

MONDAY, MAY 17, 1909.
CURRENT COMMENT.
A lady from Drogheda has landed in New York to preach the gospel of the ballot to the down-trodden ladies of the great Republic. Women, she says have a greater destiny than washing pots and pans—she probably means, than raising children and making homes. Well what is it? Or what could it be?

One bright paper in Saskatoon cannot help feeling that the "hole" investigation was an attempt to de- "pose Mr. Haultain from public life in this province." The reference is to the inquiry into the school book contract made in answer to Mr. Haultain's intimations of improper conduct on the part of Hon. J. A. Calder. That the inquiry finished Mr. Haultain's case that gentleman himself has admitted. That it may have finished Mr. Haultain's political record is quite within the possibilities—certainly it ought to do so. But that the inquiry was a malicious plot to drive the assalant of the minister from public life has been a conception possible only to the Saskatoon Capital. The Capital has won its title to originality. If Mr. Haultain goes out as the result of the investigation he will have succumbed to a larger dose of information than he wanted or bargained for, but he was the man who asked for information all the same. Like Tom Sawyer's cat he shouldn't have asked for the pain-killer if he didn't want it, but having asked for it and received it he must stand the consequences. He not even the Saskatoon Capital can throw the appropriate handspikes for him.

The United States congress is seeking means to prevent the Porto Rican legislature starving the island government to death—a question in which congress is interested for two reasons: that said government consists of an American governor and a council of advisers, and that the United States stood god-father to responsible government in Porto Rico. The legislators, being Porto Ricans, consider the remuneration of the executive branch too generous, wherefore they adjourned without passing any appropriation bills for the coming year. Either government must stop or the constitution must be changed. Canadians are prone to smile when Uncle Sam's dusky wards begin to cut up—for the reason that Uncle Sam has grinned occasionally when Britain was having trouble with some of her proteges. But there is nothing of it feeling in the honor. The United States conferred a noble and permanent benefit on humanity when they took some of the West and East Indies out of the hands of reactionary Spain and began to school their people in the ways they should go. Perhaps the master did not realize how slow his pupils would be in some things, how quick in others. He is finding out now that a superficial schooling in the forms of government does not make a people capable of governing themselves. There has to be also and concurrent with this development of a general and steady desire to be governed; as distinguished from a wayward inclination to make trouble by paralyzing government and upsetting Governments. Stability is a hard lesson to drill into a people bred in the tropics. Perhaps in the end Uncle Sam will find it needful to adopt the wails permanently into the family, the better to maintain order and enforce discipline while the educational process is going on. Likely he would have made more rapid headway had he done so at the beginning for certain types of pupils make better progress when spanking is more or less intimately associated with moral instruction and psychology. Anyway he is getting diversion out of the business; and Brit- ishers, while wishing him all success in the endeavor, must be pardoned for returning the smiles he used to indulge when a backward scholar under Britain's tutelage cut capers that were not on the curriculum.

BALKED AT THE HURDLE.
Mr. Borden declined to divide the House on the third reading of the G. T. P. loan bill. No doubt he had been watching the signs and found the winds of public opinion contrary. There he read aright. Nowhere was there encouragement to hope that political profit would be reaped from opposing the measure. Throughout the country generally there was manifest unwillingness to assist the enterprise, while in the West was a pronounced and impatient sentiment in favor of advancing the loan without delay and allowing work to proceed. But the course is more creditable to the Opposition leader's observation than to his candor. When the loan bill came down the Opposition took the stand that the Government should demand from the G. T. P. a block of common stock as security for the money. If this were not done they declared public interests would be sacrificed. Mr. Borden himself moved a resolution to this effect. It was to be supposed the gentlemen believed what they said. Yet when the test came they by silence voted the bill through without any stock being handed over. On their own testimony they sacrificed public interests, knowing that they were doing so. Their condemnation is not that they showed the bill to pass without more delay, but that they displayed good sense. But they are wide open to the charge of insincerity in first declaring the measure a hand-out of public rights and then allowing it to pass without doing their possible to defeat it.

Mr. Borden gains nothing in the way of reputed strength from the tactics in this whole. For five years he and his followers have been preaching that the G. T. P. company has been enriched beyond the dreams of avarice by the favor or gullibility of the Government. They had been given, the country was told from a thousand platforms, more than was wise or necessary. It was to be expected then that when the company came asking for more favors the Opposition would fight the proposal to the last ditch—and fight it there, too. They fought it to the ditch all right—and then sat down and allowed what they declared to be an iniquitous risk of public money to be made without struggle or protest. The blame was not in allowing the bill to pass unopposed, but in doing so after proclaiming to the world that it should not be allowed to pass. A leader of strength would have determined his course beforehand and stuck to it. Mr. Borden as usual seems to have been governed by impulse or influence, and he is the victim of remarkably unreliable impulses or "influences" that makes him ridiculous with singular regularity. The Opposition emerge with sadly demolished reputation for consistency. When the bill came down the position they took was that a mortgage on the G. T. P. was not worth having, that this enterprise which they had said had been so load down with wealth at the public expense was really so poor that a lien on its property for one-third of the money already put into it was no good. This contention, of course, was an absolute denial of their representations of the past five years. But when later they declined to vote with their revised opinions they completed the spectacle. They stand now in the position of saying by their speeches of the past two months that their speeches of the preceding five years were not true, and of saying by the non vote that their saying this was not true. Mr. Borden has landed himself and his associates in some unusually undesirable night, but this surely out-does his previous accomplishments. Which horn of the dilemma he will choose to be impaled upon nobody knows, but so far as the public is concerned it makes little difference. Consistency has been a rare jewel on the Opposition side in recent years; it seems to have now disappeared altogether.

Meantime, of course, the damage has been done. Work on the G. T. P. has been paralyzed all spring. Only on Tuesday of this week did the teams and men get onto the grade west of Edmonton. And work for the whole season has been hampered. Contractors who worked on the road last year got tired waiting long ago and went south to take contracts from the C. P. R. Men have been lying about the city for months waiting for work on the road. Many of them have gone south with the contractors. Even the surveys have been tied up. The cessation of activity here, of course, has diverted immigration to the districts where there has been "something doing." For this Edmonton and the country tributary, has particular cause to remember Mr. Borden. He has done what he could to destroy the benefits the city and district would have received from the early and vigorous resumption of work—not altogether without excess, either. The net result is that the country along the G. T. P. right of way has been held back not only by the prevention of work up to the present, but by the handicap that has been placed on the work for the whole season.

And in return for this the country has the knowledge that the Opposition balked at the hurdle and dared not vote as they talked.

THE LAND FOR THE SETTLER.
In the days when immigration to Canada was small, or less than small, and when neither Canadians nor others could be persuaded to settle in the West in considerable numbers the land grant policy was adopted. Tracts were given or sold at a low price to railway companies, colonization com-

panies and land companies, on condition that settlers should be put on the land. The purpose was to interest private enterprise in a cause which governmental effort had failed to make go as it was desirable that it should go, to induce a large and steady movement of desirable people toward the vacant places. The results were varied. In some cases the country got settlers; in others the company got the land and the country got neither settlers nor anything else. The last land grant was that of two years ago to the South African veterans. Two purposes were behind this grant. It was desired to give the veterans some tangible mark of appreciation of their services. It was also desired to induce them or their substitutes to settle on western land. How far the means may have accomplished these ends nobody knows, but there is a general belief that so far they have come far short of them. From the advertised offerings it is certain the veterans are not getting out of the scrip as much as it was desired they should get. From the fact that the scrips are offered freely and at low price it is equally certain that the veterans are not going upon the land and that there is no strong demand for their scrip from those who are going upon land. Eventually the veteran or his substitute must locate and begin settlement duties or lose the scrip; but in the meantime neither the veterans nor the country have received any benefit. Then let it rain!—with sunshine between showers—and Alberta will show what a potent soil can do when occasion demands.

A local firm have brought to the notice of the board of trade that freight charges on structural iron work in Canada are as high as in any other country in the world. This puts the local manufacturer at a disadvantage. He not only has to pay more to bring in the raw material than his eastern competitors to ship in the finished work, but he of necessity loses a percentage of the raw material in the process of manufacture—on which waste he of course has to pay freight. The Railway Commission should be able to do something to equalize matters. The equalizing should be done by lowering the rate on raw material, not by raising the rate on the finished product.

The city council will have the C. P. R. agreement gone over by a lawyer who has been through the mill. The course is wise, whatever becomes of the agreement at the hands of the attorneys. Now is the time to find out what it means—and everything a highly paid corporation lawyer would be able to construe it to mean or to persuade the Railway Commission that it did mean. It is safest to assume that a document of the kind means many things other than it seems to say or does say. That is one of the things railway lawyers are paid for. There is everything to gain and nothing to lose in having expert and experienced judgment directed to the facts disclosed in the evidence in the contract. We will then know more nearly what we are talking about and voting on.

Critics of Lloyd George's budget proposals argue that these burden only on the wealthy, leaving the poor man unhampered. But on the other hand the critics declare through their tariff propaganda that the poor man is the lawbreaker who should be called upon to build dreadnoughts; because if England were an "appanage" of Germany or some other high protectionist power the British workman would be infinitely better off—according to the "tariff reformer's" logic. Putting one and one together, the Chancellor stands condemned of collecting his additional revenue from those who most need Dreadnoughts, and as the amount to be collected is less than the amount to be spent in Dreadnoughts the plutocrats and "pubs" have no proper kick coming. The "tariff reform" argument may be right or wrong and the budget criticism may be right or wrong, but the two cannot be driven in double harness.

ITS LOGICAL CONCLUSION.
Toronto Globe—The threat of the French workmen to rise in their might and destroy all labor-saving machinery shows the danger of killing men's minds with economic fallacies. To destroy labor-saving machinery with axes is no less logical than to tramp through the streets with tar. Any argument that can be made to support the one scheme as a public advantage must also support the other. If it is wise to prevent people from trading because such prevention hinders them work, it is also wise to prevent them from using labor-saving machinery because that course also hinders them work. Trade increases the results of human effort. If it did not do so it would not be carried on. It is only when the results of effort

are increased that people trade. When people can do better by satisfying their own needs directly than by satisfying the needs of others and trading, no tariff will be required to prevent trade. It is only when trade gives the best results of effort it will not be used. Neither violence nor legal prohibition will be required to keep it out of use. It is only when such machinery is beneficial that there are demands for restraining laws or threats of its destruction by violence.

"A WINDING HORN TO ROUSE OLD PANIC."
Winnipeg Free Press.—In George Meredith's "Beauchamp's Career," written about the merely painted Britons. This being apprehended, by the aid of our own shortness of figures and the sagacity of the red-prophesied only waiting the signal to jump and be at us, there ensued a curious exhibition of the British in simple language, writing to the newspapers, for it took the outward form of letters; in reality, it was the deliberate and boldy with the appalling statement that we had no navy and no army.

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THE CANADIAN NAVY

C. D. Mann, vice-president Canadian Northern railway, tributed an article to the Review of London or Maclean's for a Canadian navy, explaining the reasons behind saying the pen during an official training school for sea and great railways, Mr. Mann said. "This article was written suggestion of friends, after marks of mine at a public dinner in Victoria, before the disclosure of the naval situation as between British and Canadian had a remarkable outburst on the part of the empire. The government, at the time, is being urged to offer Don to the mother country, and showing our devotion to the interests which I believe are development does not mean views—it only accentuates the chief naval necessity for the still training schools for sea and the provision of one or two battalions would do much to late the naval spirit of the British. But it should be stipulated that any vessels provided by Canada would be administered until our own are ready to man them. The kind that ships were provided in would perhaps do more for the thing else to achieve the goal of a Canadian navy."

Those who anticipate a Canadian navy may have a different point of view from those who in the Imperial time think of the Empire and its component parts as a whole. There is no necessary inconsistency between the two points of view. The problem of Imperial statesmen to converge diversities of opinion into a unified action. It is not the creation of a Canadian navy which seems to be the creation of a Canadian navy which might contribute to the Empire.

In the United States one finds persons who believe Canada pays money tribute to the British Empire. It is an experience to undeceive them that there is a certain amount of belief in that the Empire is a Dominion rather than a sub-part of a partner in the Empire. What is sometimes called the unpopularity of the English in Canada most likely arises from the fact that the education in some of our Englishmen has not proceeded as far as the views of the leaders of our Empire. We have taught ourselves that we are sometimes said to be vintal. There is truth in this. We are sometimes said to be vintal. There is truth in this. We are sometimes said to be vintal. There is truth in this.

It is easier for the English to think of the Empire as a whole than it is for the native-born of the place of England to think of the Empire as a whole. It is also the centre of the Empire anything could destroy proof of mind in a man's mind. It is also the centre of the Empire anything could destroy proof of mind in a man's mind. It is also the centre of the Empire anything could destroy proof of mind in a man's mind.

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