



THE NEW PROVINCE

SUGGESTIONS may or may not be valuable, but that made by our Montreal correspondent concerning the new province is worth discussing. He would unite the three Maritime Provinces, add that portion of Quebec north of New Brunswick and south of the St. Lawrence, and round it out with Newfoundland. The leading men of the East are in favour of the scheme, though they hesitate about coming out boldly in an advocacy of it. The Hon. A. B. Morine, Mr. Fielding's opponent in the coming election, is advocating bringing in Newfoundland in order to settle the fishery disputes. Thus an imperial reason is found for the creation of the new province.

The maritime interests of all these territories are identical. Fisheries play a large part in the life of each, including the Gaspé peninsula. Newfoundland's iron ore is now sent mainly to Nova Scotia and thus furnishes another tie. Newfoundland territory is contiguous to the two St. Lawrence routes to Liverpool and Canada is even more vitally interested in these routes than Great Britain or Newfoundland. There are a dozen other reasons and a score of possible advantages.

One of the greatest difficulties in the way is that Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, being divided by water from the mainland, might find travel between these islands and a mainland capital rather trying during the winter months. A tunnel to Prince Edward Island would overcome the difficulty with that portion of the new province. In Newfoundland's case, an ice-breaker at North Sydney and a good port at some point on the Gaspé coast would probably obviate much of the objection. The sentimental objections to sinking historical independence in a larger organisation will be more difficult to deal with, but they should not be insurmountable.

The idea is at least worth serious consideration. The public men of these provinces should discuss the question in a broad way, with an eye on what is best in the national and imperial interests.

A SHOCKING YOUNG LADY

ALL the nice people in Canada who wear dress suits and low-necked dresses and who talk glibly of the latest opera and the newest musical comedy or melodrama, were rudely shocked last week by a certain young lady. Her name is Miss Clyde Darrow, who came over from the United States with a party of burlesquers and who was promptly interviewed by her press-agent for the sake of the advertisement. That a burlesque actress should be interviewed for respectable newspapers is rather a novelty, but it was done. And this is what she is said to have said: "In the society dramas of to-day nothing succeeds without indecency, suggestiveness or bald lewdness." As if this were not enough she added that the lives of the performers are simpler and cleaner in burlesque than in any other branch of the stage and that there was seldom an indecent speech or a profane word in their shows. Then she wound up: "For real respectability, give me burlesque." How shocking!

Nevertheless, it seems too true that our "legitimate" stage is steadily degenerating. The leading actors and actresses regret this as much as the wiser part of the public. With Salome dances, directoire skirts and sheath stockings, the coming season promises to give us as much of the "lewd" flavour as the wickedest amongst us may desire. If the churches, instead of holding aloof and taking no interest in the stage, were to attend the performances and "black list" those that are improper, the progress of the drama might be reversed. If the church, including both lay and clerical members, refuses to perform this function, then it must continue to experience a relaxing hold over the younger generations. Leaving the question of morality and immorality on the stage to a police officer, no matter

how honest and upright he may be, is the veriest nonsense. A police officer was created to enforce law not morals.

A RUNAWAY STOCK MARKET

STOCKS have steadily gained in value on the stock market since the opening of the year and it begins to look as if unnatural inflation and unnatural depression were regular stock-market conditions. Wisdom is a quality which that institution seems to lack in a most marked degree. For example, Mexican Power has risen from 47 at the end of September to 74 at the present time; Rio Janeiro from 34 to 65; and Sao Paulo from 110 to 155. These are the three Central and South American stocks which have been managed from Canada. Canadian Pacific Railway has risen from 154 to 174 in the same period; Canadian General Electric from 94 to 105; Mackay, common from 54 to 68; Winnipeg Electric from 125 to 167; Canada Permanent from 112 to 138; and Sault Railway from 81 to 123. These nine stocks show an average increase of 26½ points, a most astonishing and unnatural rise in values. The bank stocks have been steady with a slight and reasonable increase; the steel and coal stocks have reflected their peculiar conditions by remaining stationary, and most of the other stocks have acted as if the brokers had decided to leave the fixing of their values to real investors. Mining stocks are on the up grade. Some of these increases in quotations are based upon new explorations and discoveries, but some are due entirely to manipulation. Cobalt is producing more genuine metal than it ever did and a Cobalt boom was to be expected.

There is little to be gained by giving advice to brokers and stock manipulators. Bulling and bearing stocks is their business. They rush prices up and up until the public begin to purchase and speculate freely; then they send them down with an equal rush so that the process may be repeated. The public, however, should benefit by advice and perhaps a retrospect of this nature may enable them to see what is going on. Brokers and bankers, as usual, have a large quantity of stocks on hand during a depression or panic, since they only are left to support the market. As soon as the depression is over, they must run prices up to secure a favourable price for the unloading on the public. This unloading has now begun. The advice is being daily passed around: "The market will go higher." Nevertheless it has already gone quite as high as present industrial and commercial conditions warrant. The winter of 1908-1909 will not be one of the happiest seasons, for there is a large percentage of the working class which is unemployed. Probably thirty-three per cent. of the skilled and unskilled labourers of Canada will be more or less unemployed this winter. The worst is over, but normal conditions do not return except after a lengthy period of readjustment.

GROWING INTEREST IN PICTURES

THAT there is a growing interest in good pictures is amply shown by the interest taken in the art displays in connection with this year's exhibitions in Winnipeg and Toronto. That of Winnipeg was in charge of Mr. Edward O'Brien of Montreal, and included oils by Reid, Harris, Brymner, Cullen, Frauchere, Dyonnet, Gagnon, Auerbach, Boyd, Clapp and others; water colours by Atkinson, Chavignaud, Matthews, Way, Martin and Morris. All these are Canadian. In addition there was a collection of oils by A. Suzor Cote, "Hors Concour" of the Salon, and a loan collection of works by old masters. The latter included canvases by Corot, Henner, Dietrich, Denner and others less known to fame. In all, there were 222 pictures shown.

In Toronto, the collection was not quite so large but was selected more broadly, perhaps. Twenty-eight pictures were brought from Great Britain and eighteen from France. The British pictures were selected by Mr. Temple, curator of the Guildhall Gallery, London,