

NOTE AND COMMENT

Throughout the entire extent of Canada, public opinion has been aroused, as it seldom has been before because of the startling exposure of misdeeds at Ottawa by the report of the Civil Service Commission. The opinion is held in some quarters that the government, in appointing a new commission, will attempt to get a whitewashing report in favor of the departments which have been censured. Thus the Halifax Herald says:

"Already the Government has begun to attack the report of its own Commission consisting entirely of leading Liberals. The Commission, being independent, have told the plain truth of what they found, and fearfully commended the reform which they consider necessary. But truth and reform are the two things that the Laurier Government cannot stand. Hence we have the ludicrous spectacle of the Cabinet Ministers actually attacking the report of a Government Commission, even before that report has been presented to Parliament. The Government now threaten to appoint another Commission of investigation, to review the work of the Commission consisting of men of the ability, character and standing of J. M. Courtney, for thirty years Deputy Minister of Finance, Thomas Fyche, the well-known bank manager, and Mr. Bazin, a leading business man of Quebec city. The public will know what to expect from the Government's new Commission, namely, a whitewashing report in favor of the Departments and the Government. If the Government thinks it can stand that kind of procedure, the people of Canada can, and they will know how to deal with it at the coming General Election."

It is probably correct to say that never before in the history of British Columbia has the business outlook in every section of the province been so promising. For obvious reasons there are certain districts where the depressed activity and development will take place, but there is abundant evidence to indicate that "the good times" are to be general at all points. The Vernon News tells of increased optimism prevailing throughout the Okanagan district:

Commercial papers and financial journals are unanimous in expressing the opinion that the present financial depression is now well over, and the business outlook for Canada is of a most encouraging nature. Factories and mills are now making up for lost time, and wholesale houses report that while the spring sales are somewhat limited they are being made on a satisfactory cash basis. Another factor contributing largely to a stimulation of increased prosperity is the large amount of dividends to be distributed during the next few weeks by banks, corporations and industrial concerns. This is estimated to amount to at least \$3,000,000, and cannot fail to make its influence felt for good. In Vernon and the Okanagan the prospects for the season are of the brightest. Building operations on a large scale will be carried forward in this city, and the big irrigation works now under progress by the White Valley Power Co. will give employment to large numbers of men. The horizon now seems bright on all sides, and there is no reason to doubt that the year 1908 will be a prosperous one in all parts of the country, and particularly so in the Okanagan district.

Very properly, and very naturally, throughout the whole of this province, a feeling of indignation has been aroused since the fact became known that the Laurier government introduced a bill to take from the people of British Columbia the control of their parliamentary franchise. Opinion on the Mainland is, we fancy, quite accurately reflected in the following from the New Westminster Columbian:

There is a consensus of opinion that the precious right so long enjoyed by the people of this province must not be given up without most strenuous protest against the proposed franchise bill. The list of mere henchmen of the Laurier government—the local representatives of the innumerable army of parasites who feed on the government, and whose sole object is to have warrant for assuming—we will be to the bidding of the government. From every conceivable point this proposal is a bad one, deserving the denunciation of all who believe in popular rights and the sacredness of the compact made between British Columbia and the other provinces of the Dominion, that we should have the enjoyment of all the privileges conferred or permitted by the federal authority in the case of other provinces. This invasion of popular rights is all the more a reproach against Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues, because they attained power through the pretence, now shown to be false, that they were the champions of provincial as contrasted with central rights, and that they would oppose the tendency towards centralization of authority which they charged as a political crime against their opponents of the Conservative party.

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ABOUT PEOPLE

King Leopold of the Belgians, who has come so prominently before the world lately in connection with the affairs of the Congo, is a man of marked personality and of studious habits. Horticulture, literature and motoring take up a great deal of his time, and he is said to dislike anything approaching to pomp or pageantry. He is very fond of travelling about incognito, and has sometimes met with amusing experiences. He was once staying at a fashionable French watering-place, and while out walking quite unattended happened to push against a fierce-looking Frenchman. The latter was highly incensed, and rudely told his Majesty to look where he was going to. "You are probably not aware," he shouted, "that I am a member of the Paris Municipal Council!" "Dear me, no," replied Leopold, quietly. "I offer you my humble apologies for I am only the King of the Belgians!" Although he is an enthusiastic motorist, no one can accuse King Leopold of driving to the common danger. Indeed, on one occasion he went so far as to risk his own life in order to prevent his car from running over a pedestrian. He was travelling in his motor at a high rate of speed along a narrow country road, when he suddenly saw a few yards ahead, a woman pushing a perambulator and leading by the hand a little child. The Royal car was going so fast that to pull up was out of the question. To make matters worse, on one side of the road was a ditch and on the other a steep decline. "Reverse and run into the ditch!" shouted the King to his chauffeur, but the car was too astonished to carry out the order, until the car was almost on the heels of the frightened woman. Then, seeing that the King was in earnest, he pulled himself together and did as he was told. The vehicle, terribly shaken by the sudden check, swerved, whirled to one side, and tumbled into the ditch with a crash. Luckily, neither the King nor the chauffeur was injured, and a few minutes later his Majesty emerged smiling from the wreckage and took off his hat to the terror-stricken woman who had unwittingly been the cause of his reckless act. King Leopold's interest in art once led to an amusing incident. While visiting a picture gallery, he was much struck by a painting representing a flock of sheep in a field. His Majesty sent for the artist, and inquired the price of the picture. "Well," was the reply, "would your Majesty object to pay for my sheep at the butcher's value—fifty francs apiece?" The King looked at the canvas, and hastily counting the animals depicted thereon, muttered to himself: "The twelve sheep are worth six hundred francs." Then aloud he added: "Yes, that's not at all exorbitant; I'll have your painting." A few days later the artist took his picture to the palace, and having obtained an audience of the King pointed out a number of little specks in the background, saying as he did so: "Don't forget these, your Majesty; there are at least a thousand." The King, who meant for dust, asked King Leopold, anxiously: "Oh, no; those are sheep." "On your word of honor?" asked the King. "On my word of honor," replied the painter. "Then," said King Leopold, who could not go back on his promise, had to give 50,000 francs for a picture which would have been well paid for by a tenth of that sum.—M.A.P.

The new Lord Lintilhough, who comes of age on September 2, is a scion of the Victorian aristocracy, and as he made his appearance when his father was Lord-in-Waiting to her late Majesty in the year of her first Jubilee. He and his younger brother, Charles, were great favorites with the Empress Frederick, who stayed at Hopetoun House when they were boys, and was much impressed by their charming and yet natural manners. The late King of Saxony also stayed at Hopetoun House, but that was when the new peer was a baby. In Australia young Lord Lintilhough was much admired as was also his brother Charles, who received the extra name of Melbourne, because he was born there. The late Lord Lintilhough was at one of Sir Arthur Sullivan's evening parties when the King, the Prince of Wales, asked to see the Lord Chancellor's patter-song in folio from George Grosvenor. "G. G." mistrusted his memory, but Lord Lintilhough volunteered to act as prompter, and he filled the part so eagerly that he was always a word or two ahead of the singer, to the intense amusement of the Prince. Moreover, all the privileges conferred or permitted by the federal authority in the case of other provinces. This invasion of popular rights is all the more a reproach against Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues, because they attained power through the pretence, now shown to be false, that they were the champions of provincial as contrasted with central rights, and that they would oppose the tendency towards centralization of authority which they charged as a political crime against their opponents of the Conservative party.

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ducing the turnip into England. The present peer is the sixth holder of the title, and is a nephew of the Duke of Devon and of Sir Redvers Bullen. His lordship is a man of simple habits, and does not go much into society. He is keenly interested in philanthropic enterprises, and once made the suggestion that the Government should create an Imperial State-aided Emigration Department, or an Imperial Labor and Emigration Bureau. Lady Townshend is a clever writer and a keen sportsman, and has published a little book of poems, called "In the King's Garden." Like many other ancient houses, Raynham Hall, Lord Townshend's seat in Norfolk, is a place of great interest. The spirit that is said to haunt the Hall before a birth or death in the family is that of Lady Dorothy Walpole, who, in 1715, became the second wife of the second Lord Townshend. The marriage was not a happy one, and the unfortunate lady went out of her mind, and died a prisoner in an upper story at Raynham in 1738. The story goes that at a New Year's Eve party at the Hall in 1855 a strange-looking lady in a brown satin dress, of the style of the early eighteenth century, was seen to enter the room, and the guests. It was believed at the time that this was the ghost of Lady Dorothy, and next day came the news of the death of a member of the family.—M.A.P.

Admiral Sir Day Bosanquet, who is retiring from the Navy on the completion of his sixty-fifth year, belongs to an old Huguenot family whose ancestors fled to England from France after the Revolution of Nantes. Sir Day is a fine type of the Navy man, exceedingly handsome, bluff and jovial. Entering the service in 1857, he became a commander at thirty-one, a captain at thirty-nine, a flag officer at fifty-four, admiral at sixty-two and Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth at sixty-four. During his career, Admiral Bosanquet had occasion to take a young commander to task for mishandling his sloop during maneuvers. He asked him, curiously, how far he thought he was likely to get if he were sent to fight his ship in that fashion. "Well, sir," said the officer flippantly, "if I had been with Nelson at Trafalgar, my vessel could have sunk the French and Spanish fleet." "Miles combat!" "H'm," snapped Bosanquet, "if you had been with Nelson at Trafalgar, the chances are he would have hung you at the yard-arm before he went into action!" "Yes, sir," replied the young officer, "but I am an admiral now, do not always get the best of an argument." Admiral Bosanquet recalls, with a twinkle in his eye, how a midshipman nearly flogged him. He was staying with a friend who was a naval officer, and a friend of his was a midshipman in the Navy. "Still only a midshipman," said Sir Day to the boy. "Why, at your age I was sub-lieutenant." "Yes, sir," replied the young officer, "but it is generally admitted, is it not, that the standard of intelligence for lieutenants is now much higher than it used to be?"—M.A.P.

Sporting judges are always advocating the settling of disputes in "the good old way," with fist-cuffs, and apparently our public men are taking their cue from them. Following close upon an angry scene in the Law Courts, when two well-known K.C.s nearly came to blows, we have news of an exciting scene at a meeting of the Governors of Newcastle Infirmary, when Sir Walter Hume, father of the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and a Nonconformist, was served to be heated "recreation" with Sir Walter Plummer, Conservative, Churchman, and late member for Newcastle. The altercation culminated in Sir W. Hume, squaring up to Sir Walter Plummer, and the two gentlemen were dragged apart by the spectators before blows actually took place. Sir Walter comes of a race of seafaring North Countrymen. Both his grandfathers fought as midshipmen at Trafalgar, and the medals they won under Nelson's flag are heirlooms of the family still. He himself went to sea when he was twelve years old, and served in the "Hector," a ship of the Moor line—which, with twenty-nine freighters, most of them six thousand tons, carries his flag today all over the world, and has made him a fortune. The late King of Saxony upon him ten or eleven years ago, when he sailed to Gravesend in his yacht to help his son, the present Prince of Saxony, in the Treasury, in an unsuccessful attempt to win the seat at a bye-election. He dropped anchor in the Thames just opposite the town one evening and came ashore. The next morning he discovered that some wicked Tory had plastered his yacht from stem to stern with Conservative posters.—M.A.P.

BRITISH OPINION

London Daily Telegraph—Does any sensible politician, even moderately familiar with the history of the "Victoria" era, desire the revival of such a party as the Peelites, who, as a witty lady said, were always putting themselves up to auction and always buying at a high price? Would the Unionist Alliance have stood the strain of so many years if the sole link binding them together had been opposition to Home Rule for Ireland? It must be remembered that the "Victoria" era of the Gladstonians with the Parnellites involved other and more permanent alliances and the adoption of views which, a dozen years before that combination was effected would have been scouted by all but the most extreme Radicals. The Separatists discovered that they could not confine the disintegrating policy to these islands; almost unconsciously they began to look at Imperial problems through Home Rule spectacles. Little Englandism was the outcome of Separatism, Home Rule and a gut feeling of England. The Unionist Alliance was a natural consequence of necessity broadened it into an ocean. The consequence was that Unionism stood not for a temporary alliance to combat a short-lived enemy, but for a vital and definite principle which permeated almost every political problem. We do not deny that there are differences in the Unionist party, but where the important things affect the loyalty of a very considerable minority, where they appeal to many they easily attain to a national character. What the country wants is a strong government, not afraid or ashamed of being Imperial, and which can carry out social reforms without appealing to cupidity or paltering with the principles of justice and honesty.

London Daily Chronicle—The future of the Times is, after all, to be very much the same as the past. The scheme of reconstruction now sanctioned by the Court is, yesterday, Mr. J. Partridge, first discoverer of gold on Quartz Creek, in the Klondike, original owner of the claims which made the first fortune for Swiftnow, Bill Gates, and one of the most noted rovers and followers of mining excitement in the world, is in Seattle on his way to London to finance a mining venture in Mexico. For the past two years Partridge has been in Mexico and says he has secured valuable min-

Henry Young & Company

Are You Getting Ready for Easter?

The time of the singing of birds is upon us with the softening breath of spring air and the glad April sunshine. Woman—happy woman—is joyfully considering the question of new attire for Easter Sunday. She must wear something brand new on that Day or she will have bad luck all through the year. But if it should happen to rain so hard that the Easter Bonnet and new Frock may not be donned, why, there is the new Collar or Tie, which would be worn in any case. We have well thought out the all important matter of novelties in the lingerie line, as you will not doubt if you note our window display.

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FACTS AND FIGURES OF OLYMPIC GAMES

Great Stadium to Seat 70,000 Persons is About Completed in London.

London, April 3.—With the Olympic games, which this year are to be held in England, for the first time, in addition to the usual calendar of sporting events, the coming season should prove by far the busiest ever known in British sporting history.

The council of the British Olympic Association, which is almost entirely composed of representatives appointed by the governing associations of sports in Great Britain, have contracted with the Franco-British Exhibition to erect at Shepherd's Bush, on the exhibition ground, a magnificent stadium, capable of accommodating 70,000 spectators. This was begun in September last and is now rapidly approaching completion.

Surrounded by tiers of seats capable of accommodating nearly twice the whole population of a town like Dover, is a huge grass plot some 235 yards in length and just under 100 yards in width. Round the edge of the arena is a under running path, in addition to the usual track under the superintendence of the Amateur Athletic Association, and outside this again is a cycling track, two and three-quarter laps of which go to the mile.

WAS FAMILIAR FIGURE ON VICTORIA STREETS

"Doctor Bill" Partridge Claims to Have Again Struck It Rich

Those who remember W. J. Partridge, locally known as "Sailor Bill," and his efforts to train dog teams in the streets of Victoria for the north will be interested in the following from the Post-Intelligencer of yesterday: "W. J. Partridge, first discoverer of gold on Quartz Creek, in the Klondike, original owner of the claims which made the first fortune for Swiftnow, Bill Gates, and one of the most noted rovers and followers of mining excitement in the world, is in Seattle on his way to London to finance a mining venture in Mexico. For the past two years Partridge has been in Mexico and says he has secured valuable min-

world, will be divided into two parts—the main Olympic games, commencing on July 13, and the winter games, opening on October 19. It is of course the swimming, the gymnastics and the athletics which will be the main features of the Stadium from July 13 onward.

The Marathon race, however, must necessarily take place outside of the greater portion of its course, only the finish of the 26 miles being visible to the spectators in the arena.

While the contest of the ancient games were crowns of olive and branches of palm, in the modern equivalent medals of gold, silver and bronze will be awarded, together with a special challenge cup, which will be held by the winners until the Olympic games of 1912.

Ample opportunities of seeing the stadium, before the Olympic games commence will be afforded, for many other events of great interest and importance will take place in it. Arrangements have been made with the Finney Harriers for a great athletic meeting at which French athletes will be largely represented. Similar arrangements have been made with cycling for May 9, when the racing will be organized on the lines so popular in the continent, and pace racing with motor cycles will form one of the attractions. The Polytechnic Cycling, Athletic, Swimming, Boxing and Gymnastic Clubs will hold two great meetings, one of which will be between English and French athletes.

gigantic fireworks displays, given by English and French firms. In addition to the championship and international sport meetings which are being decided upon numerous clubs propose to hold evening meetings in every department of amateur sporting games, so that there will be a continuous gathering of athletes in the stadium.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

As to Cheap Labor.
Sir—Mr. James Dunsmuir (according to a telegram from Montreal) has been expressing his opinions on the labor question in British Columbia. He did not really say what he is reported to have said but this does not matter, as you say, it gives us very concisely his well-known views on the subject.

Fortunately for Mr. Dunsmuir his views are not good sense to select the opportunity in the shape of an embryo coal mine—but for this happy circumstance, perhaps he might be a different man about the value of labor.

In the old days the masters used to work side by side with the men, and employer and employed were friends; the master knowing each man's ability and worth. Nowadays most panes and sufficient coal mines to be adopted to get into touch with the employers and to let them know what is going on.

Chinese labor can never be any good to white labor. Anyone with the slightest grain of sense knows that and that the Chinese are not to be trusted. The fact into their heads the better for everyone. Perhaps if I owned a coal mine I should have no objection to having round I must content myself with feeling the heat of the product thereof as often as I can afford to do so.

JOHN A. BRAY.