

REFLECTIONS

By THE EDITOR

The Late President Hays.

CANADA'S interest in the loss of the Titanic was more than the world's interest in a great world tragedy. A number of Canadian citizens were aboard and this fact added emphasis to the impatience with which people waited for news. It also added emphasis to the public grief at the loss of the great ship and her precious human cargo. For more than a week, this subject has occupied the chief place in all public and private conversations.

The chiefest feature of Canada's grief is the loss of Mr. Charles M. Hays, President of the Grand Trunk and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railways. His death is more than a personal loss. It is a national loss. Canada never needed President Hays more than he is needed at the present time. The great undertakings with which he was connected have just been brought to a position where they need his closest attention and his firm guiding hand. It seems hard to have to exchange the life of Charles M. Hays, with all that it means to the Grand Trunk Railway stock-holders and employees, and all that it might mean to Canada as a whole, for the life of some stoker who perhaps was able to do nothing at all for his fellowmen and not even much for himself.

President Hays' great success as an administrator of railways depended largely upon his physical as well as mental ability. Indeed, the world is slowly coming to recognize that physical force must co-operate with mental force to produce a man who is strong enough to become a leader, under our complex industrial and commercial system. A man without physical superiority may be an expert artist, musician, or writer, but in the more active spheres of life genius is only genius when it reposes within a strong body. President Hays was able to work long hours without reference to the clock. Although not physically large, he had a body which might reasonably be described as being "sturdy" and "well-knit." As he walked down the street he showed his strength in his swing and in his carriage.

Mr. Hays was born in Illinois, and began his railway work in Missouri at seventeen years of age. So rapidly did he find promotion that at thirty years of age he was made assistant general manager of the Wabash Railway, and the following year general manager. In 1895 he came to Canada to reorganize the Grand Trunk. He has been at this task ever since, except for one year spent with the Southern Pacific Railway. Under his management the old Grand Trunk has been transformed into the new Grand Trunk, and the Grand Trunk Pacific has been created and almost brought to completion. He undertook one of the greatest tasks which has ever fallen to the lot of a railway man. He had to avoid all the ordinary mistakes which railway builders and managers are likely to make and in addition he had to rectify the mistakes of his predecessors. He had to unmake as well as make. Over and above all, he, an American citizen, had to win the confidence of the Canadian people and a British Board of Directors.

That Canada should lose such a man at this particular juncture is exceedingly sad. To his bereaved family and his sorrowing fellow-workers in the Grand Trunk Railway, Canada extends a broad, deep sympathy, tinged with national grief over the passing of a great citizen of supreme constructive ability.

Marriages Here and There.

JUSTICE seems to be as fair in Britain as in Canada. The Protestant who read the two marriage decisions of last week, one in Montreal and one in London, may wonder if Quebec is as exceptional a country as is sometimes claimed. *Ussher vs. Ussher*, an appeal decided by the Lord Chief Justice, confirms the previous decision in this case. The "ne temere" decree is in force in Ireland, says the Chief Justice, but its rules apply only where a Catholic priest performs the ceremony and where the participants intended to follow these rules. This particular marriage is valid at common law, although two witnesses were not present. The intent to be married was clear.

On the other hand, the case of Tremblay and Wright, decided last week in Montreal, a marriage was annulled on the ground that the young lady was a minor and could not be married without the

consent of her parents or guardians. If I remember correctly the same decision was reached some years ago in the Agnew case, when a young man, a minor, married a woman of full age without his parents' consent. This decision was based on the civil code of Quebec rather than on canonical law.

From these decisions it is clear that much of the objection to the marriage situation in Quebec is due to peculiar laws which have nothing to do with the "ne temere." So far as the Catholic Church is responsible for these laws, it must bear its share of these objections. Where it disclaims responsibility the blame must be placed upon the legislators. At first, Archbishop Bruchesi may have been in-



THE LATE CHARLES M. HAYS,
President of the Grand Trunk Railway. May 16th,
1856—April 14th, 1912.

clined to force "ne temere" somewhat, and may have been pleased when a zealous judge took notice of it. Recently, however, he and those who take their cue from him are taking the more reasonable ground that "ne temere" applies only to the consciences of Catholics and that the Church is not responsible for and does not influence the decision of the courts.

This does not wholly clear the air, but it certainly goes some distance in that direction. A few minor amendments to the Quebec laws would help considerably. A Protestant marriage must be kept as sacred and as inviolable as a Catholic marriage and vice versa.

An Awful Punishment.

IT must be a terrible thing to come up in the Ottawa police court. The magistrate is so severe.

Last week a woman came to him with a complaint that her husband for ten years had contributed nothing to the support of her and her children, and that she had paid his room-rent elsewhere because the family were afraid to have him in the house at night. Then this terrible magistrate arose in his wrath and vindicated the inalienable and unalterable rights of a wife and children. He fined the man \$30 and costs. Think of that for severity for a lazy duffer who had done nothing for his family for ten years except collect money from them! Then to add to the man's discomfiture, the magistrate suspended the sentence on condition that the man keep away from his family!

Is it any wonder that there are women in this weary world who think that they are not getting justice?

Home Missions Neglected.

SEVERAL times during the past two or three years I have intimated that Canada has a great task ahead of it in the education and Christianization of its newer citizens. In so doing, I have expressed a preference for home missions over foreign missions. As a consequence I have been

classed as one wholly opposed to foreign missions, which is manifestly unfair.

Nevertheless, the opinion is growing that the Laymen's Missionary Movement has laid too much stress on the foreign mission. Last Sunday, Bishop Lofthouse, of Keewatin, preaching in an Anglican Church in Toronto, declared that our home missions are being neglected, because people do not realize how much work there is to be done "at their very doors." He made special appeal for broader and more energetic work among the Indians and other settlements in the hinterland of Ontario and Manitoba.

Similar statements are coming from clergymen all over the country. The public is being educated to the great needs in the newer districts of Western Canada where people hear a minister once in six months, or once a year, and where schoolhouses and church buildings are practically unknown. It is also being educated to a feeling that it is our duty to look after these citizens of our own country, rather than to send missionaries and money to the people of Japan and China, already well supplied with ancient religions and religious opportunities.

Pension Hysteria.

A PROMINENT Canadian publicist speaking with the writer a few days ago predicted that it would not be many years before the Socialists would have possession of the German Parliament and would either abolish the Kaisership or reduce it to the same position as that of the Kingship in Great Britain or the Presidency in the United States. According to his view, the world does not fully recognize how socialistic has been recent German legislation.

This is confirmed by the report of a recent address delivered in Berlin by Professor Bernhard, in which he lay stress upon what he terms "pension hysteria." He says that in the minds of the masses the idea has been formed that every illness, every accident, must lead to a pension. Consequently, the people are morbidly concentrating their attention on their own bodies and this produces a nervous phenomenon which doctors describe as "pension hysteria." The protection afforded to the working people of Germany has attained such proportions that the Professor thinks it will produce weak and dependent artisans rather than vigorous, happy human beings.

There are people in Canada who are determined that the pension system shall be introduced into this country, and it behooves all students of our economic and social life to give attention to the situation. The pension system is not wrong nor dangerous if properly restricted. The difficulty is that pension legislation follows a course such as has been followed by suffrage legislation. The more the people get of it, the more they want, and every time a politician gets into trouble or desires to cover up his other difficulties he proposes a further extension of these privileges. Canada cannot avoid having some form of pensions, but the country should make a fight against the introduction of this terrible disease which has afflicted Germany and the United States and which is now spreading to Britain, viz. "Pension Hysteria."

Responsibility of a Citizen.

MONTREAL is taking a new stand in regard to the responsibility of the average citizen. In that city they have finally reached the conclusion that the governing of a city is the work of all the citizens and not of a self-appointed few. Two years ago a Citizens' Association was formed and a new set of administrators installed at the City Hall after a strenuous election campaign. Instead of passing out of existence this Association was kept alive, and subsequent events demonstrated the wisdom of such action. When the next election for aldermen came along, the dethroned civic politicians tried to get back into the seats of the mighty and were almost successful. Shortly afterward a vacancy occurred in the Board of Control and another election was held. For the third time the Citizens' Association turned in to do battle, and this time with a duplicate of its first success.

It is now proposed to strengthen the Citizens' Association by forming a branch association in each and every ward in the city. These are to be affiliated with the central governing body as now existing. The branch organizations will be free and independent in their local affairs, but will co-operate with the central organization whenever the public interest demands such action.

There is a lesson in this for every city in Canada. No city will be well governed, whether ruled by aldermen, boards of control, or commissioners, unless the citizens take a constant and active interest in public questions relating to the civic life.