

REFLECTIONS

BY STAFF WRITERS.

THERE is a great piece of work to be done for Canada—and it should be done quickly. The time is opportune. Every bit of patronage should be taken out of the hands of the members of Parliament and the provincial legislatures, and in this

**WOMEN
MAY HELP**

piece of work women may help.

Women are interested in keeping men pure and honest, and at the same time they are ambitious to have them become successful and of some importance. They must recognise that politics, which ought to be the highest form of competition for success and fame, too often brings obloquy and disgrace to fathers and husbands. A member of Parliament is disgraced if the men who back him in his candidature and work for him in his election resort to improper methods. His family suffer through no act of his, nevertheless they suffer.

If the men who resort to these unseemly methods were never rewarded by public appointments, there would be no inducement for them to resort to such expedients. They would not become ward-workers. The work they now do would be performed by men of higher standing and greater sense of political honour.

Civil Service reform is not a cure-all, but it would do much to eliminate the dangers of public life. It would ease the pressure on public men and prevent much of the present "back-stair" business. It would remove a secret dread from the minds of many good women who fear that the men they love and esteem may be mixed up in some political scandal.

THE administrators of the new Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta are attracting much attention in older Canada. They are, like their own new West, breezy, refreshing and virile. They are enterprising

**INTERESTING
EXPERIMENTS**

men of action. They are not bound down by conventions and the cob-webs of "vested interests."

When they see what they want, they reach out their hands and grasp it firmly.

Perhaps the most interesting of their experiments is Alberta's plan to put a telephone in every home in the province—a Governmental telephone system owned by the people, operated by the people and serving the convenience of all the people. It is like a page from Utopia or a Bellamy dream. If it can be worked out to a successful conclusion, it will make Alberta an attractive place in which to live. Of all modern inventions, the telephone brings the most pleasure to the most people. The electric street car, the electric light and the automobile could be forgotten, but never the telephone.

Alberta legislators claim that the Bell Company's rates are too high, that its conduct has been monopolistic in character, and that it is paying dividends on much "watered" stock. Whether these are facts or not, they are the features which have influenced Alberta in deciding for public ownership and operation, as they have it in Great Britain. If the Alberta Government fails to bring forth the fruits of cheapness and efficiency which they have promised, they will suffer at the hands of a disappointed people and set back the communistic movement. They have attempted an enormous task and

for its accomplishment must secure a staff of reliable public servants and a corps of the best experts. Pitfalls will be found on every side, and they will have much trouble avoiding them all.

Glasgow has led the world in municipal enterprise, yet Glasgow practically killed municipal ownership of telephones in Great Britain. Nearly every city there has installed its plant under the guardianship of the National or of the Post Office. It appears that Glasgow was badly advised in the equipment which it adopted, and it proved unsatisfactory. It is still in use, but a large expenditure for renewal and change is imminent.

Alberta and Manitoba may do much for provincial ownership if their experiments are successful; they will do much to destroy this advanced idea if their experiments are costly and unsatisfactory.

MONTHS have elapsed since the lamented death of Alexander Muir, the sturdy and simple singer of Canada's national chant. A canvass, more or less energetic, according to the neighbourhood, was made by the

**IS THE MAPLE
LEAF DROOPING?**

committees appointed to collect funds for the Muir Memorial. A paltry eighteen hundred dollars is

all that has been accumulated. Surely we Canadians can do better than this. Surely we are not so steeped and soaked in a somewhat sordid prosperity that we are too lazy to do our share in erecting a monument to the good old man who loved his adopted country with an ardour that was almost fierce in its earnestness. Lack of interest is an even less valid excuse than lack of money, and lack of money for such a splendid and fitting object cannot exist in this rich land.

Every Canadian man and woman should consider it a personal obligation to contribute to the memorial to Alexander Muir. It has been suggested that the monument should be erected in Toronto. The writer of this disagrees. The statue, or whatever form the memorial takes, should be high on the swelling chine of the Niagara escarpment, over against the monument to that other stalwart Canadian, Sir Isaac Brock. There, no doubt, the good old singer, if we could have his views, would choose the site of the work of art and of national piety which must some day rear its crest. The Canadian people have no cause to fear suspicion of financial meanness. They have given proof to the contrary time and again. But indolence, or preoccupation, or the stress of the strenuous life, or some other cause, has prevented their doing their duty in the premises. Let us wake up and render fitting national homage to the memory of a man who loved his country, who lived honestly and who died poor.

DID you ever remark how an agitation arises? First, some man speaks to his neighbour and says: "I have been thinking that there is something wrong with —." Neighbour answers: "Do you know, old chap, I

am beginning to think that my-
UNDERGROUND self." The two speak to two oth-
MURMURINGS ers and the endless chain of con-
versation lengthens. Suddenly there is a puff of smoke and the heather is afire.

In the Province of Ontario to-day there are under-