

The British Whig



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LITERARY FREE LANCE

Nothing that has appeared in the Queen's Quarterly for a long time is quite so interesting as the two views of Canadian history which are presented in the current number by John S. Ewart, K.C., and Prof. Grant. Mr. Ewart has been writing a series of essays called "The Kingdom Papers," which have attracted much attention because of the free and candid manner in which he discusses some of the events in which Canada and the Mother Country have been concerned. The nature of the controversy may be summed up in the statement that the political situation of Canada is not very satisfactory and that this is largely due to the discriminations against her in the making of treaties and in the interpreting of them.

Prof. Grant contradicted many of the declarations of Mr. Ewart, and closed with a citation of the errors of judgment and statements which were made by Canadians in the earlier history of Canada, prior to and during the building of the C.P.R. He differs with Mr. Ewart, in his expression of Canadian sentiment, yet admires him because of his independence of mind, his absolute unselfishness, and his desire for the unity of Canada "still terribly disunited." His is the sturdy spirit of Canadianism, and his the work without thought of recompense.

The answer of Mr. Ewart is what might be expected from this master of courteous repartee. He takes up the article of the critic, quotes some of Prof. Grant's remarks in justification of his own, and concludes with extracts from his writings to the effect that Canada has been retarded in her development because of her relationship, but that Canada owes to Britain's parentage the qualities that her sons are grateful for and have retained. The tribute to British example and inspiration is the finest that pen can write. And the concluding words are so friendly and so frank: "We have discussed me and my methods, and, incidentally, you and yours. I have a suspicion that we might have been better engaged. However, we have done it decently, and we part, as we met, the best of friends."

It is only occasionally that two gifted men have exchanged their views in this fashion, that the critic has invited a criticism of his work, and that in the same number of the magazine one reads the beginning and the finish of the story, and a story with a meaning and a moral. The labour was surely not misapplied.

Mr. Rowell is determined that Ontario shall have a real labour department, one that helps labour in every field of usefulness, not the sham that has too long prevailed. But the government will vote down the proposition just to show how much it sympathizes with the men who toil.

MR. ASQUITH IN LIFE

The conservatives of Fife, in which the premier of England is asking for an endorsement of his administration in all its acts, are said by a conservative contemporary to have done well in not offering any opposition. And why? "Recent bye-elections were fairly taken to show a general trend against the government, especially when several of them in succession went that way."

Which is a statement admitting of some modification. In several triangular contests the opposition candidates had won out, but not upon their merits. The labourites and liberals had been of one mind on the home rule question, and the votes cast for them far outnumbered the votes cast for the conservatives. But they divided the vote that ordinarily was liberal, which called for the remark from Mr. Asquith:

"It is indeed a melancholy thing

for those whose hearts are bound up in the future prospects of wise democratic legislation to find the democratic army split asunder in the face of the common enemy. It is time that such a state of things came to an end. It will surely be childish if, in the great issues before us, which can only be brought to success by unity and loyal co-operation, we should allow comparatively trivial differences upon issues not vital to divide a force which united is irresistible."

The unionists at first decided not to oppose Mr. Asquith; then they announced that they would wait until he made his first speech; and now they are non-plussed. The premier challenged them to meet him in the open and justify their misconduct. He declared several things—that the army was loyal and would remain loyal to the crown, notwithstanding the misunderstandings that had taken place; that home rule, duly discussed, was going through; that he was a lover of peace, but with honour; that the government was committed to several social reforms, and would continue their advocacy until they were consummated, and that when the Irish cause was disposed of there would be legislation affecting England, Scotland and Wales, in a federal system, which has been long contemplated.

Out of the Eie election the premier will emerge a stronger man, with a stronger faith, and a mandate to carry through his programme of legislative reforms.

It has been suggested that the Hydro-Electric Commission give an exhibition of the adaptability of electric energy to the appliances of the farm at the Kingston fair. Such an exhibition was made in connection with the Renfrew fair last year and it was a great success.

PROTESTANT SPEAKS OUT

Seaton Churchill, in the Fortnightly Review, calls attention to a view of the Irish question which is very uncommon. It is that Ireland had its parliament over a hundred years ago, that it was dominated by Protestants, and that they represented when England made the experiment of governing Ireland from Westminster. "The parliament which sat in Dublin," he writes, "was composed of Protestants, but before the transfer to Westminster took place the franchise was extended to Roman Catholics, showing that the Protestants of Ireland had at that time no fear of their countrymen who were not of their own faith. But so far from the Protestants of Ulster having any 'elementary right' to be governed from Westminster, as Sir Edward Carson alleges, it is all the other way, and the only right that they can claim is to be governed from Dublin by their own countrymen, and this is a claim that not only many Roman Catholics, but also many Protestants, are now making. It is not so much a question between Roman Catholics on the one hand, and the Protestants on the other, but it is a question as to whether the Protestants of 1914 are better judges than the Protestants of 1801, who were at that time so strongly opposed to the transfer of the seat of government from Dublin to Westminster."

Mr. Churchill does not see any ground for religious controversy, does not anticipate any religious feeling in the government of Ireland from Dublin, and regrets very much that the people of Ulster have, in this matter, been used by designing politicians. These men have been trying all sorts of plans to defeat the government, and failing in them now favour civil war as a last resort. The writer opposes the exclusion of Ulster but favours self-government for the four provinces, as suggested by Sir Edward Grey. "We feel," he adds, "ashamed to think that one-fifth of Ireland should stand out against the great mass who are proud of their nationality, and should do this in the name of Protestantism, instead of welcoming the outward and visible sign of an independent national life, and trusting to their own strong arms to defend them if the necessity ever arises as their ancestors did before them."

Champ Clark made a great noise because the United States could not do as it liked with its own Panama canal. He did not cite the treaties with Great Britain and Panama, by which the canal was to be open to the world on equal terms, and if he had the president's idea of international honour would have been doubly demonstrated.

TRIUMPH OF DEMOCRACY

Lloyd-George talks so much about democracy that one may wonder just what he means. Accepting the last analysis, as it is defined in a recent encyclopedia, it is popular control, and this is the meaning of the word as it can at least be applied to land reform in Britain. In his address at Huddersfield he made it clear that he was not, as some allege, a demagogue, and one who is "playing to the gallery," or exciting the populous by his electrifying appeals. As one of the common people he is simply touched with their disabilities, and he says he is surprised that in the last thirty

years no really great social reforms have been accomplished, considering that the democracy has been in control.

The land question, according to the Chancellor, is at the bottom of all the labour trouble. He made this discovery when he investigated the course of certain strikes, and found that the wages in various departments of labour were regulated by the wages on the farm. The stipend of the farm hand was low, and when he moved into the town and got a few shillings more for his service, "he thought it was bliss." Wages, food, health, the amenities of life, came near to the land question. "There is no town problem," said the Chancellor; "there is no country problem; it is one problem, absolutely intertwined."

A good deal has been done in England, Ireland and Scotland, for the good of the people. Pensions are paid to the aged; provision has been made for sick and wounded soldiers of industry; something has been done by Labour Exchanges and Trades Boards. "But we must quicken the pace," he added, and he commended what had been undertaken for the housing of the people to the end that they might enjoy "more elbow room, more light, more air, more of the joy of life." Finally he depicted the scene at the docks when, at an early hour, he had seen the mad rush of men, lightly clad, on a cold, raw morning, for work! Said he:

"I was well-clad—it was so cold—but I felt chilled to the bone on that raw morning—rain, drizzle, mist. The gates opened, the men rushed to the front; a foreman came there, picked them out: 'You—you—you,' and there they thrust their hands out, scrambling, hustling, pushing—what for? Just to have a chance for four hours to earn a little to go home to buy bread for their little children!"

"And I saw one of them who got his red ticket, and he rushed away flourishing it above his head as if he had got a £10-note. Yes, but I saw the rest walking away disappointed. One of them told me he had only earned 2s. 4d., and he said, 'Fourpence of that, sir, I have to give to Lloyd-George.' Well, I don't honestly think he is under the impression that all that money went to keep me in Downing street. But there you are!"

"I said to him, 'What will you do?' He said, 'We will wait about here on the chance.' They just stayed there waiting to see if something would break out of the grey clouds to give something to them. How long?"

"They talk about rebellion in Ulster for imaginary wrongs. What about these poor people? These are the men my heart goes out to; these are the men I should like to fight for!"

And fight he will. He may have lost his voice for a while, and may be unable to express the great socialistic and reformatory thoughts that surge up within him, but he represents a great and undying cause, the betterment of the common people, and eventually he will succeed.

Dr. LeSueur, of Ottawa, is revising his history of William Lyon Mackenzie, the history which has been so much in the courts. He must cut out of the manuscript all the information he acquired from Mr. Lindsay, of Toronto, and from his books. When the excision is complete the memoirs must be greatly depreciated in value.

Beck's Weekly, of Montreal, has an article on the press of Canada, a very interesting and discriminating article. Of the local press it is remarked: "Some of the minor cities, such as Kingston, have newspapers that are directed with honesty and ability, whose opinions carry as much weight as any of those emanating from the metropolitan press." Thanks, thanks.

PUBLIC OPINION

Sound Turn. Montreal Mail. The public regards with suspicion the man who departs his party when it is in hard luck.

Timely Administration. Ottawa Journal. A New York man found a long lost insurance policy in the family Bible. Go through the Bible now and then as a precaution.

Result, Style. London Advertiser. There is to be a revival of "The Man in the Iron Mask." These hatpins and long feathers have had something to do with it.

A Cruel Mob. Ottawa Free Press. Kingston's City Council sat till 2.45 a.m. passing a budget, but what's the odds, the members had all next day to sleep.

Hard on Duff. Guelph Mercury. A news item to-day says: "A bill introduced by Hon. Mr. Duff calls for an extension of the boiler inspection system." Hon. James is wonderfully interested in everything but agriculture.

Wise and Otherwise

Mr. Figg—Tommy, I hear you have been telling Mrs. I never told lies when I was your age.

Tommy—When did you begin, paw? Small Dorothy had just been stung by a wasp. "I wouldn't have minded its walking all over my hand," she said, between her sobs, "if it hadn't sat down so hard."

Kind neighbor (accompanied by a large mastiff, to a little girl very much afraid of him)—He's a good dog; he never hurts any one. Don't you see how he's wagging his tail? Little girl (still shrinking back)—Yes, I see; but that isn't the end—I'm afraid of.

Her Other Resemblances.



"Scandal is like a mat." "How so?" "It can be laid at anyone's door."

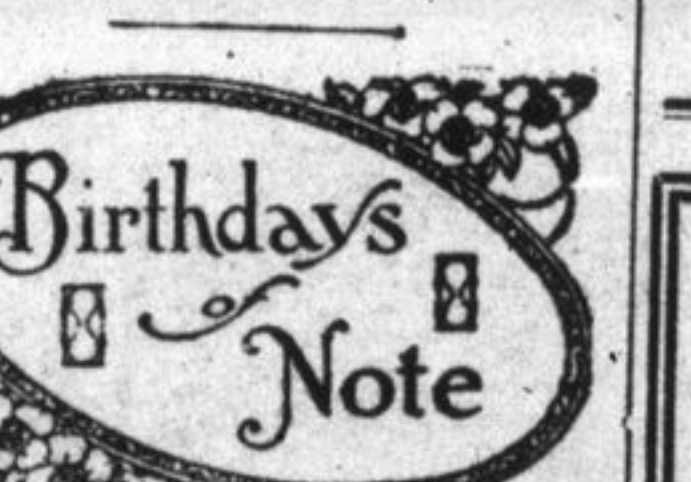
To-day's girl. We knock and criticize her. We scold, apostrophize her. We wish that she was wiser. More capable and kind. Her path we're always stalking. To criticize her talking. Her clothes, her ways of walking. Her manners and her mind.

We say, "Oh, highly-tight! She's frivolous and flighty. And all her ways are mighty. Undignified to see. She dances and she chatters. Our golden rule she shatters. And laughs at serious matters. With unabated glee."

We chide and we correct her. We shadow and detect her. We study and dissect her. With all her smiles and tears. And find on looking o'er her. (And learning to adore her). She's just like girls before her. For twenty thousand years.

Kingston Events 25 YEARS AGO.

The printers are organizing a baseball team. Tenders have been asked for the repairs to the Chatham engine. Over \$200 will be expended on the job. Thomas Hanley had a petition with 127 signatures sent to Sir John Macdonald urging the deepening of the Rideau canal to fourteen feet. Joseph Little purchased the furniture and fixtures of the Anglo-American hotel from Mrs. Shanahan for \$2,800. He will take charge on May 1st.



Birthdays Note

TUESDAY, APRIL SEVENTH

MANY good stories are told about DAVID MONICOLL, vice-president of the C.P.R., whose sixty-second birthday occurs to-day, but probably the most characteristic relates to the first year of his sojourn in Canada. On his arrival from Scotland in 1874 he obtained employment in the service of the Northern Railway and was sent to Collingwood to assist the agent there. The boys on the road soon began to call him "Oatmeal" because of his broad accent. After a time he was sent to Meaford to fill a temporary position and while there began to learn telegraphy. One day, so the story goes, having an idle hour, he grounded the telegraph wire and started with dogged determination to practice the code. Meanwhile the despatcher at Allandale wanted to send an important order but could not raise Meaford. He worked the key until almost frantic and then having a suspicion of what was wrong, called up Thornbury and ordered the conductor of a passing train to "take Oatmeal off the wire," when he reached Meaford. The conductor found the Meaford agent on the platform and informed him something was wrong with the telegraph. The latter hurried into the station and found Monicoll busily at work. "Hey, Mac," he shouted, "drop that key. You're holding up the whole blooming line." Luckily the notice was not punished, and "Oatmeal on the wire" became a standing joke among the railroad employees.

Advertisement for Bibby's clothing. Includes text: "See Our Nobby \$2.00 Hats", "Bibby's The Best \$4.00 Men's Shoe in Canada", "Norfolk Styles", "We'll be glad to show you the swell new Norfolk Suits. See Our Special \$12.50", "Overcoat Special \$12.50 and \$13.50 Values for \$8.75", "See Our \$12.50 Black Cheviot Overcoats", "See Our \$15.00 Oxford Grey Overcoats", "Our \$15.00 Blue Suits".

Advertisement for BUILDERS! Have You Tried GYPSUM WALL PLASTER? It Saves Time. P. WALSH 52-57 Barrack Street.

Advertisement for H. JENNINGS, King Street. Includes text: "What You Need", "Is good leather in your Girls' and Boys' Boots.", "Try Our \$2.00 and \$2.5", "READ THE WHIG WANT ADS".

Advertisement for Farms For Sale. Includes text: "The following is a partial list of farms we have for sale in Kingston district.", "Acres Price", "60 \$1800", "110 \$3000", "120 \$3500", "150 \$3250", "85 \$3500", "100 \$3500", "105 \$3600", "200 \$4500", "110 \$4750", "100 \$5000", "170 \$5250", "190 \$5500", "180 \$5500", "120 \$5750", "105 \$6000", "115 \$7000", "150 \$8000", "150 \$8500", "170 \$8500", "120 \$9500", "190 \$10000", "250 \$12,700", "200 \$13,000".

Advertisement for CRAWFORD'S COAL. Includes text: "USE CRAWFORD'S COAL", "THERE'S HEAT IN EVERY LUMP", "T. J. LOCKHART", "Over Bank of Montreal, Clarence St. Phone 1025, or 1026, KINGSTON, ONT."