

# REFLECTIONS

By THE EDITOR

## Christianity and Civilisation.

THE question asked on this page last week, "Is Civilization a Failure?" is answered by a prominent French publicist in the negative. In a cable despatch published here a few days ago he accused the Christian peoples of waging war in the name of Christianity. This is a charge which has been made over and over again in the past; but that it should be made to-day, in the age of peace conferences and foreign missionary societies, is rather disconcerting.

Is it not clear that Christianity still clings to the glories of war? The Pope hasn't opposed the war in Tripoli. The Protestant missionaries seem to be rather pleased with the revolution in China. If Great Britain and Germany went to war, it will be with the support of the Christian bishops of each country. The only sect which is fighting in the open against war between these two people is the Socialists. This week, in Germany, they are putting up a tremendous opposition to the insane naval policy of the Fatherland.

A few days ago, there was a second big meeting in New York on behalf of the arbitration treaty with France and Britain. The excitement and disturbance were worse than at the first meeting. It is quite evident that these treaties are not popular. Ex-President Roosevelt has openly declared hostility to them. The Christian world is not yet ready to give up the glory which comes from international war.

But this so-called Christian civilization is weak at other points. There was never a time in the world's history when the fields were so fruitful, when the ranges produced so many cattle or when the factories of the world were supplying the wants of mankind so generously. The Christian people should be happy and contented. Every Christian nation should be singing paean of praise and thanksgiving. Yet the truth is that discontent, and ill-will and hatred were never stronger. The MacNamara confessions of dynamite outrages, the numerous industrial conflicts in Europe and America, the constant struggle of class against class—all these indicate that the teachings of the Lowly Nazarene have not really sunk deep into our hearts and minds.

If the Christian civilization can not do any better than this, would it be wisdom or folly to seek for a remedy? Would it be fair to ask the heads of the Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches throughout the world to explain this failure of Christian civilization to produce either industrial or international peace? Would it be fair to even ask Roman Catholic and Protestant priests and clergymen why they cannot live at peace with one another? Either Christianity is a belief, or it is not. If the people of the British Empire, of the United States and of Germany will not believe that "God is love" and that every man should regard his neighbour as himself, then why keep up the fiction of calling ourselves Christian nations? Why cry, "Peace! Peace!" when there is no peace?

## Manitoba's New Grief.

MANITOBA has a new brand of trouble. The population of the smaller towns shows a falling off which is not encouraging. Neepawa's population has fallen from 1895 to 1883 in five years, Carman has gone from 1,530 to 1,266, Killarney from 1,117 to 1,010, Morden from 1,437 to 1,130, and so on through the list. Sixteen towns show a combined loss of 1900, although there has been an increase on the whole.

Recently a deputation of provincial character waited on the Hon. George Lawrence, Minister of Agriculture, and suggested a more active immigration campaign. Mr. Lawrence announced that arrangements were being made with the Ottawa authorities which would, he believed, bring justice to Manitoba so far as this problem is concerned. Manitoba does not propose to be a New Brunswick or a Nova Scotia if united effort will prevent it.

## Encouraging the Cadets.

COLONEL SAM HUGHES, the new minister of militia, is out to encourage the training of school cadets. This is in line with the sentiment expressed at the Militia Conference in November. Cadet instructors who have hitherto received

no pay from the militia department will now be recognized and paid according to the number instructed. It is further proposed to have cadet training camps next summer, at which it is expected that 40,000 cadets will be given practical instruction in field work.

Australia was the first to show practical appreciation of the cadet movement. Every school boy there, between sixteen and eighteen, must serve in the cadets and get a military training. In other words, Australia proposes to have every citizen trained for service. It is much easier to train boys than men. They have more time, and take more kindly to the work.

For years, Canada has been struggling vainly with the problem of training men. It is now coming to be recognized that the man must be trained when he is a boy. If he doesn't get his training before he is twenty-five, he is not likely to get it at all. This is the knowledge which is behind the new movement.

## Moral Effect of Cadet Training.

COLONEL HUGHES very wisely places the value of cadet training on moral and physical as well as military grounds. He says that the cadet instructor is preferable to the policeman and the detective. The boy who is taught discipline and obedience will avoid crimes and misdemeanours and will be a model citizen. The money and effort that

Be sure to read  
THE OPENING CHAPTER  
of  
"The Man at Lone Lake."  
A New Canadian Story  
by  
VIRNA SHEARD  
In next week's issue.

is spent on cadet training will be saved in the administration of criminal law and reformatives.

Of course much depends upon the instructors. The military and educational authorities must see that these instructors take the same broad view of their work. If the instructors place the military spirit above the moral and physical phases of their work, the results may not be satisfactory. This point has been emphasized in the Boy Scout movement. Where the scoutmasters failed to take a broad view of their duties and responsibilities, the benefits of the scout training have been minimized. So the Minister of Militia must see that his cadet instructors are themselves instructed in regard to the results which are expected to flow from the movement.

Canada does not desire a recrudescence of the military spirit, but it will cheerfully support any movement looking to the development of the moral and physical manhood of its younger citizens.

## Will It Be a Naval Loan?

APPARENTLY the Hon. Mr. Hazen will proceed shortly to Great Britain to consult with the Admiralty in regard to the new Borden naval policy. Something is to be decided and that right quickly. The Nationalist members of the cabinet are likely to support any plan which will give them an easy, if not wholly satisfactory, way out.

There are those in Britain, including the London *Spectator*, who would like to see the British Government and Canada combine to raise a loan of say two hundred million dollars for immediate additions to the fleet. Heretofore all money for the navy has come out of current revenue. A loan of this size

would put Britain's war programme beyond all possible competition. If Canada guaranteed one half the loan, it would mean three or three and a half million dollars a year, an amount which few would think excessive if they are in favour of a direct contribution. It would also be small enough to enable the government to build some small cruisers here and thus provide more training ships and partially satisfy those who believe in the ultimate triumph of the Canadian navy idea.

Such a policy might not meet with general approval, but it would go some distance towards satisfying both sides. However, not being in the confidence of the government, I am not in a position to state whether this is a shrewd guess or a woolly idea. Those interested might remember, however, that they first saw the idea mentioned in these columns.

## Another Conservative Victory.

CONSERVATIVE victories are so numerous that there is danger of the public not being able to keep track of them all. In September, the Conservatives swept the Dominion in a federal contest. In December, the same party had a decided victory in Ontario. Last week, Prince Edward Island, long a Liberal stronghold, passed into the Conservative column. Of the thirty members in the Legislature, twenty-eight are government supporters.

The Prince Edward Island voters were undoubtedly influenced somewhat by an announcement from Ottawa that the Island would get a car-ferry service, as the best available substitute for the long-talked-of tunnel. Nevertheless the Conservatives would have won anyway. Opening voting keeps the people well in line with the ruling power at Ottawa. Premier Mathieson is pledged to introduce a ballot law, and when this is done, open voting will have passed from Canadian public life—except for the election of Separate school trustees under Roman Catholic direction.

Whether Premier Mathieson will make a move to abolish the superfluous Legislative Council and thus bring the Island Province up-to-date, is not yet decided. He would be well-advised if he did so, but constitutional changes of this kind are hard to accomplish.

## Hydro-Electric Policy Popular.

THROUGHOUT Ontario, the government's hydro-electric policy continues popular. No community that has voted to participate in it has gone back on the decision. On January 1st twenty-nine municipalities voted on it for the first time, and every one decided favourably. This is proof positive that the "Beck" policy is gaining ground in the estimation of the public.

In Toronto, the local hydro-electric commission asked for a further vote for \$2,200,000 for extensions. They had already spent \$2,750,000 on their distribution plant and street lighting equipment. The vote was more than five to one in favour of it, although the people recognize that the work has not been any too well done. Apparently they believe themselves safer in the hands of second-class municipal administrators than first-class private owners. There is a lesson in this for privately owned public utilities, if those who control them have the sense to see it.

## Temperance Sentiment Strong.

THE voting on January 1st in Ontario municipalities shows a strong temperance sentiment. In fifteen places, the anti-local-option forces tried to repeal the local option law and in every one they failed. It requires a three-fifths vote to repeal as well as a three-fifths vote to carry, but in every case the repeal was defeated on a majority vote.

On the active side, nineteen municipalities carried local option for the first time, cutting off 31 licenses. In addition Stratford voted to cut out 15 licenses and Kingston 18. In nineteen or twenty other places where voting took place there was a majority for local option, but not a three-fifths vote.

## New Idea in Almanacs.

SOME person in Collingwood has created a brand new idea in almanacs. It is entitled the "Collingwood Almanac and Encyclopedia," and contains the brief story of one thousand events in the history of the town. These are, of course, arranged in months, with one or more events recalled by each day. The historical data was compiled by Mr. David Williams, a past president of the Canadian Press Association and a persistent student of local history.

The idea in this almanac is one which might be taken up in other cities with a view to making citizens more familiar with the local history of the city and district. Local patriotism is as valuable as national.