



REFLECTIONS

IIII BY - STAFF - WRITERS IIII

AN OLYMPIC RECORD

FULL returns from the Ontario election indicate that Mr. Whitney has made a new Olympic record for Canadian political contests. To carry eighty-seven seats out of one hundred and six in a province which has been Liberal so long, even if not so preponderately, is a remarkable feat. If Longboat does not win the Marathon, Mr. Whitney will remain the hero of the year.

A curious circumstance of the election is shown by comparing the majorities of the nineteen Liberals elected with those of the eight Toronto members, who are all Conservatives and supporters of Mr. Whitney. The nineteen Liberals had a total majority of 4,500, while the Toronto eight had a majority of over 21,000. In other words, the Whitney candidates in Toronto had 16,500 greater majority than all the Liberal candidates elected throughout the whole province. When the majorities of the other seventy-nine Conservatives are added to this surplus of 16,500 in Toronto, it will be seen that Mr. Whitney's plurality is something extraordinary. The ordinary election vocabulary breaks down when one seeks for familiar terms in which to describe such a political triumph.

Let us hope that the man in whom a great province has reposed so large a measure of confidence will be as worthy of it in the future as he has been in the past.

RETURNING CONFIDENCE

FROM the opening of navigation up to June 1st, 127 vessels arrived in Montreal as against 104 last year. The tonnage also showed an increase of twenty per cent., and was the largest of the last four years. The revenue of the port also increased materially. In the face of pessimistic prophecies, these figures are encouraging. It looks as if confidence were returning and commercial cowardice passing away.

From the West, the reports on the wheat crop continue favourable. There has been considerable rain but so far not enough to do any damage. If nothing unforeseen occurs, the crop of 1908 will exceed that of 1906, which now holds the record. Not only will there be more wheat, but it will be more widely distributed. Other grains will show a corresponding increase.

The cotton workers' strike is not yet settled, but the situation does not look so serious. The steel-rail industry is not in good condition, though the Dominion Iron & Steel Company report plenty of orders. That institution expects that its steel and iron output for 1908 will be double that of 1907. If this report is true, or even nearly true, it will inspire confidence of a broad character.

Recently, the presidents of the Bank of Montreal and of the Canadian Bank of Commerce have been trying in a moderate way to restore confidence. Apparently they desired to influence investors and discourage speculators. This is always a difficult task, but the two presidents did fairly well. They predict better times, but not boom times. They predict a reviving but not exceptional trade. They prophesy cheaper money, but not too much of it.

Summing it all up, there is no doubt that confidence is slowly returning. It will take some time to wipe out all the ink-stains of the past, and the task may not be accomplished this year. If nothing exceptional occurs, however, Canada will probably have a fairly merry Christmas.

EDUCATION AND ART

THE Province of Quebec has recognised that there is a connection between technical education and art. In that province there is a Council of Arts and Manufactures which receives an annual grant of \$16,000 from the Provincial Government. It has schools in Montreal, Quebec, Levis, Fraserville, St. Hyacinthe, Sherbrooke, Three Rivers, Valleyfield, Lachine, St. Johns and Sorel. The average attendance at these amounts to 2501, and they are open for six months in

the year. Plumbing, carpentering, domestic science and other trades and arts are taught. The annual exhibition of the work done was held last week in Montreal.

In his annual address to the Alumni Association of the University of Toronto, Mr. Irving Cameron, M.B., spoke of the growing necessity for a department of art in connection with that institution. Just now art education in Ontario is confined to one small school and private teaching. A Faculty of Art in connection with the university would be of immense benefit to those who desire to study in this particular field and should have a considerable influence on the art tastes of the student body generally. The illustrating and designing professions would be immensely benefitted and through them nearly all Canadian manufacturing.

The making of any article, whether it be a strip of wallpaper, a lady's hat, a candelabra or a rug, gives scope for the display of artistic knowledge and perception. Further, the purchasing and using of all articles of commerce brings the artistic side of a people into strong evidence. If Canadian-made goods are to attain to a wide reputation there must be considerable art in their design and execution. If Canadian homes and cities are to be known throughout the world as displaying a high quality of beauty and adaptability, the artistic tastes of the people must be cultivated and developed. Art is by no means confined to the making of water-colour or oil wall pictures. Art is broader, is more significant. It touches everything we wear and use and treasure. It affects nearly every article of manufacture. For these reasons, it is pleasant to note that art is playing a larger part in our system of education.

READING THE RECORDS

MANY people look upon the forthcoming celebration at Quebec as something in which the general public has little if any interest. They regard it as they might a town holiday when there are baseball and lacrosse matches, a few horse-races, a band concert and a calithumpian procession. The deep, national significance of this unique historical celebration has not yet been borne in upon the minds of the people as a whole.

In the first place, the celebration is a stimulus to the study of our national history which began with Champlain. Celebrations of this kind are necessary to stir the average citizen to again peruse the records which show how Canada was founded and how she grew to be what she is. If this event does nothing else, it will accomplish a grand work in stimulating people to again read about the men and the events of the last three centuries. It will enable the present generation to appreciate more fully the great struggles through which we have been guided to national strength and efficiency.

Another feature is that it will help towards a better understanding between the two races whose future is so strongly bound up with that of Canada. The drawing together of the French-speaking and English-speaking portions of the nation is proceeding slowly, and this celebration should accelerate that desirable movement. It will impress upon each section the claim of the other to a fair share of praise and honour for the work which each has performed. The French and the English have both assisted in the founding of Canada; the French and the English have each done much in its development. Only by the clear understanding of each other's ambitions and aims, each other's ideas and ideals, each other's qualities and characteristics, can this development proceed without friction and obstruction.

The celebration at Quebec is not designed to elevate the record of one race above the other. It will inculcate greater respect and admiration for the early pioneers, soldiers and administrators of each race whose combined work is Canada. It will emphasise the progress that has been made towards national unity, national cohesion, and other national characteristics. It will stimulate that broader patriot-