

REFLECTIONS

By THE EDITOR

The High Point Passed

FOR the time being, the high point in United States migration into Canada has been passed. More than 130,000 people came in last year, and a few thousand returned. In April, there was a decided falling off as compared with last year. The comparison is as follows:

FROM THE UNITED STATES IN APRIL.

	1912.	1913.
Males	14,121	11,848
Females	3,769	3,868
Children	3,604	3,544
Total	21,494	19,260

Decrease, 2,234, or 10 per cent.

The increase in British immigration was 16 per cent., and from countries other than Great Britain and the United States it was 47 per cent. These gains more than made up for the loss in United States immigration and made a total increase of 10,000, or 16 per cent.

United States migration to Canada will continue, but not in such large proportions. The American farmer finds it less easy to secure cheap land than he did five years ago. Prices have advanced considerably all through the West, and the "bargains" are not quite so attractive. Moreover, the immigration has got beyond the means of transportation and many Americans will wait until the railways catch up.

Bourassa Revelations

MONSIEUR HENRI BOURASSA has been tearing away the veil of obscurity which has hidden the relations between the Nationalists and the two regular political parties. Summarized, he says: Sir Wilfrid Laurier catered to the Nationalists for years and helped to create the opinions they hold; Sir Wilfrid broke with them when he went in for a naval policy; then Mr. Borden and the Conservatives catered to them in 1911 and made a working arrangement; when the Conservatives got into power they "hurriedly disengaged themselves" and were enabled to do this "owing to the baseness and the treachery of three Ministers and of a dozen Conservative members who have openly violated their obligations."

This is probably near the truth. There was once "an unholy alliance" between the Liberals and the Nationalists. This was broken when Sir Wilfrid agreed with the other representatives of the Empire to do something for the naval defence of the Empire. Then came "an unholy alliance" between the Conservatives and Nationalists, which was again broken when Premier Borden agreed to do something for immediate naval defence without first submitting the question to the people.

As politics go, there is little that is discreditable in either alliance. Political alliances come and go under party government just as international alliances do among the Great Powers of the world. Mr. Bourassa has helped us all to a better understanding, by telling us much interesting truth—or the truth as he sees it. The only result can be to prove that the Nationalists are the enemies of both political parties at the present time.

Abolishing City Taxes

LAST week, addressing a municipal association in Toronto, Dr. J. O. Miller, principal of Ridley College, St. Catharines, stated that in about 1,500 German towns and cities no general taxes are paid. In several hundred towns, dividends are paid to the property owners. This is due to wise investments in civic utilities, special taxes, and wise investments in property. All subdivisions are made by the city, and the profit goes into the city treasury instead of the pockets of real-estate subdividers.

The people of this continent know little about governing a city. This is one of the great causes of high wages. If a man pays no city taxes, a low fare on street cars, gets his electric light, gas and water at a nominal price, and pays a low house rent, he can afford to work for 15 cents an hour and still live as well as a Canadian or United States workman getting 30 or 40 cents an hour. This is a point this continent has overlooked.

For example, had Toronto, Montreal or Winnipeg managed their own street car systems as efficiently as these franchises are managed in Germany, each city would have made a profit of from ten to twenty-five million dollars in the past twenty years. Because they were rented out to private corporations, a certain number of individuals have made this profit. That many of them are private citizens of their respective cities does not affect the argument.

So if any one of these cities had got one-half of the increment in real-estate values created during the past twenty years, the general rate of taxation would be one-half what it is now. Indeed, it seems quite clear that in Winnipeg the profit from the new subdivisions in the last ten years would have sufficed to pay all civic expenses during that period.

Dr. Miller is writing a series of articles on this subject for THE CANADIAN COURIER, and these should do something towards convincing the citizens of Canadian municipalities that we are mere novices in municipal affairs as compared with the people of Europe.

A Wonderful People

TRULY, Canadians are a wonderful people. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir George Ross, with the aid of the Liberal majority in the Senate, have killed the Government's naval bill, and there will be no "emergency" order sent to Britain this year. On the other hand, Premier Borden and his colleagues, while confessing sympathy with an ultimate Canadian navy, are slowly but surely throttling the naval service which has already been established. While the Conservatives are professing their desire to begin on a Canadian naval service, the two training ships, the *Niobe* and *Rainbow*, are being put out of commission.

Are Canadians to be forced to the conclusion that neither of the political parties is fit to govern? Are we to be compelled to believe that among the leaders of the two political parties, there is not one whose patriotism rises above his party allegiance? Read this quotation from a Victoria daily paper of May 22nd:—

RAINBOW IS STRIPPED OF HER WAR APPAREL

Once Famous Cruiser of British Navy will Soon be Like Peaceable Merchantman.

CREW READY TO GO HOME.

Vessel will be Handed Over to a Watch Crew in Course of a Few Days.

H. M. C. S. *Rainbow*, one of the two cruisers of the Canadian navy, is rapidly beginning to look like a peaceful merchant vessel and is every day being robbed of her war-like instruments at the dockyard of Esquimalt. It is expected that by next week she will be handed over to a watch crew, while her officers and bluejackets will be on their way to England in a few days.

The whole of the ship's complement were busily engaged removing the four-pounders from the deck of the cruiser on Saturday and preparations are now under way for the removal of the other large quick-firing guns. All the ammunition has been removed to the magazine on Coal Island, and altogether, fourteen big guns have been removed to be taken ashore before the warship is completely dismantled of her gunnery equipment. It is quite an unusual sight and the inhabitants of Esquimalt are taking a keen interest in the proceedings.

The full complement of the *Rainbow* is at present 104 officers and men and the greater percentage of this number are naval pensioners who are due back in England by the middle of July, at the very latest. Four hundred tons of coal were taken on board the cruiser last Saturday for cooking purposes while the ship is being dismantled and until she is totally abandoned.

Is this the kind of progress towards a Canadian naval service which Premier Borden intends to give us? Because his naval bill has been held up by the Laurier party in Parliament, is he to retaliate by destroying every vestige of the Canadian naval service which the Liberals established? Will the people of Canada permit the two parties to play a

schoolboy's game with a great national and imperial issue?

Likewise the Egeria

WHEN it was decided three or four years ago to lay the foundations of a Canadian naval service, some enthusiasts in the Vancouver Navy League got a little vessel from Great Britain known as the *Egeria*. On this vessel the League members and others were to get amateur knowledge of naval work. It was to be a tangible evidence of the desire on the part of Vancouver citizens to serve their country and their Empire, if danger threatened. And now, these same Vancouver patriots have decided that money-making not Empire-defending, is their forte.

Here is a clipping from a Vancouver paper:—

Exit Egeria.

To-morrow's meeting of the Vancouver Navy League will decide the fate of the *Egeria*. The following offer for the ship will be submitted to be decided:

"An offer of \$10,000, \$5,000 to be paid to the treasurer forthwith on the signing of an agreement and the balance when demanded; and further, the purchaser agrees that when the ship has been broken up and the material sold, that if the receipts shall exceed the sum of \$10,000, the surplus shall be paid over to the league less the cost of breaking up and sale."

Has this turn in the policy of the Vancouver Navy League been made at the order of the Conservative leaders on the Coast? Or has the League been impressed by the Bourassa pamphlets on the navy question? Is the long-vaunted imperialism of the British Columbia people merely a little red paint on the shield, to be washed off whenever the politicians so decide?

Prosperity and Reason

OCCASIONALLY one hears of men who having become suddenly rich have lost their good judgment and some who have even lost their reason. Can it be that Canadians through tasting of prosperity in a large way, have temporarily lost both their judgment and their reason? Apparently we have come to the position where neither country nor empire, neither patriotism nor loyalty makes any appeal to the politician. The two political parties are so busy fighting for mere party advantage that the interests and the honour of the country do not count. They are so busy pummeling each other that they don't care who gets the prize money. The largest budget ever put through the Dominion Parliament has been passed with only a perfunctory debate.

Perhaps the best thing that could happen Canada at the present time would be a financial crisis, or two or three years of hard times. It may be that the reappearance of the municipal soup kitchen to feed the "out-of-works" would bring the people to their senses, and teach the mendacious and unscrupulous party politicians the error of their ways.

Mad Partisanship

HOW high partisanship is running in this country just now is illustrated by a little incident. Last week some reader clipped the first page of our issue of May 24th, containing five portraits of "Men of To-Day." He wrote across the face of it some remarks to the fact that four of these being Liberals and only one Conservative, this was a "Grit" weekly not a "national" weekly. Can you beat that for pettiness?

On the first page of this week's issue, by accident—not design, there are pictures of four Conservatives. Will some Liberal please write in and tell us that this is a "Tory" paper. We would like to think there is at least one fool in the Liberal party now that we know there is at least one in the Conservative ranks.

Three Possible Courses

OF the courses open to Premier Borden in connection with the navy, three are most prominent. First, he can appropriate a sum of money, as large as he wishes, under the Naval Service Act, and order the three dreadnoughts. Sir George Ross has indicated that he and his fellow Liberals in the Senate would not oppose this. Second, he can consult with Sir Wilfrid Laurier and work out a compromise policy to which both the House and the Senate could agree unanimously. This is the best course, but perhaps the most difficult. It is the course suggested last October by the three hundred prominent citizens who signed the "Non-Partisan Navy Memorial." Third, he can let the session close without doing anything. This is the easiest course, the least advisable course, and the one most likely to be adopted.