

REFLECTIONS

By THE EDITOR

Light on the Borden Navy.

I AM informed, on what to me is excellent authority, that the Borden permanent naval policy will not take the form of a Canadian navy. His permanent policy is already decided. He has taken the motto from the first page of Sir James Whitney's Ontario Readers: "One Flag, one Fleet, one Throne."

Where Sir James Whitney got the phrase I don't know, but it is there on the first page of every reader used in the public schools of Ontario.

This is just what I feared. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was so tardy with his Canadian fleet that the enemy got a chance to sow the seeds of doubt and distrust. Mr. Borden apparently is committed to the Whitney motto and the ultra-imperial clique. There will be no Canadian fleet. The clause saying that we may recall these three Dreadnoughts is only a bluff, a mere temporary expedient to give them time to drive home the new policy:

"One Flag, one Fleet, one Throne."

A Good Policy.

THIS policy of oneness is a good policy if correctly interpreted. It is a bad policy if it is interpreted as it was in the days of the so-called Family Compact. Before Lord Durham arrived in Canada the people who ruled this country were mostly living in Downing Street or representing Downing Street in Canada. They believed in one flag, one fleet, and one throne, and they believed in it honestly. To many of them the idea of Canada having a legislature of her own and an executive committee, to advise the Governor, chosen by that legislature, was ridiculous. It was an interference with the King's prerogative. It was subversive of monarchical government.

But the world has moved quite a distance since 1820. The political ideas of both Great Britain and Canada have shown considerable development in the last hundred years. Lord Durham believed in one flag, one fleet, and one throne, but he interpreted it quite differently from the way in which the early members of the Family Compact interpreted it. He gave it a meaning which many great men have accepted and developed since that time. Baldwin and Lafontaine agreed with Lord Durham. Sir John Macdonald, Sir George Cartier, and the Honourable George Brown also agreed with him. Still later the Honourable Edward Blake, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Charles Tupper adopted the Durham interpretation.

The men in Australia and New Zealand who corresponded with Durham, Baldwin, Lafontaine, Macdonald, Cartier, Brown, Blake, Tupper and Laurier, gave the same interpretation to this phrase. Canada has its flag, Australia has its flag, and New Zealand has its flag. Canada has its army, Australia has its army, and New Zealand has its army. Canada has its parliament, Australia has its parliament, and New Zealand has its parliament. The only oneness which these men felt was necessary was one King.

Mr. Borden's Amendment.

NOW comes Mr. Borden and those who agree with him and they introduce a new doctrine or give another interpretation to the phrase, "one flag, one fleet, one throne." They believe that there should be no flag used throughout the British Empire except the grand old Union Jack, which is the flag of Great Britain, Scotland and Ireland. There is to be no Canadian coat of arms in the field for Canada. There is to be no Southern Cross in the field for Australia.

There is to be only one fleet for the Empire. Canada is to have no fleet of its own. Australia is to give up the Royal Australian Navy which it has created. New Zealand is to surrender all its ambitions for a Royal New Zealand fleet. The only Britannic navy is to be in the North Sea.

Mr. Borden and his associates are apparently to go farther. No over-seas dominion is to have a Department of Foreign Affairs or a Consular Service of its own. These functions, like the naval function, are to be performed by Great Britain temporarily and by an Imperial Council or Parliament ultimately. When these changes are made we shall probably be asked to give up to some imperial body the right to make and unmake our tariffs, and also the right to make and unmake our trade treaties.

In short, the policy which has seemed good to the statesmen of Great Britain and the different dominions during the past hundred years is to be reversed, and once again we are to have centralization and bureaucratic government.

I entirely mistake the spirit of the people of Canada, of Australia, and of New Zealand if they are likely to adopt any such policy as Mr. Borden and the ultra-imperial clique in Great Britain are trying to foist upon these three young nations.

The Dreadnought Policy.

DO not mistake me. I am not opposed to the Borden Dreadnought policy. I do not believe that Dreadnoughts can be built in Canada at present, and I therefore am quite in accord with the policy which would order them in Great Britain. I do not believe that it would be possible at the present time for Canada to man, equip and maintain these ships. But I do believe that steps should be taken at once to create a Canadian naval service which will ultimately supply ships, men, equipment, maintenance, naval arsenals, naval stations, graving docks and all the other naval accessories as our share of Britannic defence.

If there was anything in Mr. Borden's recent

PRINCE ARTHUR SHOOTING



This picture shows Prince Arthur of Connaught shooting at Water Priory, Yorks. This year's shoot at this famous preserve was remarkable because of the very unusual fall of snow. It is rumored that the Prince will shortly receive a dukedom.

speeches which would indicate that in addition to his Dreadnought policy he is in favour of a Canadian naval service of a permanent character, then I would be quite prepared to lend my humble approval and support to the Dreadnought policy. If Mr. Borden's Dreadnought policy is simply the thin end of the centralization wedge, then I am frankly in opposition. No matter how great my admiration for the distinguished statesman, who at present is Premier of the Dominion, I must maintain my right to differ with his policy whenever I think that policy is subversive of our constitutional and national right to develop along the lines defined by the statesmen of the nineteenth century who laid the foundations of Britannic greatness and Britannic solidarity.

Hydro Finances.

THAT extensive government-controlled electric supply system in Ontario of which the Hon. Adam Beck claims to be dictator, is known everywhere as the "Hydro," and just now the Hydro is having a hard time. It has been passing through what is known as the construction period, in which it has been unable to distinguish clearly between

capital expenditure and ordinary expenses. This phase has almost passed and the charges to capital account are being reduced to a minimum. Henceforth most of the expense must be paid out of income. Apparently Mr. Beck is quite satisfied. No other person knows what the capital expenditure has been and no one knows just how the income is meeting the annual expenses. Mr. Beck is satisfied and has reduced the charges to some municipalities. Almost all the consumers of his power are saving money.

Only the municipal authorities murmur. They represent the general taxpayer, and recognize that in the end they will be called to account. Of course, some of the municipalities concerned have city treasurers who until late in life were mechanics or reporters or small merchants, and they have not sufficient knowledge to get excited. In Toronto, the city auditor has declared that the system is not working well. Attempts have been made to answer him. Mr. Geary, before he left the Mayor's chair, tried it. A special firm of auditors tried it. But, Mr. Sterling sticks to his ground and fights for efficiency, economy and scientific book-keeping.

The situation is interesting in view of the fact that many people prophesied that the Hydro policy would react upon the present Conservative administration in Ontario. Up to the present, there are no signs that this danger is imminent, although there is more or less muttering which may or may not indicate a coming storm.

Lo, the Poor Politician.

BANGING the politician seems to be gaining ground as a popular amusement. Mr. E. F. Surveyer, K.C., attended the Ontario Bar Association banquet to say that "it is time that Canada had law-made laws instead of laws made by politicians." Just the other day a distinguished expert from Great Britain declared that the appointments to all government offices should be made by a commission instead of by a politician. In a few months some one may suggest that all public contracts must be first approved by an independent commission of experts before it is finally signed.

It looks as if our politicians, some of whom are mis-named "honourable," are likely to find themselves without employment. This is bound to occur if Canadian intelligence keeps on developing at its present rate. There are a lot of people in this country who are already wise enough to see that there is little to distinguish Liberal politicians from Conservative politicians. They all have a penchant for distributing patronage and contracts to their friends and benefactors. Even the Montreal Harbour Commission had to be changed in order to show that the little sugar-plums there are now the property of a new set of party-workers. Most of us know that and some day the game will be up. It would be up now, if the people who see these things clearly were not in such a decided minority. But that minority is growing fast.

A New Mark in 1912.

THERE is a well-defined thought in my mind that one of the distinguishing characteristics of 1912 was a growing sympathy for the unfortunate. I am confident that this is true in Ontario, and it probably is equally true in the other provinces. In Ontario they are doing magnificent work in fighting tuberculosis. It is quite true that much of the money given for this purpose is being wasted in a huge, centralized, highly-expensive institution. It is also quite true that small local sanatoria would be less expensive and more efficient. But the big, spectacular thing appeals, and it is well that it does. The big hospital will do much good, and the money is better wasted on that than on useless and unnecessary furs, meats and wines.

So we find general hospitals and all kindred institutions being built or enlarged everywhere. In almost every city in Ontario they are planning or making an addition to a hospital.

In the treatment of the criminal, there is equal evidence of our growing humanity. True, the Toronto police magistrate marred the year by sending two young boys to Kingston Penitentiary. Yet the tendency is manifest—the suspended sentence and the prison farm. The old-fashioned stone walls, barred windows, and variegated clothing will soon be reserved for the inveterate criminal. The others are only wrong-doers and will be treated as such. They will be treated in the spirit of the man of Nazareth treated the woman, when he said, "Go in peace, and sin no more." The stern old judges who were wont to treat all criminals alike and to glare at them as they handed out the full limit of the law, now put their hand on the prisoner's shoulder and say, "What can I do to help you, my brother?"