

# Canada in 1906

**T**HE story of the last twelve months in Canada has been one of general prosperity and development, although we have shared to some extent in the disasters that have made this a memorable year. From the loss of the "Valencia" last January to the wrecking of the "Monarch" in December, there has been an unusual record of marine and lake disasters.

The West has become more than ever the most interesting scene of nation-building and the immigration of last spring showed how strong is the increased British leaning towards Canadian provinces.

Politically, it has been a season of investigation, the insurance commission appointed by the Government last February having been the most important body of that class. The changes in the Dominion Cabinet, consequent on the death of Hon. Raymond Prefontaine, resulted in Hon. L. P. Brodeur becoming Minister of Fisheries and Hon. William Templeman receiving the portfolio of Inland Revenue. Among the new senators are Mr. Robert Jaffray, Dr. Douglas, Mr. Peter Talbot, Dr. Deveber and Dr. Philip Ray. The conference of provincial premiers at Ottawa was an event of unusual interest.

The two movements of most importance to the business world have been the wonderful development of transportation facilities and of electrical energy. "Trade follows the flag" has been revised to "towns follow the trains." The Grand Trunk Pacific has made considerable progress, its western terminus, Prince Rupert, having been selected, the Canadian Northern has completed the line between Toronto and Parry Sound, not to mention its thousands of miles in Quebec and in the West, while the Ontario Government Railway is turning almost unexplored districts into camps. Mining has received attention seldom accorded that industry, and the Cobalt boom has grown with each month. The most unpleasant feature has been the strike among coal miners in the West, which seems to have been fairly settled.

Socially, the visit of Prince Arthur of Connaught last

March and April was the most interesting event. Banquets have shown public sentiment towards certain leading men, the most impressive of such events being the banquet given to Sir Wilfrid Laurier by Ontario Liberals in February, the March celebration at Brantford in honour of Dr. A. Graham Bell, the November banquet given by Montreal Liberals to Hon. W. S. Fielding, and the December banquet given by the Toronto Board of Trade to Messrs Mackenzie and Mann. Mr. Andrew Carnegie favoured the country with a visit, during which he expressed himself vivaciously as in favour of universal peace.

The most interesting event in our sporting annals was the Marathon triumph of Mr. William Sherring, Hamilton's champion runner, who was received enthusiastically on his return in May.

British Columbia's firm opposition to Hindoo labour showed the trend of Western feeling regarding further importations of Asiatic workmen.

In the religious world, the movement towards church union among the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian bodies has been the most noteworthy development.

The appointment by the Whitney Government of the University Commission and the resignation of President Landon have slightly stirred educational circles. The meeting in Toronto last August of the British Medical Association was the most important convention of the summer.

Altogether, the Western harvest, the transportation increase, the electric development and the opening up of vast, new territories give Canadians every reason to believe in greater things for 1907. The worst feature of the year's history has been the exposure of commercial and political corruption. But the fact of exposure and the national shame for such conditions show that we are by no means conscienceless in matters of public morality.

## Happenings of 1906

**P**RACTICALLY there is no great difference between December 31st and January 1st. But with the New Year there is usually a certain amount of retrospect which is occasionally edifying, if undertaken in what is conventionally called "the right spirit."

For some reason, which scientists cannot make plain, this has been a year of disaster by volcanic eruption, tidal wave and earthquake. Vesuvius spread desolation abroad in March and April, the terrible San Francisco earthquake almost destroyed the finest city on the Pacific on April 18th, August 22nd witnessed a similar catastrophe at Valparaiso and on September 18th, a typhoon at Hongkong devastated thousands of small craft.

France and Russia have had a full share of European and American attention. President Fallieres was elected in January and in October Clemenceau was asked to form a ministry. The latter has made a forceful prime minister and has pushed the policy of separation between church and state so far that at present there is tacit strife between the two and the season of good-will means little in Paris.

In March, Russia was granted representative government and in May, Witte resigned and was succeeded by Goremykin who found it impossible to reconcile conflicting parties and who resigned last summer. The dissolution of the Duma was a crushing disappointment to those who believed that Russia is on the verge of happier things.

The Moroccan conference of the "Powers" at Algiers which opened last January was the most important event in Europe.

The marriage of King Alphonso of Spain and Princess Ena of Battenberg, the coronation of King Haakon of Norway, the death of King Christian IX. of Denmark,

and the birth of a son to the Crown Prince of Germany were the most conspicuous events in royal circles.

The sweeping victory of Liberalism at the British elections last January introduced a change of political issues, as the Labour Party is strongly represented. At present the entente cordiale between Lords and Commons does not exist, inasmuch as the latter would not submit to the former's mutilation of the Education Bill, the work of Hon. Augustine Birrell of "Obiter Dicta" fame. The "suffragettes" who went to jail for disturbing the peace, thinking thereby to bring nearer votes for women, have afforded material for amusement rather than edification.

The Sultan and the Shah are both in bad health and no one seems to deplore their condition. The death of the latter might arouse once more Russian yearnings towards the Persian Gulf.

President Roosevelt's visit to Panama indicates how great is the national significance of the canal enterprise. Cuba has had political troubles of her own which will probably end in annexation to the United States. The gubernatorial contest in New York state aroused unusual interest, inasmuch as Mr. William Randolph Hearst exerted in vain all the resources of yellow journalism to place himself in the coveted residence at Albany. The most serious foreign complication threatening the United States at present is the "Japanese question," which involves the racial problems of the Pacific states.

The five months' visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to India indicated the feeling that India should be fully recognised as England's most important Eastern possession, in view of the present Oriental unrest.