

REFLECTIONS

By THE EDITOR

At Ottawa.

THE Borden administration, which has been on the gridiron of uncertainty for some weeks, is now breathing more easily. Its difficulties have been overcome for a time at least. Mr. Monk went out pleasantly and without animosity. Mr. Casgrain and Mr. Marechal declined to come in, but Mr. Coderre took the loose portfolio and the cabinet still contains three French-Canadian representatives. There will probably be no further trouble until the House meets, and the naval programme is announced. If that programme provides for "cash" instead of "ships and men" there will be some scenes and events which provide material for another chapter in Canadian history.

Did Mr. Borden Make a Faux Pas?

OUR relations to the other Britannic peoples have been the subject of remarks by two statesmen recently. Rt. Hon. Mr. Harcourt, secretary for the colonies, has declared that personally he "sees no obstacle and certainly no objection" to all the Dominions having a larger share in the general direction of Britannic affairs. The tenor of his remarks indicated that he has been influenced by the wishes of the Canadian ministers as expressed during their recent visit to London. He would welcome annual visits of Canadian ministers to London to discuss matters of common interest and especially defence. Quite apparently, however, he did not desire any one to raise the question of imperial federation or that of "representation" either on an executive or a legislative body.

After this interesting utterance, comes some remarks from Premier Fisher, of Australia. He is not so enthusiastic as Mr. Harcourt, but thinks biennial conferences would be advisable. Hitherto conferences have not been held oftener than once in four years. But he and other Australians are rather disturbed that Mr. Borden should have "batted in" and suggested a change in the status quo without first consulting them. If there is to be any change in the relations between the Home Government and the Dominions, Australia would like to know about them before they are made.

Thus we have a curious situation. The British ministers are trying not to offend either Premier Borden or Premier Fisher, and they find themselves in a tight corner. If Premier Borden had waited until the next imperial conference to make his suggestions about "representation" it would have been much more pleasing to Australia and less bothersome for the British ministers. Premier Borden must not forget that Canada is not the only important part of the Empire.

McGill's Physical Test.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY has adopted the rule that all students entering that institution must pass a physical examination. Where minor weaknesses only are concerned, the medical director will give advice as to how to correct them. This will be followed by regular and compulsory physical training.

This is as it should be. In Toronto, Queen's and other universities, compulsory physical training is still unknown. There is no individual test. "A sound mind in a sound body" is not a university doctrine or goal in this country. McGill is leading the way to higher things and it is entitled to great credit for its leadership.

Let Candidates Beware.

PARLIAMENTARY candidate named Fauteux has brought out a new precedent in elections. In September, 1911, he was nominated in Two Mountains riding in Quebec, but his nomination paper did not contain the necessary twenty-five names and did not give the candidate's occupation and address. The returning officer referred the matter to the clerk of the crown in chancery and he advised the R. O. to consult a lawyer. He in turn advised the R. O. to declare the other candidate elected by acclamation, and Mr. Joseph A. C. Ethier became M.P. on that advice. Since then the Superior Court of Quebec and the Supreme Court of Canada have upheld the decision.

It is strange that these technicalities should deprive a whole constituency of its right to express its opinion in a great national struggle. If the courts had decided in favour of a new election, the decision would have been clearer to the lay mind. But the courts have decided otherwise and we must act accordingly.

Hereafter "Let the Candidate Beware." His nomination papers must be drawn by one skilled in the technicalities of the election law, or he runs great risks. It sounds un-British, but our own beloved Supreme Court has so decided.

Farmers or Tradesmen?

HERETOFORE the Canadian immigration policy has been to encourage the coming of farmers, farm labourers and domestic servants from the United States and Great Britain. We have discouraged the coming of mechanics and

Sir Richard and the Navy.

THIS agitation for a Canadian navy is not wholly political. The man who thinks that is deceiving himself. Many leading Canadians in both parties, and nearly all the non-partisans are for it.

Sir Richard McBride is again on his feet to declare his adherence to a Canadian fleet. At Revelstoke on the 25th he declared:

"Let us shortly be able to lay claim to a regular Canadian army and navy second to none in the world."

And it is easy to see Sir Richard's position. Besides the national arguments, he finds it necessary to protect his own province "from poachers from the Orient." British Columbia is a great treasure-house, almost wholly unprotected. It can get that protection only through a Canadian fleet.

Sir Richard is not against an emergency contribution. He would do something quickly, but he would also build up equally quickly a Canadian navy and a Canadian army.

Moreover, the British Columbia Conservative Association, which listened to Sir Richard's speech, endorsed his attitude by a special resolution. British Columbia puts hand to brow, shades its eyes, and looks out over the Pacific towards Japan and China. Such a province cannot be induced to think that the North Sea is the only debatable water-space in the world, or that the Germans are the only selfish people.

If Sir Richard McBride were Premier of Canada, we know—well, we would know several things.

small merchants. What we wanted was homesteaders and we went after that class hard.

But the situation is changed. Our homesteads are pretty well filled up. Now we need men to do the other work which the development of the country has made necessary. The new towns need new merchants. The new factories need new mechanics. The new stock farms, creameries, cheese factories, brick yards, cement mills, lumber yards, pulp and paper mills, retail stores, wholesale warehouses, and all sorts of "adjuncts" need more men. The settlement of the land is no longer the first consideration. Our immigration policy needs expanding.

Heretofore when this has been suggested it was a request made by the "East." Now it is a demand from the "West." Every day makes commercial and industrial conditions in the West more like those in the East. Commercially Canada is being unified, and hence all are now agreed on a broader national immigration policy.

The National Sin.

THERE is a growing feeling among preachers and other critics of human conduct that the national sin is a gross materialism. I listened to a sermon recently by a Winnipeg rector and he seemed to have no warning for the poor—only for the rich. By inference he declared that the less wealthy classes were much nearer saint-

ship than those Canadians to whom riches had come easily and without much sense of responsibility. Apparently he would change the phrase,

"The fool hath said in his heart there is no God," to read thus:

"The rich man hath said in his heart there is no God."

In his Thanksgiving sermon, the editor of the Toronto *Sunday World* remarked:

"It is not the vortex of Militarism that threatens Canada to-day, but the vortex of materialism. The joy of winning and using rightly is easily lost in the greed of possessing, in the desires of the flesh and in the pursuit of pleasure all whereof are but vanity and vexation of spirit. Canadians must so build up their fair Dominion that it shall excel not merely in things material, but in those things that make a nation truly great—orderly freedom, noble patriotism, justice and righteousness. Aspiration after these and labour to achieve them is the best thanksgiving."

Not that all rich Canadians are lacking in reverence for their Creator, nor in sympathy with their less fortunate fellow-citizens. But there is a certain haughtiness of spirit in some of them, a full-pledged determination to spend their wealth selfishly, and a lack of lofty sentiment in their conduct and conversation which is the extreme of materialism. All this is of course founded in lack of education or in faulty education. Undue pride in one's possessions is destructive of moral sense and the higher life.

Canadian Versus Imperialist.

UNFORTUNATE indeed it would be if this country were forced to divide itself into two camps, those who are Canadians first and those who are Imperialists first. If Mr. Borden should announce a purely Imperialist policy on the navy question and refuse to consider the possibility of a Canadian navy, and if Sir Wilfrid Laurier were to continue to advocate only a Canadian fleet, then such a situation would arise. One party would be advocating an imperialist policy and one advocating a purely nationalist policy. To my mind this would be exceedingly unfortunate.

We should all be Imperialists and all be Canadians. There is no reason why there should not be slight differences of opinion and yet a practical agreement on the main points involved. Canada is part of the British Empire and must remain in that position for many years to come. We should recognize that we have imperial responsibilities as well as national responsibilities.

No citizen should be able to say to another citizen, "I am a better Canadian than thou." Similarly no man living in this country should be able to say to another, "I am a greater Imperialist than thou." We cannot expect that all citizens of the country shall have exactly the same viewpoint, but surely we should be able to agree upon a broad policy which will cover our duty to ourselves and our duty to the other parts of the Empire with whom we must work in harmony.

Where Speech Is Not Racial.

JOHN FOSTER FRASER, in his "Pictures from the Balkans," published in 1906, points out that in the Balkans race and speech count nothing in nationality. "Nationality is decided by the Church to which you belong." Hence there has been a continual struggle between the Bulgarian Christians and the Greek Christians, each trying to Christianize Macedonia. Nor have they been content to use peaceful means. The bullet and the knife are freely used on behalf of both brands of Christianity, and this accounts for much of the unrest and lawlessness of recent years.

One paragraph is most interesting:

"What the worthy English Christian does not always realize . . . is that most of the murdering now going on in the Balkans is by Christians of Christians. The fact is the whole of the Balkans is infested with rival Christian 'bands,' which terrorize villages and convert them from the Greek Church to the Bulgarian Church, or from the Bulgarian Church to the Greek Church at the dagger's point. The Turkish soldiers occasionally hunt these 'bands,' and when they catch one there is some quick killing."

True, the Turk is a hopeless ruler and probably deserves his punishment; but it would be foolish to shut one's eyes to the fact that the crudities and atrocities of Turkey in Europe are partially due to lack of western civilization among all the peoples of that portion of the world. This must be borne in mind when Canadians try to understand the Balkan situation and the attitude of the Powers towards the present war.