



REFLECTIONS

IIII BY - S T A F F - W R I T E R S IIII

THE COMING OF THE PRINCE

CANADA will extend a hearty welcome to His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, who is now on his way to Canada. The Young Viking, in one of the greatest war-vessels ever constructed, is coming to receive the homage of the Canadian tribes. It sounds ancient or mediaeval, but it really is modern. The event will remind us that the gulf between the old and the new in civilisation is not wide.

Canada will welcome the Prince for his own sake. If he has not shown matchless strength, he has at least exhibited many of the qualities of a man and a Prince. He has moved about among the people, great and small, and has steadily increased the circle of his friends.

Canada will also welcome the Prince for his father's sake. King Edward VII has always had and retained the unswerving fidelity and admiration of the people in this portion of his dominions. To them he is the first Gentleman and Diplomat of Europe, the strong individuality which has led the Empire on to its greatest victories in Peaceful Diplomacy, the Sovereign of a world-wide Empire who has never unsheathed his sword.

And perhaps above all, Canada will welcome him for the sake of a memory—a memory of that beloved Grandmother who for so many years possessed the respect, esteem, affection and love of millions of the black and the white citizens of that same world-encircling Empire. On her grandson will be lavished much of the affection which she engendered in the hearts of all classes of Canadian citizens.

Therefore, we bid him welcome!

PATRIOTISM AND PYROTECHNICS

THERE is an annual outcry in the United States, after the Fourth of July, about the number of casualties resulting from fireworks or cannon crackers which have gone terribly wrong and blinded unfortunate youngsters for life instead of having kindled a mild blaze commemorative of the Declaration of Independence. As the army of injured mounts into the thousands, the outsider may be pardoned for concluding that this waste of life and limb is prodigality rather than patriotism. The worst enemies of the United States, if that large and healthy Republic has any foes, could not wish her worse luck than thousands of disabled citizens on Independence Day. The curious feature about the excess is that it comes largely from foreign quarters, from Italians, Poles and Hungarians who would not know the famous Declaration if they saw it and probably have only the haziest notions about Valley Forge and Yorktown, to say nothing of the Treaty of Versailles. The descendants of the Revolutionary heroes are content to celebrate their holiday sanely and rationally and can see no good reason for showing gladness of heart by blowing off the head. New England, like Old England, takes its pleasures sadly and its independence soberly.

While the cracker craze has not yet affected Canada to a very disastrous extent, we are prone in other fashion to mistake pyrotechnics for patriotism and to take loud talk for satisfactory performance. During elections the orator who talks in bromidic phrase of the horny-handed sons of toil, assuring the farmer that he is the vertebral column of the commonwealth, is frequently mistaken for the real friend of agricultural interests, although he may not have spent half-an-hour of his political existence in studying the relation of western harvests to the general prosperity and may have a vague notion that the rotation of crops is a sort of merry-go-round. The man who talks loudest at such seasons of what he would do for his native land is often the one who would content himself with "doing" his country to the limit of his political opportunity. Pyrotechnics we have in profusion, and a pretty blaze they make in green and crimson fire; but patriotism of the working order is another matter which is

more often shown by the unostentatious citizen than by the expert in "set pieces" of Niagara or Montmorency oratorical display.

TO HIM THAT HATH

MANITOBA has to be enlarged from 64,000 square miles to 250,000—a long-delayed but perfectly just extension. Just why Ontario should be enlarged from 220,000 to 400,000 square miles, and Quebec from 341,756 to 800,000, is not easily explained nor justified. It seems to be a case of "to him that hath, shall be given." Both these large provinces had previously all the territory they required and much more than they can develop in the next hundred years. It would seem as if the Dominion authorities were anxious to get rid of these unorganised territories so as to relieve themselves of responsibility for their government and development.

Some Ontario papers are complaining that Manitoba is getting the Hudson Bay ports and Ontario only the low shores of James Bay. Manitoba is certainly entitled to both the ports and Ontario has little or no claim to the portion she did get. Quebec has even less claim to Ungava and the east shore of Hudson Bay. It is not meet that the papers of either Ontario or Quebec should complain.

The great difficulty in this territorial adjustment is that the large provinces are getting larger, and the small provinces smaller. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island combined were not so large as Manitoba was before its present extension. These three provinces will have now just one-fifth as much territory as Manitoba, one-eighth as much as Ontario and one-sixteenth as much as Quebec. True, the Maritime Provinces territory is of better quality and much more inviting to the ordinary earth-dweller than the districts which have just been added to the other provinces, but that is not important enough to make even the shadow of an excuse. It would have been difficult to detach any territory from Quebec and give it to the Maritime Provinces, but it would at least have been possible to prevent increased inequality.

The only remedy the Maritime Provinces now have is to effect a union and make a strong bid for a larger population. If they cannot see their way clear to do this, they must remain small and insignificant, with a rapidly diminishing parliamentary representation. The resolution passed by the House preserving their representation at Ottawa is merely an expression of opinion and does not really effect the purpose which it purports to accomplish.

THE MATTER OF CLOTHES

THESE are the days of the year when civilisation has its smallest hold upon the inhabitants of the cities and towns. The farmer, accustomed to the outdoor life, pursues his work in his blue-jeans with a smile and a whistle in spite of the heat. Civilisation never has a strong hold upon him, no matter what the season of the year. He is always more or less natural, and the summer season finds him wrestling with nature in a way which if not primitive, at least has much in it that is decidedly natural.

On the other hand, the dwellers in the towns and cities are, during the cooler weather, closely encased in patent leather shoes, starched shirts, creased trousers and all the formalities which men and women have devised to restrict the freedom of existence. It is only when the hot weather comes that this straight-jacket of civilisation can be loosened and removed. Then it is that men change their highly-cultivated appearance and proclaim themselves savages of a more or less harmless type. They shake themselves free of polished desks and asphalted streets and take themselves off to indulge in dreamy sails, vigorous paddles, or exhilarating whipping of bass and trout streams. They get back to nature and nature's amusements. They try to perform the impossible—to forget the straight-jacket. They are like the long-confined canary which breaks out of