

Over the Line Fence

IN a recent issue of the "Canadian Courier," there appeared a few comments on some remarks let fall at Ottawa by Mr. Medill McCormick. This eminent Chicago publisher was reported, while at Ottawa, to have stated that he was convinced that when Canada attained two-fifths of the size of his country, she would surely be absorbed by the United States; also that Toronto was eminently fitted to serve as the capital of the Canadian portion of the United States.

Mr. McCormick resents the criticism in which the "Courier" indulged at his expense. He has written a letter, which is printed below, denying some of the statements attributed to him.

Mr. McCormick has a perfect right to disagree with the Ottawa reporter who is alleged to have misquoted him. Reporters exist for the purpose of making people misunderstood. The publisher of the Chicago *Tribune* does not want Canada to be the toad when the United States is the snake.

There is a note of pathos in the statement that Canada might yet put the United States out of business by prohibiting the export of certain Canadian materials. We presume that pulpwood is one of these raw materials, inasmuch as civilisation even in the United States exists largely on paper of which the Chicago *Tribune* is an excellent example. Perhaps the greatest service we could ever do the United States would be to go on exporting her raw materials and in return import the finished products.

Mr. McCormick also alleges that the British press accord a better hearing to critical opinions affecting the Empire than do the newspapers of the colonies or of continental Europe. Why not? The colonies are the feelers of the Empire. Besides, Canada has the United States for a next-door neighbour and we have learned all a neighbour's ways of both admiration and of censure. Whenever we have a little spare time in this big, busy country we just lean over the line fence and chin to the big neighbour. Then we go up the lane and tell the folks at the house what the neighbour said to us. In short, we are beginning to understand the United States, which is a fair basis for getting along on a basis of amicability. It is a matter for congratulation that with men the calibre of Mr. McCormick the understanding is becoming mutual. Perhaps if more United States editors would speak as frankly and enthusiastically as Mr. McCormick we should get more light on international relations.

Mr. McCormick is one of the most successful of the younger generation of American newspaper proprietors. He is only thirty-three years of age, and a Yale man, class of 1900. Since the year 1903 he has been publisher and treasurer of the Chicago *Daily Tribune*. He has occupied many of the leading offices in the various journalistic organisations of his country.

Here is Mr. McCormick's reply to our criticism:

United States and Canada.

December 28th, 1909.

To the Editor of the "Canadian Courier":

Sir,—I thank you for sending me a marked copy of the "Courier" of the 18th because it will give me an opportunity to correct some erroneous impressions which have resulted from some casual remarks which I let drop in Ottawa. I expressly stated that they did not constitute a part of an interview which was otherwise reported with accuracy, because it would be presumptuous of me under the circumstances to suggest union to Canada, or Toronto to Washington.

I think you do me an injustice when you call me "an American publicist of note" and when you say that I still dream "that pipe

dream of long ago that Canada will be forced out of business by his country and compelled by fate to become part of the United States." My impression of Canada is quite different from that which you impute to me. I was led to Ottawa because instinct, perhaps, as well as reason, told me that there was a great country growing to the north of us—that a nation had sprung into being, of which we were scarcely aware. I was fully cognizant of the amazing ignorance of the American people regarding Canadian affairs and am a little disappointed to learn from the columns of the "Courier" that a people whose strength and ability so gripped me while I was in the Dominion, should be equally ignorant of the conditions across the line. I have not suggested or even thought that the United States might put Canada out of business. Quite the contrary. Under the existing fiscal relation between the two countries it is more likely that the Dominion can put us out of business by prohibiting the export of certain Canadian materials.

I do not remember that Ottawa was mentioned in the course of our conversation as the possible capital of the "great Dominion." My recollections of Toronto—its vigour, its nationalism and its idealism—made a lasting impression upon me. I had come to Toronto at the invitation of some of the Canadian editors to address them on technical matters regarding our profession and later in the day to make a speech on a subject which I should select myself. That speech, I think, in a fair degree represented my views.

But your last paragraph does me the most serious injustice. If Canada has been the football of two great powers, I went to the Dominion at least with the intention of showing the American public that you were not a football, but a nation.

In concluding I might add that a private letter on Anglo-German relations *vis-a-vis* the United States which contained some remarks not altogether palatable to the readers of the London *Daily Mail*, was published at the request of Lord Northcliffe and was treated with a greater consideration by the English press than by that of my own country. Whatever other views I may hold of the mother country of the two great daughters this much is true—that a man, no matter what his opinion may be, can have a fairer hearing in England than in any of the daughter states within or without the Empire or than in any great European continental country.

I am, Sir, respectfully yours,

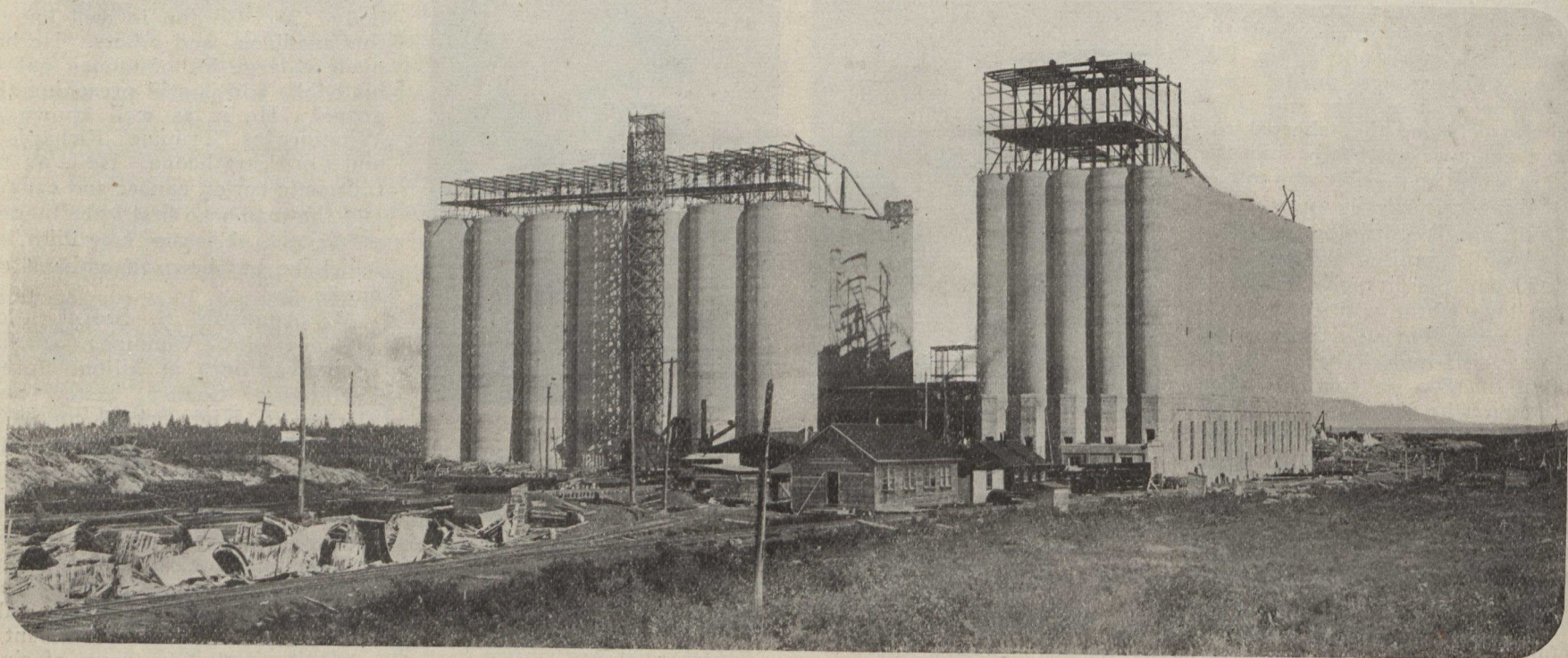
MEDILL McCORMICK.

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Cement in Canada

NO Canadian industry has developed more rapidly than the manufacture of cement, which is now being used for almost every sort of building—skyscrapers, bridges, subways, piers, foundations, business blocks, pillars for houses—even barges are being made of cement. The biggest Canadian building in which cement enters into the construction is the new elevator of the Grand Trunk Pacific at Fort William, to have a capacity of twenty million bushels.

So rosy has been the prospect of the cement industry in Canada that production has succeeded in overtaking consumption. In 1908 the total production of Portland cement in Canada was 3,495,961 barrels each of 350 pounds, as against 2,491,513 barrels in 1907; an increase of 40.3 per cent. Consumption, however, did not keep pace with production; in 1908, 2,665,289 barrels of Canadian Portland, which meant a surplus of nearly a quarter-million of barrels. Had the cement used in Canada been all made in Canada, there would have been an over-stock of only about 300,000 barrels. Twenty-three plants in Canada are engaged in the production of cement, with a total daily capacity of 27,500 barrels.



A modern example of how cement is used in Canada. The new Grand Trunk Pacific Elevator at Fort William, whose total capacity is to be 20,000,000 bushels.