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Saturday, October 13, 1923.

A Dominion Statesman's Views on Imperial Matters

We referred recently to the work that is being accomplished at the Imperial Conference, and the motives which inspire the representatives both of Great Britain and from overseas in their discussions. The following article expresses the views of General Smuts, Premier of South Africa, in an interview which he gave to *The Times* correspondent at Cape Town:—

London, Oct. 1.—(Canadian Press)—The Cape Town correspondent of the *Times* contributes the following interesting article on Premier Smuts' Imperial Conference views:

South Africa, through General Smuts, is likely to take a prominent part in the Imperial Conference. The Prime Minister of the Union has given a great amount of thought to the meaning, the consequences, and the practical working methods of Dominion status; and it is as the missionary of ideas which he and most thinking South Africans believe to be vital to the future agreement and co-operation of the partner States of the Commonwealth that he goes to the Conference.

This does not mean that he will press—or that South Africans will wish him to press—for anything like a written definition in a constitutional document of the relations between Great Britain and the Dominions. On the contrary, he has a real respect for the long-standing British practice of allowing such constitutional developments to work themselves out, with constant adjustment of details to changing circumstances, and without any attempt to force either theory or practice into a code of written formulas.

But the truth is that the whole theory of the relations of the Dominions to Great Britain in all questions of common foreign policy has come to a point where a measure of definition—though not necessarily written definition—and, at the least, mutual understanding of conflicting points of view are indispensable. If the Conference can achieve this, it will have done a great deal. On the one hand, the great majority of thinking opinion in South Africa backs General Smuts in standing for the fullest liberty for the free and confident development of Dominion status.

On this theory the Dominions are partner states of the Empire. They are not subordinate in any way to the senior partner, Great Britain. It is convenient that the senior partner should act for them all in dealings with other States; but they expect to be consulted from time to time, and not to be committed, without their advice being asked, to departures involving new interpretations or applications of the recognized principles of British foreign policy.

The other theory is that the gradual lessening of control must be opposed with cries of alarm and accorded to only with the most grudging and reluctant assent.

DOMINION STATUS.

General Smuts goes to the Conference to insist that Dominion status must be recognized as a reality, and that there must be no attempt to go back on it. He and his followers in South Africa believe that the one thing which can make dissolution of the Empire possible—even inevitable—is any attempt to insist upon the "parental control" of Great Britain.

It will be interesting to see how the Dominion representatives range themselves on this issue, which will underlie all the discussions of the Conference, even if it is never specifically raised. But there can be no doubt whatever about the general trend of Dominion opinion on this issue. There are doubts, there is even considerable anxiety, about the practical application of the doctrine of Dominion status at the moment. These doubts and this anxiety are natural, but as to the principle of Dominion status itself there can be no question.

That is General Smuts' position, and he has the support of enlightened opinion in South Africa without distinction of racial origin.

A word here about the influence of local politics on General Smuts' views on Imperial matters. Observers in Great Britain may be tempted to discount his championship of the new international standing of the Dominions. They may reflect that in South Africa he is faced by a formidable Republican opposition and may believe that his insistence on the rights of the Dominion is influenced—unconsciously, perhaps, but still influenced—by his anxiety to conciliate that opposition. It is a natural impression; all the more because the same ideas may be current about the Prime Minister of Canada, whose opinions on this question are close to those of General Smuts.

But, so far as General Smuts is concerned—naturally, I can say nothing about Mr. Mackenzie King—there is little truth in this impression, which is treacherous because it may lessen the influence of General Smuts' opinions and beliefs with the Conference itself and with the British public. General Smuts is supported on this issue by the great majority of South Africans of English descent. If he were Australian I am convinced that his opinions would be the same. There is in all the Dominions a profound wish to remain in the closest co-operation with Great Britain on all questions of foreign policy.

AN ARTICLE OF FAITH.

Dominion ideals in world affairs are identical with British ideals. But there is, too, in all the Dominions, a passionate belief in the future greatness of their countries. Full responsibility for their own actions in international affairs is a part of that greatness. It cannot be assumed as yet in any far-reaching sense; but there is almost universal agreement that the time will come when it can and will be assumed. The doctrine of Dominion status was no mere device of self-flattery concocted by Sir Robert Borden, General Botha and General Smuts. It was the authentic voice of the faith of the Dominion peoples in their own destiny, expressing itself in speech for the first time. And that first articulation of this creed of self-dedication can never be unsaid again.

The vision of the people of South Africa is of their own leadership in the development of the continent of Africa. Few as yet have any clear understanding of that vision; but General Smuts has it, and when he speaks of it, as he often speaks of it, to the people of South Africa, they see the vision as their own, though they see it dimly and far off. So with Canada and Australia. No statesman will ever in the future lead those peoples for long unless the very foundation of his influence is an ardent conviction of the greatness that destiny has in store for them.

All this may seem to be very dogmatic and far too confident about the views of other Dominion people to come from a South African. But the first essential for the Conference is that the people in England should recognize that in this matter there is a point of view common to Canada, Australia and South Africa—it is not so characteristic of New Zealand. South Africans know that General Smuts is the ablest and most experienced spokesman of that point of view; and it is of the first importance that British statesmen and people should understand that it looks forward to the day when the Dominions will be great and powerful nations.

DIFFICULTIES.

Even General Smuts' enemies in South Africa are with him on this matter of Dominion status. Their only quarrel with him about it is that he does not push it far enough for them. The great virtue of his practical ideas and the Dominions is that they are all based on the assumption of continuous common action in international affairs between all the States of the British Crown.

Of course, there are practical difficulties. But British institutions bristle with practical difficulties. After all, the present position of the Dominions and Britain as to matters of foreign policy is pretty analogous to that of any British Cabinet. In the Cabinet the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs conducts all the routine work of foreign policy. So does the British Ministry vis-à-vis the Ministries of the Dominions. Other members of the British Cabinet are consulted about foreign policy only when principles are involved, or decisions have to be taken affecting the larger interests of the nation. That is almost exactly the system which prevails among the States of the Empire.

If only common discussion among the Prime Ministers could be more frequent and more speedy, the system would work perfectly well. There is really little reluctance in South Africa to accept the proper share of responsibility for common decisions. It is only when it is clear that such decisions would be taken only with the consent of all the partner States, responsibility would be a commonplace which none would question. Quicker and better means of consultation between the Prime Ministers of the Empire would clinch the analogy between the normal British Cabinet and the common action in international affairs of all the Prime Ministers of the Empire.

Wireless and air transport may yet reduce the practical difficulties of the existing system to very minor proportions; and it will not be surprising if General Smuts insists again, as he did at the last Conference, that the most pressing problem of the Empire is a revolutionary improvement in means of communication.

At Gower St. Church

At the close of the evening worship to-morrow at Gower Street Church, there will be a short Song Service consisting of well known songs of the sea. A solo, "Hymn of the Norwegian Fishermen" will be sung by Dr. MacPherson. A cordial invitation is extended to all. A collection will be taken in aid of choir funds.

When you need that Taxi Phone 2016.

Golden Days at St. Andrew's

An intellectual and spiritual feast is in store for those who attend St. Andrew's services this coming week. Rev. Dr. Hanson, who fills the pulpit of one of the largest churches in Montreal and who is a preacher of eloquence, force and spirituality, will take all the services, which are held each week-day morning at 11 o'clock and each evening at 8 o'clock. St. Andrew's is free to all this coming week, commencing to-morrow, and all arrangements are made to seat the large number expected.

Premier Gasoline 50c.; Aeroplane Gasoline 60c., at McKINLAY'S.—oct13.61

The Camera Man Snaps the Prime Minister

In the latest issue of the Daily Mirror is an excellent picture of the Prime Minister of Newfoundland and his son Gordon, caught by the Press photographer during a stroll in London.

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Columbus Day Honoured

Columbus Day, October 12th, was fittingly honoured yesterday by Terra Nova Council, No. 1452.

In the morning the members attended Mass and received Holy Communion in the Oratory of the Sacred Heart, at the Mercy Convent, the celebrant being Rev. Monsignor McDermott, V.G., assisted by Rev. Dr. Carter and Fr. McGettigan.

In the evening the members assembled in the Council Chamber, when the following addresses appropriate to the occasion were delivered: "Membership and its Obligations," Right Rev. Monsignor McDermott, V.G.

"The Order and its recent Activities," State Deputy Brother C. J. Cahill.

"Past History of the Order in Newfoundland," Past State Deputy Brother C. O'N. Conroy.

"Basic Principles," Past D. G. K. Brother John J. Fenelon.

"Terra Nova Council and its Future," Past State Secretary Brother C. J. Fox.

"The trend of the times," Deputy Grand Knight Brother John G. Higgins.

The musical portion of the programme under the direction of Mr. George Kearney proved most enjoyable. In addition to the numbers on the specially prepared song sheet selections were rendered by Brothers W. J. Wallace, C. J. Cahill, Charles Hutton, R. J. Power, W. J. Higgins, N. B. McGuire. The affair concluded about midnight and was voted the most successful yet held.

Evangeline Hick Cut Boots for Ladies' only \$6.99 per pair at SMALLWOOD'S.—oct13.61

Report Wreck Schooner Lost Long Ago

According to a message from Inspector J. H. Dee to the Assistant Collector of Customs, the schooner reported on Blackrocks, west of Fortuna, on Tuesday last, was about 25 feet of the port quarters of a large vessel lost in the vicinity long ago. The wreckage was badly scrubbed by the beach and had a narrow escape from being killed.

Layer cakes at the Blue Puttee Sunday morning 12 to 1. oct13.61

Personal.

Amongst the passengers who left to-day by S. S. Rosalind to seek employment in the U.S.A. is Capt. E. Burke of Caribonnet. For the past 17 years Capt. Burke has been master sailing from this port and his many friends regret his departure.

Five or seven passenger Taxi. Phone 2016.

MILNARD'S LINIMENT RELIEVES COLIC.

Good News From Far Away Japan

Much anxiety had been felt of late by the friends of Captain and Mrs. Davidson of Japan, as since the disaster no news had been received. During the week, however, letters were received from Mrs. Davidson, written two days after the "quake" announcing their safety. Mrs. Davidson wrote from Nagasaki, but the captain was then at Hokkaido. The letter states that every other year at the first of September they would be at Yokohama, as the captain goes there to look the steamer, but he was late this year in getting back from sea. Their many friends, no doubt, will be glad to hear of their safety. Mrs. Davidson is a native of Trinity and a sister of Mrs. A. G. Moore, Bond Street, this city.

Premier Gasoline 50c.; Aeroplane Gasoline 60c., at McKINLAY'S.—oct13.61

Police Court

A laborer arrested for being drunk made his first appearance in court this morning for seven months and was allowed to \$50 for his future good behaviour. The couple have been married for 39 years and their family are all reared. A son was called to the witness stand and supported the mother's testimony that her life had been threatened and that the accused had done considerable damage to the home furnishings. The father in his defence stated that the family had conspired against him.

An assault case in which a citizen who carries on an extensive trucking business is defendant was postponed until Monday. Higgins, K.C., is appearing for the defendant.

The case against a truckman named Pike, who was charged with a breach of Traffic Regulations, concluded to-day, when the evidence of P. Handford was taken. According to the witness, Pike who was ahead of his horse stopped at a red signal when the traffic officer gave the signal. His Honor stated that he had postponed the case on Friday last to satisfy himself as to some facts. He concluded that there had been a technical breach of the regulations, but not a violation that would call for a penalty. The case was therefore dismissed.

Premier Gasoline 50c.; Aeroplane Gasoline 60c., at McKINLAY'S.—oct13.61

Made Good Round Trip

The Danish schooner Uranus of Marstal, Capt. J. H. Steymann, completed an exceptionally good round trip when she arrived in port Thursday morning. The Uranus left her home port with a cargo of fish for Lisbon and returned within 50 days, although there was a delay of 15 days at the Portuguese capital. The trip across was made in 13 days. Capt. Steymann met with splendid weather during the voyage.

Layer cakes at the Blue Puttee Sunday morning 12 to 1. oct13.61

Harbour Main to Have an Election

It is currently reported that Mr. J. J. St. John who contested the district of Harbour Main as a candidate of the Squires Government in the last election will be nominated on Monday as an independent. We understand he is leaving to-day for a tour of the district.

Full, fresh assortment of Moir's at the Blue Puttee. oct13.61

S.S. Labrador Cast Up by the Storm

It is learnt that the people of Britain have been cutting off the brass fittings and other removable parts from the hull of the famous sealer Labrador, which was lost in the vicinity years ago, and which recently was driven ashore in the gale.

Crane Smashed Off WORKMAN KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS.

Yesterday a crane at Baine Johnston's premises which was being used to hoist oil broke off from the wharf and crashing down on the schr. Primrose, belonging to Aquaforte, smashed off the main boom and main gaff. A man named Taylor was hit by the falling derrick and knocked unconscious. He, however, came around after a short while, showing no effects from the blow. Mr. Fred Croft of the schr. Primrose was also hit by the crane and had a narrow escape from being killed.

Layer cakes at the Blue Puttee Sunday morning 12 to 1. oct13.61

Coastal Boats.

Argyle left Argentina 8.50 p.m. on Merasheen route. Clyde left Moreton's Hr. 2.30 p.m. yesterday, outward. Glenora left Port aux Basques 9 p.m. yesterday. Home left Port aux Basques 10.50 p.m. yesterday. Meigle left Port aux Basques 5.30 p.m. yesterday, going north. St. John's left Port aux Basques 5.40 p.m. yesterday, outward.

A Demonstration of our Fire Fighting Appliances

As a fitting conclusion to Fire Prevention Week, a demonstration of the efficiency of the fire apparatus was given on Duckworth Street this forenoon under the supervision of Inspector General Hutchings. The scene of operations was opposite the Supreme Court entrance. A large number of people including the members of the Municipal Council, Fire Underwriters and Judges of the Supreme and Magistrate's Court witnessed the demonstration with keen interest. The firemen equited themselves in a manner which would do credit to a more pretentious city. Two pumps and the aerial ladders were used in the exhibition. The apparatus from the Central Fire Hall arrived on the scene one minute after the signal was given at the station. In one minute and thirty seconds or two minutes and a half after leaving the Fire Hall two streams of water were playing on the grounds surrounding the Anglican Cathedral. The aerial ladders in less than 30 seconds after arriving were placed in position for a man to mount the roof of the Court House. Inside three minutes after leaving the Fire Hall, 4 streams of water were in play. The effectiveness of the pump or was shown when no less than six hydraulic streams of water were delivered from one hydrant. To show what volume of water could be delivered two streams from a second hydrant under greater pressure and three streams through the pump diverter through one deluge nozzle were turned on for a few minutes. As the deluge nozzle delivers 800 gallons per minute an idea can be gained of how much water passed during the time. Following the display of water delivery an exhibition was given of the manipulation of the aerial ladders. Fireman Ralph and a volunteer fireman gave the onlookers a few thrilling moments as they mounted and descended the 65 feet ladders. All were pleased with the exhibition.

Dr. J. B. O'Reilly will be out of town for about three weeks. oct13.61

Shipping.

S.S. Otho S. Yerdup, has cleared from Musgrave town with 2,705 cords of wood for Newport News.

Schr. Flowerdew has entered at Horwood to load laths for New York.

S.S. Strass sailed last midnight from Botwood with 2,600 tons sulphur in transit for Quebec.

S.S. Ada has cleared for Barry Dock, England from Nipper's Harbor with 1,800 cords pit-props.

Schr. Little Princess will deliver 6,000 qtls. Labrador codfish in bulk has cleared from St. Anthony for Seville.

Schr. Eva has cleared from Little Bay Islands for Malaga with 4,600 qtls. Labrador codfish.

Schrs. Winifred Lee and Mary have arrived at Grand Bank with 400 qtls. herring for 200 and 400 qtls. codfish respectively.

S.S. Hangerland sailed this morning from Bell Island for Sydney with 9,700 tons iron ore.

S.S. Haaland (Norwegian) arrived at St. Albans yesterday from Quebec. The ship was procured to Sackville P.B. to take part cargo pulpwood and then return to St. Albans to fish.

S.S. Mathilda sailed this morning from Charles Brook for Springfield with 1,200 cords pit-props. The ship finishes loading at Springfield.

S.S. Manoe leaves Montreal this evening for here.

S.S. Silvia left New York at noon to-day for Halifax and here.

S.S. Canadian Sapper sails for Charlottetown and Montreal at 8 p.m. to-day.

S.S. Sachem sails from Liverpool on 5th inst.

Schr. Union Jack arrived at Barbados yesterday, all well.

Here and There.

Ladies' Low Shoes only \$1.98 at SMALLWOOD'S.—oct13.61

PROSPERO COMING SOUTH.—S.S. Prospero left Pogo at 9.40 a.m. to-day coming south.

The utmost in Taxi Service Phone 2016.

ROSALIND SAILS.—S.S. Rosalind sailed shortly after 6-30 for Halifax and New York. The ship took 150 passengers, 78 of whom were in second class.

PRELIMINARY ENQUIRY.—A preliminary enquiry arising out of a prohibition case in which A. Dessert was defendant will begin on Monday afternoon. A charge of perjury is laid against one of the crown witnesses by name of Crickard.

Floral Tributes to the Departed.

Nothing so nice as Flowers in time of sorrow. We can supply wreaths and crosses on short notice, and guarantee satisfaction. We will endeavour to meet the hurried purchaser with "Flowers." VALLEY NURSERY LTD., Taster Brothers.

BORN. At Placentia, on Oct. 4th, a son to Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Lee, Conductor Placentia Train.

MARRIED. On October 4th at the C. of E. Cathedral, by the Rev. Canon Jeeves, Miss Maude Best to Mr. Gordon Richards. Both of this city.

DIED. This afternoon, Margaret, beloved daughter of George and Ellen Smyth, aged 15 years. Passed away Monday, at 2.30 p.m., from her late residence, 11 Bond St.

Late Sir W. E. Davidson

Tribute by Lord Morris to a Great Pro-Consul.

Lord Morris, who was Premier of Newfoundland when the late Sir Walter Davidson was Governor, before he went to New South Wales where he has died, yesterday paid tribute to his work during the war. "We had not a regular soldier in Newfoundland, in August, 1914," he said. Nearly fifty years earlier the British troops had been withdrawn, and there was no one there to train our troops or prepare for the defence of the country. We decided to form a department known as the Patriotic Association.

"Sir Walter Davidson became its chairman, the Government found the funds, and from then on until he left the country he was most active in the selection and training of our land and sea forces. His work was contagious, and his fine patriotic speeches and example fired our people, especially the younger men, with the spirit which helped them to do such fine work for their country in Gallipoli, in Flanders, and in the North Sea.

"In his death the State has lost a great pro-consul."—Bristol Times and Mirror, 13-9-23.

Spencer College

By S.S. Digby this week Miss Keef arrived to join the staff. Miss Keef is a specialist in Art and English and comes with the highest testimonials as a teacher of modern methods. The College auditorium has recently been repainted by Spencer Club, and Mr. Fred Collier, the contractor, has done a splendid job. Spencer Club's annual sale is on Wednesday afternoon, when Lady Allington will formerly do the opening at 2.30 p.m. The Spencer Club are hoping to raise sufficient funds to purchase a complete domestic science outfit to train Spencer girls in the modern methods of cooking and preparation of foods.

Blue Puttee open until midnight during theatrical season. oct13.61

Lessening the Risks

(Daily Mail.) Excellent as our fire fighting organization is, it is constantly being improved, and some drastic new regulations for the prevention of fire are advocated in a report just issued by the Royal Commission on Fire Brigades and Fire Prevention. One recommendation is that instruction in fire drill and first-aid should be included in the curriculum of the schools, while another is that fire drill should be compulsory in all factories where more than 20 persons work above the ground floor.

But most interesting of all is the Commission's reference to the widespread habit of smoking in offices, which gained its foothold during the war, when it seemed essential to the nation's safety that all of us, men and women alike, should smoke cigarettes almost continuously. This habit, the Commission appear to think, is unduly prevalent to-day in Government offices.

"We cannot help feeling," they remark, "that in this matter a somewhat higher standard of precaution and somewhat less self-indulgence might be displayed."

Probably there is a great deal to be said for this point of view. On the other hand, who can say how much we may not sometimes be indebted to the calm reflection produced by a leisurely smoked cigarette or cigar? After all, it is better to have a fire in a waste-paper basket in the Foreign Office than a conflagration in Central Europe.

West End Taxi Service. Phone 2016.

From Cape Race

Special to Evening Telegram. CAPE RACE, To-day. Wind N.W. light, weather fine; nothing sighted to-day. Bar. 30.10; Ther. 57.

"It isn't for me," said Dan, proudly, "my class wouldn't have any standing at all."

"But I thought you were always at the foot of the class," said his mother.

"Well, so I am," admitted Dan, "but how could it stand if it didn't have a foot?"

NOTICE.

Four weeks after the date hereof application will be made to His Excellency the Governor in Council for Letters Patent for "Improved method of and apparatus for generating gas for Lighting Purposes," to be granted to Albert Edward Batchelor of Hornchurch, County of Essex, England.

Dated at St. John's the 21st of September, 1923.

GIBBS & BARRON, solicitors for Applicant.

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