peace and dispenser of good-will. The man's serious depth and genuine heroism of endeavour are likely to be lost in the ripple of mirth that his lightest epigram creates. But he has shown a dogged earnestness equal to that of Sir Walter Scott in meeting financial adversity and keeping an honourable record. Mark himself is even better than his books. May it be many years before the report of his death will be anything but a gross exaggeration!

WHILE Mr. Stead is trying to bring peace on earth by a megaphone, General Booth continues his militant preaching of the gospel in a fashion that arouses the wonder of the globe which he travels about so briskly. Here is, indeed,

A GOOD SOLDIER a wonderful old soldier, whose activities make the busiest young man of affairs seem a rather sluggish chap. Since June of last year, General Booth has addressed about 300 indoor gatherings and unnumbered open-air assemblies. He has written and published in the year, according to the London "Daily Mail," something like 200,000 words, and has travelled over 35,500 miles by land and sea, including a motor tour of 1500 miles within the year. Through all his travel and talk, he is the same simple and fiery-hearted apostle whose message is his whole concern. Unlike the editorial peace agent, he does not advertise but spends his strength in the cause which he has made known in all parts of the earth. We may talk of modern legislation being framed by committees, of modern philanthropy being carried on by organisation. But all the machinery in the world will not yet take the place of one man's brain and heart. Carlyle was right in the main in his hero-worship theory, for the world will do much for the man who is sincere enough to make himself believed. Men who look with a doubtful eye upon many peripatetic evangelists salute the General as one of the great forces making for better citizenship and that sane federation of the world, of which the English laureate dreamed.