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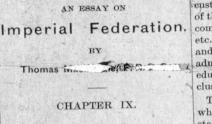
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WITHIN THE EMPIRE:

In the preceding chapter an attempt has been made to set forth a plan of representation for the Empire, which, if carried out, would result in transforming the present English House of Lords Senate. Of course, this parliament, although legislating for the whole Empire, could not exercise administrative functions. Following the ordinary constitutional method of the present day an Imperial Ministry would have to be created. This creation would necessarily have to be the act of the Sovereign, who is the visible source of all authority within the Empire. It would probably involve the appointment of an Imperial first minister and the formation of a Federal ministry consisting of members of the reconstructed House of Lords. This ministry would have the direction of Imperial affairs and be entirely separate from the Cabinet of the United Kingdom. From what has already been written it is hoped that some idea has been given of what the present writer considers ought to be the sphere of Imperial legislation. Some reference now becomes necessary to the probable number and possible functions of the Imperial ministers. These would in all likelihood include a First Lord of the Imperial Treasury, a Lord High Chancellor, a First Lord of the Admiralty, and the Secretaries of State for Foreign affairs, the Colonies and India.

The duties of the first three of the officials just named are, for our purposes, indicated with sufficient precision in their titles. The judicial committee of the House of Lords would, after the reconstruction of the latter, still continue to be the highest law court of the Empire. Foreign affairs being federal affairs it follows that the ambassadors and consuls would be Imperial officers. Commercial treaties would also be under the control of the foreign office in order that the interests of the colonies and India, as well as of Great Britain might be properly considered. At present certain politicians in Canada are disposed to manufacture a grievance out of the circumstance that the Dominion does not possess the treaty making power. This, as the lamented founder of the League wrote, is "making a demand which implies disunion," and the best answer to it is that such treaties should be negotiated by the highest Imperial authority, and for the whole British Empire.

Among other important duties the Secretary of State for the Colonies would have to devise means for transferring systematically the superabund-

of the United Kingdom would continue Duke received, the Frankish nobles. of the Imperial import duty), excise, in- ed as king at Fritzlar in Hesse, in 919, education, and all affairs affecting exclusively the United Kingdom.

The same constitutional relations which now exist in all well governed states between the sovereign, the executive and the legislature would no doubt be established betwixt the the various parts of the Government of the United British Empire. The Crown would have the power of choosing or dismissing the Federal Ministers; and the latter of resigning or appealing to the constituencies in the event of their defeat in Parliament. In the case of a dissolution, however, only about one into the highest British Parliament or fifth of the members of the Imperial Senate would have to seek re-election at the hands of their constituencies or constituting bodies. The great majority, being life members, would return and be entitled to sit in the next parliament. This feature in the proposed constitution of the Imperial Senate will no doubt appear objectionable to many. But it must be remembered that the present House of Lords is not subject to dissolution, and that stability is a feature essentially requisite in the parliament and government of a great empire. Indeed, one of the great drawbacks of the existing system is that, owing to frequent charges of the party in power, a consistent foreign and colonial policy becomes impossible. This was observed by Cobden long ago. In writing to Combe he said : "With a change of government every six or twelve months it is impossible that we can have a continuous plan or a real responsibility. Since I have been in about the best mode of governing the millions of India. The only talk is about the chance of turning out one ministry and bringing in another." Similar remarks might with great justice be made at the present time. For instance, the government of the day in England is well disposed towards the colonies, and has done nobly in calling together the first Imperial Council, but who can be certain that these statesmen will not be suddenly replaced by government in the House of Commons on Home Rule, on a Licence Bill, or on the Budget resolutions, would cause the removal from power of those statesmen who now so satisfactorily manage foreign affairs and those of India and other British possessions. At present the House of Commons does not do justice to these, and indeed a debate regarding them frequently finds its benches empty, It is, further, rather curious and surprising to reflect that the House of Commons while exercis-

ing its undoubted right to turn out an English Ministry when it thinks fit may at the same time carry confusion into colonial affairs. Federationists cannot rest satisfied while such a state of things exists. It should not be left in the power of the electors of the United Kingdom, when they choose to transfer their confidence from one political unoccupied and untilled lands of the party to another, to produce derangement in the affairs of the colonies and eolonies. The unemployed thousands of the United Kingdom heretofore acvented by completely separating the management of the local affairs of the United Kingdom from those of the whole empire, and by bringing into existence an Imperial Parliament and Government inherently stable, and not liable to be influenced by local political conflicts in any part of the Empire. In this essay reference has already sighted minorities who do not suffibeen made to the Holy Roman Empire a slight extent the nature of the closer ed from an indulgent motherland. jects became common to the Zollverein settled by people who paid their way, a sight of central and were possessed of stout hearts and union to be established by Imperial There are shallow grumblers every until, from being merely a machine for the convenient collection and appor-"Whing strong right hands. At pre-sent the unemployed classes of the throughout the world. The example tionalists in Canada, "natives" in tionment of revenue, it grew to be redoes not afford a just parallel, if only those times are considered when the German Empire suffered so much through its Roman and Italian connections and entanglements. But if we look back to the time when North and South Germany were first united under against the United States, republican from it, never formed part of the Zollà common head, we find much to instruct and to guide us in our efforts towards Federation. Weber, the historian, tells us that petty Portugal. Even in those parts of Convad the Frank, tired of his vain the Empire which contain no secession- of one member of the Bund was necesefforts to control the turbulent nobles ist element some rights of the sovereof South Germany, and unable to pro- ign authority have been invaded, and that between the institution of the first tect his country from the inroads of others are in danger of becoming obthe Hungarians, sent his brother Eber- solete. But nevertheless, and fortunhard to Henry of Saxony (the Fowler), ately the "golden circlet of the crown" with his royal insignia and crown, is still in existence to indicate the unity offering submission and friendship, and of the Empire, and no doubt in the expressing his conviction that the past it has been most efficaceous in influence in uniting the German people. future of Germany "lay with the preventing disintegration. But for it At the same time, we must remember naval affairs and control colonial and Saxons." Eberhard carried the mes- and the virtues of its August Wearer, that, in our own case, instead of having Indian relations, as well as the diploma- sage, and to this day in Quedlinburg the centrifugal forces favoured by one member of our Empire ever intent tic and consular service. The Cabinet the place is shewn where the Saxon former British Governments might on strengthening the connection, and

come and other direct taxes, post office, by the secular and ecclesiastical princes bravery and wisdom he succeeded in. Bavaria to become his vassals, and inepiscopal anointment, but called him- and Empress of India." self nevertheless "King by the Grace of God." He made use of his power own interests, and to act independentwith great wisdom and moderation. ly of England, which has been exhibit-He did not wish to establish Imperial ed by certain of her colonies, is a narule by subjecting the various races, tural fruit of the commercial independand countries to the power of a single ence which was forced upon them at master and govern the whole of Ger- the time when the Manchester School many from one central point, but "as of politicians held sway in the old the golden circlet of the crown unites country. About the time when they the shining jewels and transforms them were thus sowing the seeds of political into the most glorious symbol of earth- disintegration, German statesmen were ly power," so he intended that the at work building up the Zollverein, the royal power should bind the Ger- history of whose development contains man dominions together, without a lesson of the greatest importance to destroying the characteristic activity us. There are a few countries in our feuds in the land; let the poor and oppressed find in him help and protection; let him defend the churches, preserve the public peace, and protect the fronjust as the dukes rule over the several above and over all of them; he is the London I have heard scarcely a word people, the final refuge of the oppressed, the highest protector of the church." It was by the application of such prinupon which his predecessor had vainly expended his best energy and efforts in ruling the Fatherland.

So long as Henry's successors were ordinate dukes and bishops were contented with the powers allotted them, all went well; fortune favored the tions arose, wars prevailed, and finally, during a period of unusual violence, the Imperial ship of state was wrecked in the storm of the Thirty Years War.

The principles of federal government propounded by Henry the Fowler, al- the British Empire seems any easy though modelled on the feudal system, task. But still, if we consider the were based on a just and wise founda- means by which the Union of the tion, and have their application even Fatherland was accomplished, we shall in the present day. Loyalty to these, learn some very useful lessons. If we on the part of British communities, is inquire as to the beginnings of Prussia's still capable of building up happy and great influence in German affairs we prosperous nations and uniting them must go back to the origin of the Zollinto a powerful Empire. But, at the verein. Previous to the year 1828 present moment the principles in ques- there were in Germany as many Custion do not by any means meet with toms boundary lines as there were general recognition in the various Bri- limits for the independent States comcentral power has been so lavish in con- ever afterwards to increase its memstitutions on the growing colonies, Wurtemberg, Saxony, and Thuringia ence. Here and there we find shortciently appreciate the advantages they and the more they have receiv-Africa, who dream of constructing inpendent Canada could defend itself Australia against France, and the Afrikander Bond against the natives of the dark continent or even against

have sent many a colony flying off into to have charge of the revenue from Henry, "a man full of energy and old foreign space. Let us be thankful that enstoms (excepting always the proceeds German simplicity," was then proclaim- there is yet time to counteract any ing at the service of the Crown an etc., and manage the English military and lords there assembled. At the first Imperial Senate and Executive, and and volunteer systems, the civil service, he was only acknowledged by Saxony let us pray that Her Majesty may long administration of justice, public works, and Franconia, but next year by his be spared to wear the Imperial Crown "en - the title approved at the causing the dukes of Swabia and Colonial Conference, "Victoria, by the Grace of God, Queen of the United duced them to content themselves with Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland the ducal dignity. Henry refused and of its Colonies and Dependencies,

The tendency to consider only their and life of the several peoples. His day better able to appreciate the blessconception of governing ran thus: ings of unity than Germany. No na-"Let each race stand by itself in its tion can point to such a golden age in own affairs and rule itself according to its history as that of the early German its old rights and usages; let it be led Emperors, as well as that of the Holy and guided in peace and war by its Roman Empire under the Hohenstauduke, whom the counts and gentlemen fen. No nation suffered so bitterly in the country, in time of war, are from its fall, and from strife disunion bound to follow and obey. Let him in and dismemberment, during the Thirty his parliament settle all disputes and Years' War as did the Germans. No people felt so keenly their feebleness, not only after the peace of Westphalia, but after that of Vienna. None strove so long, so honestly, and so moderately tiers against the invading enemy. But to be reunited. How their efforts were crowned with success is matter of reraces in the Empire, so the King stands cent history, as is also the prominent part which Prussia performed in the highest judge and leader of the whole unification of the Fatherland. Indeed, without her initiative the re-establishment of the German Empire would have been impossible. This was acciples that Henry avoided the rock knowledged by the patriots of 1848, when the German Parliament offered the Imperial Crown to King Federick William IV. But the strong will to wear the crown, and the firm hand to guided by his principles and the sub- grasp the sceptre, were not then ready, and at last the great question was settled-"not by speeches and the resolves of the majority, but by blood Germans, and such epochs constituted and iron." Should not the inhabitants golden ages in the history of the Emthemselves about us. A defeat of the pire. But when the just balance of by this time to profit by the teachings imperial, ducal or ecclesiastical authori- had to be accomplished in Germany at ty gained the predominance, conten- the cost of millions of men and money is now within our reach by the use of the simplest and most beneficent means.

Compared with what the Germans had to accomplish, the consolidation of tish Dominions. In some of them the posing the German Bund. The first churches are not content to place Zollverein, or Customs Union, was inthemselves under the protection of the stituted in that year betwixt Prussia local secular authority, but rather seek and Hesse Darmstadt, and the Govern to rival and oppose it; and, further, the ment of the former country strove ferring parliamentary powers and con- bers. Hesse joined in 1831, Bavaria, without exacting corresponding re- in 1833, Baden and Nassau in 1834, the sponsibilities, that some of the inhabit- city of Frankfurt in 1836, and gradually ants of the various Dominions of the the Union grew until it included Empire have persuaded themselves that twenty-seven million inhabitants. The they are on the high road to independ- States belonging to it came to be in a sense dependent upon Prussia, whose Government strove to defend their trading and manufacturing interests. Gradually, political and national obuntil, from being merely a machine for The influence of this bond of union in dependent nations out of the fragments the reconstruction of the German Emof the British Empire. They do not pire was immense, as is evident from seem to have considered whether inde- the fact that the great German State of Austria, which had to be excluded verein. We thus learn two things from the experience of Germany: First, that the preponderating influence and action sary to effect the closer union ; second, weak political tie and the substitution for it of the North German Bund, and afterwards of the German Empire, the formation of a Customs Union intervened, which had the most important

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customed to work in mines and factories, at furnaces and forges would have to be gradually trained to agriculture. To turn these thousands adrift in backwoods, or on prairies, or to attempt to employ them to advantage on bush farms or sheep runs, unprepared for and ignorant of the circumstances of the life before them frequently results round. Hitherto the colonies have been of German nations, as exemplifying to. mother country have neither the means nor the ability to become settlers, and have not the mettle of the men who hewed farms out of our forests thirty and fifty years ago. Indeed, if this country were now to be settled over again it is doubtful whether it possesses or could obtain the men and muscle that did it before. For the unemployed of the Empire, and in the interest of every part of it a system of state aided emigration should be inaugurated. Than this no more beneficent legislation could occupy the attention of an Imperial Senate and no better field could be found for the exercise of the administrative ability of a Federal Secretary of State.

In general terms it may be supposed that the Federal Ministry would man-