

REFLECTIONS: BY THE EDITOR

New Zealand Advances.

NEW ZEALAND is again to the fore with a scheme to eliminate political patronage. It is to have a civil service commission of one to make all appointments to and promotions in the civil service—the government railways excepted. This officer is to be responsible to the governor, but may be removed for certain reasons by parliament. His decisions are subject to revisions by a special board.

Canada has a civil service commission of a similar character, consisting of two persons. But the flaw in ointment is the fact that only the civil servants at Ottawa, what is known as the inside service, are subject to its supervision. The outside service is still bedevilled by political patronage.

For example, about four years ago Mr. William Ireland was made customs collector at Parry Sound. Mr. Ireland was publisher of the Parry Sound *Star*, a member of the executive of the Canadian Press Association, and a highly respected member of the craft. He sold out his publishing and printing business and settled down to earn the moderate salary attached to this civil service position. Two weeks ago, without any investigation or trial, he was suspended from his position and Lieut.-Col. Knifton appointed in his stead. Col. Knifton is in England and it is not yet known whether he will accept this office or not.

What a travesty! A man, who four years ago sold his business to enter the service and who is now too old to build up another, is summarily dismissed and left stranded. There was apparently no demand for his "removal" and he claims that four-fifths of the people in Parry Sound admit that he has taken no part in politics during his term in office and that his administration has been locally satisfactory.

Nor is this an isolated case. There are hundreds of others equally unjust and equally indefensible. It was the same under the previous administration. No one party has a monopoly of this crude form of political retribution. We expected better of Mr. Borden's government, because Mr. Borden came into office pledged to civil service reform. Unfortunately Mr. Borden's colleagues were not similarly pledged and Mr. Borden's party was not privy to his promise.

Chinamen in Canada.

OWING largely to British Columbia's need for money, the Dominion Government keeps Chinese women out of the country by a head tax of \$500. Thousands of Chinamen are thus deprived of female company and solace. They seek out white women and bribe them into friendliness and sometimes into marriage. This is inevitable.

No settlers should be allowed to come to Canada if the women of their race are not also encouraged to come. We are pursuing the opposite policy with the Hindus, Chinese and Japs, and we are foolish. All the police departments in Canada, coupled with all the white ribboners and moral reformers cannot prevent the inevitable.

God made human beings to mate and no man-made law will prevent it. The Hudson Bay factors and agents became squaw-men. The white mates with the black when there is no other choice. There is only one way out. Bring in Chinese women or drive out Chinese men. The same applies to the Hindu. It is a crime against humanity to exclude the women of these two races so long as the men are here. And for that national crime, a certain number of Canadian girls and women will be sacrificed until the crime is ended.

Sir Max Explains.

SIR MAX AITKEN, M.P., of Westminster, England, lately organizer and promoter in Montreal, is now on a visit to Canada, and he talks like a real statesman. He assures us that he has investigated the relations of England and Germany, delved into them personally both "at home" and on the continent, studied them as he would two or three machinery plants which he felt might be amalgamated at a high capitalization, and he has discovered that "Germany and England are now in a state of war." Also "the overt blow has not yet been struck, but when it is all may be over in three months or three days."

This is really terrible. Think of such a serious situation and Mr. Borden wasting his time going to Glasgow to see a vessel-launching. Think of the British cabinet wasting its time so that it has not found opportunity to officially notify Mr. Borden of this crisis. Think of Mr. Winston Churchill

and our own Hamar Greenwood trying to organize a cheap trip to Canada on a warship. Think of Sir Max and a hundred lesser members of the Lords and Commons jaunting through the boom districts of Canada while the fate of two Empires "may be decided in three days or three months."

Yes, patriotism and chivalry are dead. Rome tottered unheeding to its doom. So did Babylon, Assyria, Greece and Egypt. It will be the same with Britain—or with Germany—Sir Max doesn't say which; but one of them is hanging unconscious on the brink of a Niagara. Below—down below is oblivion. (Curtain falls.)

Agriculture in the Rural Schools.

NOT all the people are convinced that it would be wise to introduce the teaching of agriculture in the rural school programme. The Peterborough *Examiner* says: "If the plan suggested by THE COURIER were put into effect it would

A British Statesman



This Excellent Picture of Mr. Bonar Law, Leader of the Unionist Party of Great Britain, Was Taken While He Was Making a Speech at a Recent Unionist Garden Party.

be found that a majority of the country parents would be opposed to the scheme, and that many who could afford the outlay and were ambitious for the educational advancement of their children would send the latter to the schools of the city."

There need be no fear that the teaching of agriculture in the rural schools would keep all the boys on the farm. If it kept half the boys on the farm, it would be remarkable in its effect. There will always be a movement from the farm to the town and city. This reform is intended simply to keep some of the boys on the farm, and to make the boys on the farm better farmers by giving them the sort of public school education which will help them in the work which is to be their life work.

No one proposes to abolish first-class teaching of reading, writing and arithmetic, or to give the children of the rural schools any less valuable general education than the boy in the city school receives. All that is proposed is that there shall be a substitution which shall be practical in its nature. For example, the bookkeeping taught in the rural school shall be the bookkeeping of the farm rather than the bookkeeping of the grocery store or the wholesale warehouse. Again, the teaching of botany shall embrace the botany of the grain field, as opposed to the botany of the flower garden.

The *Examiner's* remark that if the farmer's son is willing to take up the occupation of his father, the agricultural college is open to him, is not a strong remark. Not five per cent. of the farmers' boys will ever have an opportunity of

going to an agricultural college. It is only through rural-school handling of the elements of agriculture that ninety-five per cent. of the boys who remain on the farm can be reached.

If technical high schools are advantageous to the mechanics of the country, why not agricultural high schools? This would be the next step after the teaching of agriculture in the rural schools has been thoroughly established.

A Journalistic Visit.

TO my mind the proposed session of the Institute of Journalists of the United Kingdom next year in Canada is a mistake. In the first place, the meeting is not likely to be either representative or satisfactory. The Canadian Press Association is not affiliated with the bigger incorporated body of Great Britain, and it is hard to see how the two associations could meet together with advantage.

With the British Association it is different. These are men of more leisure. They are not busy and bustling as journalists must be. The British Association can meet here with good results, because its members may do their thinking and studying wherever they may chance to be. With the journalist it is different; his work must be done at the heart of things.

However, if the decision to come to Canada stands, then Canadian journalists, whether members of the Institute or not, should do everything in their power to make the meeting a success.

The "Tin-Pot" Navy.

SOME of the Ottawa newspaper correspondents, notably Mr. Hamilton, of the *Toronto News*, are still referring to the "tin-pot" or "Laurier" navy. These references are quite unworthy. Mr. Hamilton, an ex-military man and a university graduate, shows a lack of judgment quite inconsistent with his record as a journalist. Perhaps it was done by a "substitute," while Mr. Hamilton was on holidays. If so, Mr. Hamilton has a grievance.

But some Conservatives, who are neither members of parliament nor of the press gallery, are also guilty of using the same phrase. True, Canada's navy is small and insignificant, but it was a beginning, and it was Canada's, not Laurier's. Personally, I was one of those who thought the Laurier policy might have been broader, but a building programme involving \$40,000,000 and an annual upkeep of six or seven million dollars is not so bad as a start. Indeed it was an excellent beginning, and as such the CANADIAN COURIER supported it.

The Conservatives who talk this way are perfectly free to criticize, but it should be a reasonable criticism. To throw mud at a national movement for political advantage is the meanest and most despicable kind of partisan action. Besides, the Conservative policy must ultimately be a Canadian navy.

The Non-Partisan Movement.

IF there were only a few party papers in Canada which would support the movement to take the naval question out of party politics, two of those would naturally be the *Ottawa Free Press* and the *Brockville Recorder*. Yet the unexpected has happened, and these two excellent dailies have refused to see the light. They profess to find in this movement a Tory subterfuge.

Not being the author of the movement, but having been connected with it from the earliest phases, I am able to state emphatically that there is not a word of truth in this accusation. The movement really began among the Liberals of Toronto and Winnipeg and has been endorsed by nearly all the prominent Liberals of those two cities. The memorial as prepared jointly by Winnipeg and Toronto committees distinctly favours a Canadian navy as a permanent policy. Every Conservative who signs it, practically becomes a supporter of a Canadian navy which will be worthy of our national resources and our national ambition. To my mind, the Conservative who signs it goes farther in opposition to his party's record than the Liberal who signs it. Any person who doubts this should again read the text of the memorial as published in last week's CANADIAN COURIER and in the daily press.

It is said that Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. George P. Graham are opposed to the movement. I do not believe that this is true. When the question is properly placed before them, as it will ultimately be, I am confident that they will see the wisdom and advisability of giving it their approval. The real opposition to it will more likely come from within the Conservative Cabinet, two or three members of which will find it exceedingly difficult to accept the principle of a Canadian navy.