

Then the wider sphere of Canadian politics called him, and he joined the Mackenzie Government as Secretary of State. A year's experience of this office, and in 1875 he produced his monumental work — the framing of the first temperance legislation of note—the famous Scott Act. When, during 1896, the Liberals under Laurier swept the country, Sir Richard again resumed his old position as Secretary of State. He continued steadfastly to exert active influence in that capacity until, at last, recently his great age compelled him to resign in favour of younger blood in the shape of Hon. Charles Murphy.

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A Student of Economy

AMONG the young men who, in addition to the university men, have contributed more or less to the knowledge of the West, Mr. H. M. E. Evans, brother of the Mayor of Winnipeg, must be counted as one of the most hopeful. A few days ago he delivered an address before the Associated Boards of Trade assembled in Saskatoon—on the conservation of natural resources. He took for his text the Conservation Commission of the United States, Canada and Mexico. Perhaps he said more about this than about the actual problems of conservation in the West; but at any rate he emphasised the truth, that people in a new country are apt to forget—that in the conservation of natural resources the surest way is not always to develop them, as has been said by an eminent railway authority. The West is in no danger of neglecting to develop. It is in danger of developing too rapidly. Even land is being starved by cropping. This is a prodigal age. Counsel such as Mr. Evans gives is very well worth heeding.

REFLECTIONS

THE Hon. Mr. Brodeur, Minister of Marine, is reported to have announced that the Government favoured a Canadian navy rather than a present of battleships or a cash contribution to the British exchequer. Three months of steady discussion seems to have brought the whole nation to the same conclusion. There is scarcely a newspaper in the country, other than the *Montreal Star*, which supports any other policy. The *Toronto Globe* seems to have modified its first utterances, as have some of the leading Conservative organs. The *Toronto News*, now one of the keenest Opposition papers, has declared for the policy which apparently is in favour with the Laurier Government. In the closing paragraph of an editorial on "Canadian Naval Policy" it says:

"It follows that the *News* is in favour of Lord Milner's policy of developing fresh centres of strength. Unquestionably the danger of the moment from Germany is serious, and it is to be regretted that the Canadian Government did not see fit to give a *Dreadnought* to the North Sea fleet, as a reminder to the power which is aiming at universal domination that the British Empire has reserves of strength and good will which are outside of Britain. That, however, would have been an incident. Our settled policy must be to prepare for the long years which await us, for the day when Canada will be a country, not of seven, but of twenty—thirty—forty millions, for the whole future and not for one crisis two or three years ahead. Our Canadian navy will take at the very least twenty years to develop, so that we should lose no time in commencing."



THE Birthday honours announced last week comprise one retired cabinet minister and four civil service officials. This is the greatest compliment to the service which it has ever received. When all the ambitious millionaires and politicians are overlooked and practically all the honours given to tried public servants, it seems as if the authorities were anxious to encourage merit among those who serve their country faithfully for a small annual salary. The policy so manifestly adopted by the Ottawa Government and the Governor-General, is one which does them credit and one which should meet with the highest appreciation from those who desire to see the civil service purified and strengthened.



THE Kingston *Whig*, usually a sane and sensible journal editorially, was most unfair the other day when it declared that, although the cost of separate school readers had been reduced, "the government had nothing to do with it." Sir James Whitney must in all fairness be given the credit for all recent reductions in the price of school-books whether in Ontario or elsewhere. The publishers had got into a rut. Their profits were large and because of this there was no reason why any advance should be made in manufacturing methods. Sir James declared for up-to-date methods and secured publishers who are giving him public school readers at wonderfully low prices.

It was inevitable that the price of separate school readers should follow, and it did. The publisher was wise enough to recognise the inevitable and to volunteer the reduction. It is not worthy of the *Whig* to try to rob Sir James of credit which is justly due him.



SIGNOR CATTAPANI'S protest in the Toronto press against our treatment of Italian railway labourers is one which should be heard. He justly points out that a people which is so anxious to send missionaries abroad ought to be more anxious about the "heathen" at home. We give freely to send missionaries to China and Japan but withhold the funds necessary to send missionaries into the construction camps at home. The criticism is fair.

He makes another suggestion worthy of consideration. He says that many of these Italian labourers would settle on the land if the immigration authorities were to educate them as to the agricultural possibilities and opportunities which are open to them. A majority of them labour for a few years here and return home, and he believes that if the case were properly stated to them they would settle here and invest their accumulated savings in a homestead.



HAS it occurred to you, that it would be interesting to know how many mothers there were among the delegates to the Quinquennial Congress? Also, the average number of children in their families? These suggestions are not made in any antagonistic spirit, but simply because they will not down. A careful examination of the list of delegates and speakers shows that seventy-five per cent. of the women are married and presumably are mothers. This is an indication that most of the women have the necessary experience and training to fit them to discuss sympathetically the great social and racial questions of the day. At least one British delegate had two grown daughters with her, and the leading Austrian delegate is accompanied by her son and a son-in-law. Most of us prefer to listen to the mothers.



FROM the man's point of view, the unmarried woman may have a splendid mind and broad sympathies, but she cannot have a perfect knowledge. The average man has more prejudice, indeed, against the preaching of the unmarried woman than against that of the bachelor. Perhaps the prejudice is unfair; in some cases it must inevitably be, because there are women who are not entitled to that blessed term "mother" and yet are not to blame. In most cases, however, the woman who is childless has deliberately chosen the role and such a one cannot be a social reformer in the broadest sense.



THE world's future depends upon the mothers. Other good women may do something, but in the end the mother is the factor which counts. How to produce, train and develop good mothers is the greatest of national problems. At one session Dr. Louise Martindale told the story of Ada Jurcke, who was a drunkard, thief and general vagabond and died seventy-five years ago. Her descendants were 836 in number, of whom 700 were located. Of these, 106 were illegitimate children, 144 beggars, 64 kept by charity, 181 were prostitutes, and 76 criminals, of whom 7 were assassins. In 75 years, this family had cost the state \$1,250,000. If a bad mother means so much to the race, the greatest aim of a nation must be to eliminate the bad mothers and encourage the good.



AT no stage in the world's history has the importance of the mother been more fully recognised. When our lives were more simple, population less dense, and fashion held less stringent sway, mothers lived more perfect lives. That simplicity and that perfection of the mother's life made up for the lack of the scientific knowledge which the modern mother possesses. The home of the middle ages may have been small and ill-ventilated, but it was set in an open space and fresh air was always available. The most squalid home of a first-year settler on the western plain is a better place in which to raise a family than a three-room tenement in the crowded sections of modern cities. If modern civilisation has given some mothers better homes, it has given many of them worse homes. If it has given us much knowledge of the value of cleanliness, of disease prevention, and of scientific mind-culture, it has also given us a knowledge of how a woman may exchange the pleasures and troubles of wifehood and