

Topics of the Week

Canada Internationally

THE question of Canada's relation to the outside world is continually cropping up for discussion. Theoretically, Canada has no existence internationally; practically, she is coming to be known among the nations. Both theoretically and practically this country is represented in foreign affairs either by the Foreign Office of the British Government or by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. As these gentlemen know very little about Canada, other than that she is one of about fifty colonies owing allegiance to the British Crown, this representation is at times likely to be unsatisfactory. The question of a consular service comes in at this point and complicates matters. Some people advocate a set of Canadian consuls, and perhaps some scheme could be worked out which would not conflict with the British system. A Canadian attache at Washington has been suggested, and perhaps in due course this may reach fruition. Sir Wilfrid Laurier once seemed inclined to ask for the treaty-making power within certain limits, but little has been heard of the idea recently. Newfoundland came off rather badly the other day in some negotiations between the British Government and the United States with regard to fishing privileges. This has caused Canadians to recall the Alaskan Boundary negotiations and award. There is no necessity for excitement at present but the subject is one which deserves some academic treatment at the hands of our professors of International Law. It also deserves the close attention of leading statesmen at home and in London. Canada does not care to be rocked in a cradle always.

The Fielding Banquet

MR. FIELDING'S speech at the Montreal banquet was a curious combination of politics and statesmanship. First he was the politician hammering his opponents; then he was the statesman discussing public affairs. After he got past the enumeration of Tory wickednesses his speech was worth reading. He referred to the excellent state of our credit in the London market and defended our expanding expenditures by declaring that they are to some extent a measure of the progress and prosperity of the country. In the last ten years our total foreign trade increased over three hundred millions. Ten years ago there were few immigrants arriving; last year there were one hundred and sixty thousand.

When he came to consider the tariff question, he spoke of the danger of a cleavage in opinion between the East and the West, the former dominated by interest in manufacturing, the latter by interest in agriculture. He hoped that the Western farmer would be satisfied with the same tariff as the Eastern manufacturer, though neither would have things entirely as he would wish them. He expressed the Government's intention of adhering to the British preference. A third schedule is to be added which will practically put a surtax on goods coming from countries which have extremely high tariff walls against Canadian goods.

A Note of Warning

THERE was a measure of contrast with Mr. Fielding's utterance in Mr. Courtney's address to the Canadian Club of Toronto. Having been Deputy Minister of Finance for many years, and having seen all the phases of our confederated existence, Mr. Courtney was in a position to offer advice on the question of national expenditure. Therefore, when he declared that this was an opportune time to draw tight the reins, his remarks were received with due respect. The Toronto "Globe" echoes his advice and says, "Clearly, the lesson of the situation is to use some of this great revenue for the reduction of our debts while it continues to pour into the treasury in expanding volume."

Mr. Courtney also commented upon the indifference of electors towards expenditures of a general nature. Unfortunately "the average voter considers that the great impersonal thing called Parliament is created to find money to be spent in his own locality." It is too true that the promise of local expenditures on harbours, post-offices or armouries, is more influential in elections than it should be; and too often a member's success is judged by the amount of money which he has secured for such expenditures in his constituency. Mr. Courtney believes that there are signs of a change in this respect.

Let us hope he is right, but he did not offer any evidence on the point.

The New Session

THE third session of the tenth Parliament of Canada was opened by His Excellency, the Governor-General, on the 22nd. After remarking upon that continued prosperity which is now the universal theme, the Speech from the Throne indicated the proposed legislation. The new provinces, Alberta and Saskatchewan, are to have increased representation in the House of Commons. The West is to increase the size of its voice. The customs tariff is to be revised, as announced by Mr. Fielding in Montreal. The question of increased provincial subsidies is to be considered as a result of the recent conference between the Provincial Premiers and the Ottawa authorities. There will be minor legislation, but these are the three important pieces of work to which Parliament must give attention. The first will probably require little discussion. The other two will undoubtedly be productive of many weary sittings and many dreary pages in Hansard.

The Growing Chains

TORONTO has always felt that Montreal's possessing the headquarters of the two great railways of Canada gave her rival an undue sense of importance. When the Grand Trunk Pacific came into existence, a third headquarters came to swell Montreal's pride. True, the head offices of the Canadian Northern were in Toronto, but the Canadian Northern system really centred about Winnipeg, with its western terminus at Edmonton and its eastern at Port Arthur. However, the Canadian Northern has decided upon building throughout Ontario and its first important line was opened on the 19th of November. This runs from Toronto to Parry Sound, through the Muskoka region. The Toronto Union Station is now the meeting place of three systems instead of two, and the citizens are visibly elated. The Board of Trade is delighted and will tender Mr. McKenzie and Mr. Mann a banquet in a fortnight.

That is the human side of it. The national side is that Canada is likely soon to have three great railway systems connecting the East with the West, binding together the commercial, industrial and agricultural interests in a manner which makes for solidarity and national development. The success of the Canadian Pacific has opened the way for the success of the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Northern.

A Gift-Bearing Greek

AT a banquet of the Merchants' Club held recently at Chicago, Mr. James J. Hill presented an exhaustive argument in favour of free trade between Canada and the United States. James J. Hill, railway magnate, and James J. Hill, publicist, are very much one and the same being. As railway magnate, Mr. Hill is constructing branches from his Northern Pacific and Great Northern systems across the border line into Canada and, as publicist, he is advising Canada to adopt a trade policy which will bring traffic to his railways. Mr. Hill always has an eye to the main chance. It is only recently that we have heard very much from Mr. Hill as to his Canadianism. As a matter of fact, enthusiasm for the country of his birth appears to have been born contemporaneously with the rush of emigration to the Canadian North West.

Canadians are proud of what Mr. Hill has achieved in the United States and are prepared to recognise his worth,—to the United States; but Mr. Hill's name will not be handed down to posterity as a Canadian pioneer. Mr. Hill, like a great many others, left the land of his birth many years ago for the wider field across the border, and like a great many others after the great resources of Western Canada have been proven, is now anxious to have a share in them.

There are no better farmers going into Western Canada than those who are leaving homes in the Western States. Good farming in the West is second in importance only to good citizenship,—the kind of citizenship that looks to the building up of a strong self-supporting Dominion.

Nature has made Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta the complement of Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. Between the broad fertile plains of the West and the East, with its plentitude of commercial water powers and well established manufacturing centres, there should some day be an exchange of vast commerce.

The same sort of complement has contributed to the greatness of the United States and, until its existence