

THE GOING OF THE GREYS

By DR. ANDREW MACPHAIL.

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The governor-general leaves these shores after a residence in Canada of seven years, and seven years is a long time in the life of a man. During those years Lord Grey spent himself in the public service with such abandon as we in this country rarely witness. Such energy is usually reserved for private affairs, and the spectacle of a man forsaking the allurement of wealth and high position for the sake of the public good will long be an honorable example to those who are not content merely with seeking their own.

Lord Grey departs with such a knowledge of Canada as is possessed by few Canadians and by none who are high in the imperial council. We may well believe that his services to this country are not at an end, but that he will continue to employ that knowledge for the common good of the empire.

And Lord Grey did not acquire this

wisdom of the new governor and the blissful joy which he displayed in his office were precisely the qualities which were needed to wit away the danger of those doubtful times.

Lord Grey—or, to give to him the proper designation—His Excellency, the Right Honorable, Sir Albert Henry Georges, Earl Grey, Viscount of Howick, Baron Grey of Howick, and a Baronet, Knight, Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, received his commission as governor-general of Canada on September 26th, 1904. Accordingly, his term expired on September 26th, 1909; but on April 19th of that year he was asked by the secretary of state for the colonies to accept an extension of one year, which he did. Therefore the extended term of his governorship was formally ended September 26th, 1910. But on ac-

build protest in these words: "I like a man who makes his own ancestry. A man who endeavors to claim any regard or esteem for himself by virtue of his possessing what he considers superior ancestry, is a man I do not want to make a friend of."

With those affiliations one would expect Lord Grey to be a liberal in politics. Indeed he was the liberal member for South Northumberland till 1886, when he identified himself with the unionists at the time when Mr. Gladstone declared for home rule for Ireland. But Lord Grey has never bound himself with the letters of any party. He was well described by Mr. Stead, as "a liberal who supports the conservatives, a temperance reformer who runs public house, a free trader who takes the chair for Mr. Chamberlain, and a peace crusader who promoted the South African war." In explanation of this cryptic saying it may be added that Lord Grey was administrator of Rhodesia in 1896-1898; and in England concerned himself with co-operation amongst the working people, and the administration of the Bishop of Chester's Trust for the amelioration of the evils connected with the liquor traffic.

Now that the governor is gone one may attempt, without impropriety, to make some estimate of the effect which he produced in Canada during the past seven years. Whilst the representative of the king was in the full career of his course criticism was stopped, and enmity might well have been considered an impertinence.

By a certain flexibility of imagination he was able to enter into the minds of the people of every province which he visited. He told the people of Cape Breton of the "historical halo of adventure, endurance, and romance" which surrounded their country, and the mortification which he suffered in sending his correspondence to England via New York instead of by Sydney. He admitted in Kingston that he stood upon holy ground. He commented upon "the happy, handsome appearance of the people of Edmonton," and "the grace, refinement and distinction" with which they did things. He reminded the citizens of Winnipeg that they were housed on an area equal to that of Glasgow; he found in their churches moral earnestness, and even taste and culture; and he looked to the time when their would be "a city of music, art, and literature." Hamiltonians were complimented upon the victory won by their William Sherring, that swift athlete of Marathon. St. John was considered the most likely abiding place of the soul of Canada. Halifax gave a lead to the world in toleration; and maritime provinces generally were described as "the centres of culture, power, and civilization."

With Lord Grey it is not easy to say where the pleasantries ends and the seriousness begins. If he had occasion to address the Evil One he would begin by commending his persistence, and conclude by telling him other truths which were equally obvious if not equally pleasant. At St. John he reprehended "a fierce party spirit bent on the unscrupulous attainment of its own aggrandizement, and in its selfish pursuit, blind and deaf to the higher interests of the state." He also told them that they did not know how to cure herring.

In equally plain terms at Winnipeg he rebuked those who seek position with no idea of serving any other interests than their own, and instead of guardians "become vampires upon the people whose trust they have betrayed."

In all his public speeches Lord Grey has combined a singular graciousness with sincerity of feeling and absolute truth of statement. When he had occasion to refer to Wolfe and Montcalm, he reminded French and English that it was possible in one nationality to combine the virtue and valor of the two races. In Quebec, on August 15th, 1906, at the unveiling of the monument to those who fell fighting in South Africa, when it was necessary to mention Nelson's victory over Napoleon, he was careful to point out that the great war was not a struggle between French and English, "but be-

tween the principles of liberty, of freedom, and of self-government, as opposed to those of despotism, militarism, and centralized tyranny." By a will then he demonstrated that these were really the issues which were at stake in the Boer war. Again in Ottawa, in an address to school children on the occasion of the celebration of the centenary of Nelson's death, he repeated the lesson by pointing out that "it was the cause of freedom as opposed to despotism, the mission of the equal rights of free men as opposed to the coercion of a tyrant."

Not infrequently Lord Grey has enunciated political principles, as pregnant with meaning as the maxims of Burke. One of these was imbedded in an address at Toronto, "If it is the mission of the last century to establish the principle of individual rights, it is the mission of the present century to teach the lesson of individual duty, and the subordination of personal advantage to the more commanding interests of the public good." At other times his thought has risen to a high level of public morality as when he urged the people of the prairies to make those ideals their own, "which shall require them to esteem honor above success, the spirit of sacrifice and service above that of selfishness and greed, and nobility and efficiency rather than the pursuit of pleasure and the gratification of self-indulgence."

Not have the children of Canada been forgotten. In an address at Regina Lord Grey urged upon the boys a "passionate love of fair play and a fearless determination to expose and punish everything that is dishonorable and mean." To be honest, he said, was more praiseworthy than to be smart. "The most lovely of the Creator's works," and "the most powerful for setting social standards."

When Lord Grey came to Canada, there was little feeling in the minds of the people of their imperial responsibility. As he goes away the sense is deep-seated, and has already begun to manifest itself by certain motions towards the pocket. Nothing could have been more winsome than his countenance toward that movement which has ended in the creation of a Canadian navy. There was no attempt to persuade the people to engage in an expenditure about which they might afterwards repent. On the contrary, at the Canadian Club at St. John August 14th, 1907, he gave good reasons for his "view that Canada should not make any immediate contribution to the fleet," as there were other directions in which it was more important in imperial interests that Canada should expend her energies at that time. He exhorted the people of Toronto by telling them that they were contributing to the empire in many ways, if not to the imperial fleet; and on another formal occasion in Quebec he affirmed that "there is other work to be performed of even greater importance than an immediate contribution."

And all this time he gently chafed us. When he presented on our behalf a shield and smoking-tools to the battleship Dominion, he reminded us most delicately that the ship was a joint undertaking, England paying for it, and we providing a captain and a name. Then he told us how certain he was, as he witnessed on every side a healthy, manly, self-respecting spirit, that Canada, when the time was ripe, would do even more than he did, towards the fleet which protected her. He described on other occasions the pleasure and pride which Englishmen felt in paying their taxes for the maintenance of that fleet, and how rarely they were to bear the burden, though they numbered fifty per cent. less than the people of Germany and only half the population of the United States. At Kingston he expressed the belief that "if we do not hurry unduly we shall see the realization of our imperial hopes." What is still more strange, the thing is coming true faster than one could have suspected at that time. In this result lies the proof of his political wisdom.

Lord Grey's imperialism may be summed up in a word. He himself said it in Winnipeg, on October 9th, 1905: "It is because I regard the British empire as the most potent instrument that has ever been fashioned for spreading the blessings of equal rights, of imperial justice, of Christian service, and true chivalry, that I regard it as the greatest privilege allowed to any man, to proclaim himself a British citizen, and to have the power of placing his services at the disposal of his king, who is the viable incarnation of the race."

In all his manifold activities Lord Grey has observed punctiliously that rectitude of official demeanor which a long tradition has prescribed for the sovereign and for his representatives. With an easy grace he evaded the entanglements of those minor political problems which appeared so important to us, and yet he helped us to solve them by bringing to bear the light of larger issues. Upon one occasion in an address which was presented by Vancouver, on September 25th, 1906, the framers permitted themselves to refer to "such a readjustment of the terms of union agreed upon at Confederation as will be suited to the altered conditions now obtaining," and to "the promulgation of such laws as shall result in the improvement of their harbor." It was a shrewd and humorous thrust they received in reply: "Gentlemen, it is not for me to express any opinion as to the measures which parliament in its wisdom may see fit to pass, with the object of developing the resources of your province and increasing its commerce. But I may, perhaps be permitted to say that any measure intended to promote your prosperity and that of the Dominion will not be welcome to me than to any of you."

The one task above all other to which Lord Grey has bent his mind and directed his heart was to compose our sectional and national differences. In an address before the Toronto Club, on April 24th, 1906, he gave formal expression to the hope that the clash of race and creed conflict shall never be heard in Canada, and the conviction that in the complete union between the two great races lies the secret and strength of the future. To realize that hope has been his constant endeavor, and both

(Continued on page 8.)

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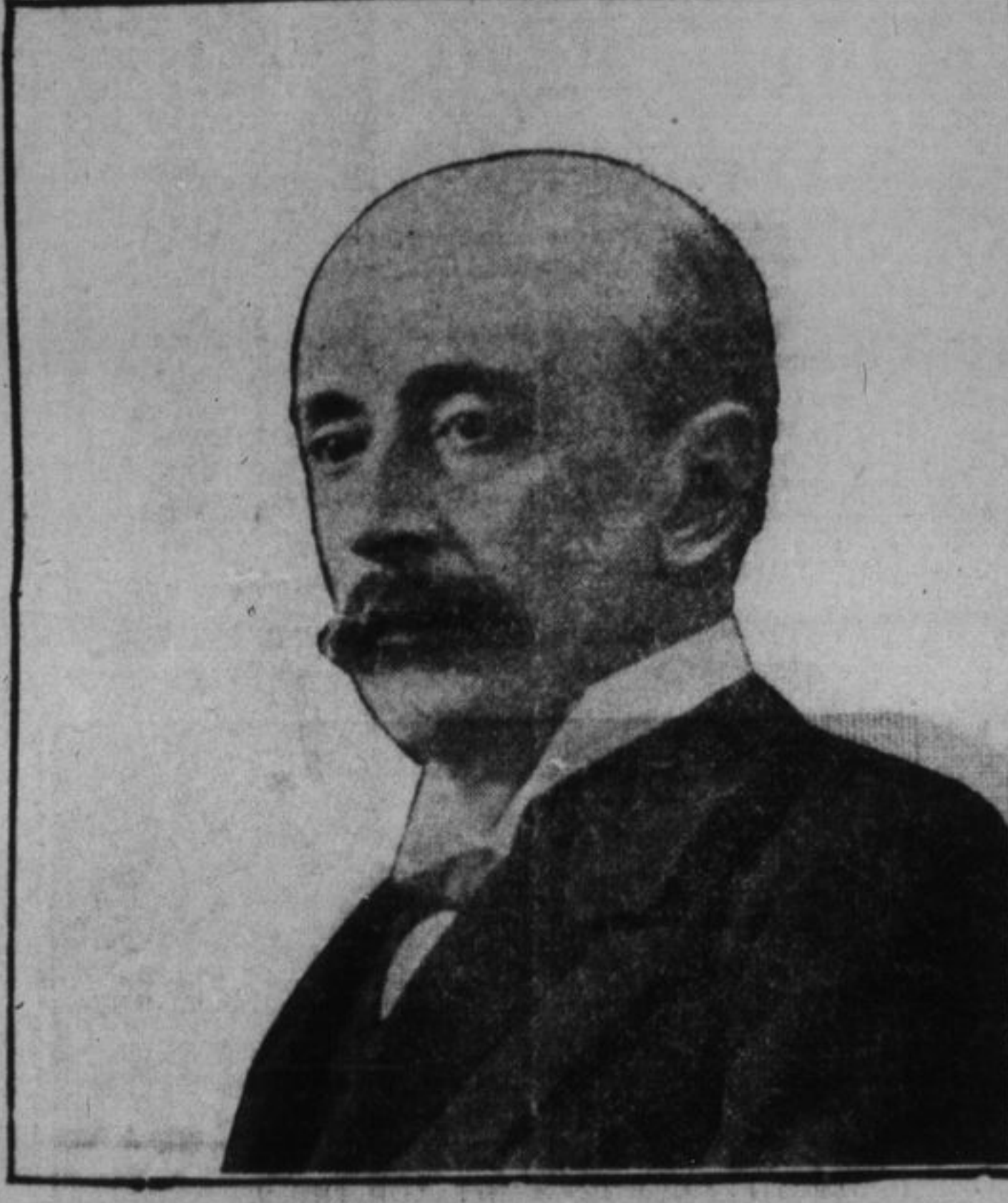
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bulk of information without taking thought or without enduring much labour. He pursued knowledge with the ardor of a pioneer, and disseminated it with the zeal of an apostle. He journeyed incessantly from east to west, and penetrated northwards into regions which few have traversed. He was intimately acquainted with every man in public life in Canada, and he did much to make public men acquainted with each other.

Lord Grey was not a mere observer. He had a mind to understand what he saw, to discover tendencies, to detect dangers, and to foresee the future. By this power of converting knowledge into wisdom he was able to advise in a perfectly impersonal way, and his advice was welcome because it was so unmistakably the outcome of a rich experience.

Above all, Lord Grey is possessed of that most precious of all gifts, the gift of sympathy, which makes a man trusted and marks him out as a fit recipient of confidence. The dividing line between class and class in his eyes too distinct to mark off men from men, because he himself is not merely an official but a man. In the performance of his official duties he never forgot that he was governor-

count of the delay in appointing a successor, which in turn was due to circumstances arising out of the death of Edward VII. Lord Grey accepted a further term of one year.

His successor, the Duke of Connaught, has been appointed to the place, and he is now on his way. Lord Grey is gone, and we shall never see him again in Canada; for there is an unwritten rule that a governor-general does not revisit the scene of his official labors.

With the members of his family, staff, and entourage, Lord Grey left Liverpool on December 1st, 1904, by the Parisian, and arrived in Halifax December 14th. This ship, which has since become sadly old-fashioned, was then the traditional transport for high imperial officials.

Upon his arrival in Halifax the new governor-general was met by Major-General Sir C. Parsons, by the lieutenant-governor, and several members of the dominion cabinet. He was sworn in the same day by the late Justice Sedgewick, who acted for the chief justice; and after the usual social ceremonies left for Ottawa, arriving at the capital on the morning of December 13th.

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RIGHT HON. THE COUNTESS GREY.

general, and to that high office he brought all the dignity and circumstance which it demands. When the formality was at an end he quickly resumed the character of a man among men.

Lord Grey came so Canada at a critical moment, when the provinces were disposed to think rather of their own rights than of their privileges, of better terms for themselves rather than the good of Canada as a whole, to say nothing of the interests of the empire. It was a moment of great expansion; and prosperity does not engender in a new community a quiet temper and a reasonable mind. The

stances Lord Grey had many family affiliations with the affairs of Canada. His father, the Hon. Charles Grey, spent a year in Canada in the time of Durham. The Countess of Minto is his sister. Lord Durham was married to an aunt, and Lord Elgin was married to their daughter. His grandfather, the second earl, was secretary of state for the colonies in Lord John Russell's cabinet, and his cousin, the Earl of Elgin, held the same post when the present governor received his appointment to Canada. Upon a public occasion when Lord Grey was somewhat gratuitously informed of these high connexions he entered a

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