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Goldwin Smith on Some Past Events.

Some days ago Professor Goldwin Smith addressed the Canadian Club of Ottawa, taking as his subject "Some Past Events." In the course of his remarks Professor Smith alluded to a letter, of which something had been heard previously, addressed by Mr. Gladstone to Mr. Smith at the time of the American Civil War. In this connection the speaker said: "You may have noticed the episode of the Gladstone letter. Gladstone, at a time when victory seemed declaring for the South, said that Jefferson Davis had made a nation. He might rather have said that Jefferson Davis had found a nation, for the Confederacy was from the first a nation in all respects, though born of a sudden disruption. But he was afterwards sorry for what he had said. It offended the north; it grieved the friends of the north in England. Gladstone in a letter to me suggested that if the North choose to let the South go, thus getting rid of slavery there might thereafter be a union of Canada with the northern States. I was probably intended, but was not instructed, to make the contents of the letter known to our friends. I judged it better not to do this, seeing that the letter would not have produced the desired effects, and might thereafter have proved embarrassing to the writer. I therefore kept it to myself and it was destroyed with the rest of my private correspondence before I left England. But I have a clear recollection of its contents. Mr. Gladstone, of course, took it for granted that the union, the possibility of which he suggested, would be free. No other thought could possibly have crossed his mind." Professor Smith warmly defended the course which the British Government, during the civil war, pursued toward the belligerents. Neither Mr. Gladstone nor any other member of the British Cabinet ever for one moment swerved from the determination to observe an honorable neutrality. The sinister overtures of the French Emperor were at once repelled. Are Americans sure that had the case been theirs, and they had been the nation whose raw materials were cut off, neutrality would have been as faithfully preserved? In the whole four trying years one cruiser escaped without a clearance, unarmed, on a pretended trip of pleasure. And though in that case there was negligence, it was owing to the sudden illness of the legal adviser of the Crown, before whom the papers lay. Has no filibustering expedition ever escaped from the ports of the United States?" The learned lecturer also controverted the statement, not infrequently heard, that certain leading British statesmen were wont formerly to regard the colonies with small favor. "Knowing what I do of the minds of British statesmen in former days," said Professor Smith, "I can hardly hear with patience the jingo cry that they looked upon the colonies with contempt and had mean ideas of British destiny. Their policy was colonial self-government, which most of them probably regarded as training for nationality. That ideal might be mistaken, but it was not mean. The policy of self-government nobody has yet proposed to reverse. I was intimate with Bright and Cobden, the special objects of this calumny. Neither of them ever uttered a disparaging word about the colonies; though they thought the state of dependence over-worn. The only man who did speak contemptuously of the colonies was the Imperialist Disraeli, whose fancy was Oriental and who cared only for the Imperial splendor of Hindostan." Mr. Smith's allusions to the United States were not optimistic. His remarks in that connection would appear to indicate that he anticipates for the great republic in the not very remote future a change in the form of government if not a disruption of the Union. Mr. Smith said, "The free north, if it is rid of slavery, is not rid of the race question or of lynching. The horizon altogether in that quarter is dark. At present jingoism reigns with its 'strenuous life,' its 'big stick,' its swaggering, boastful aggressiveness, its contempt of right. Suppose expansion takes a southern course and extends to the line of the Panama Canal, taking in a vast alien population, there may be another disruption; there can hardly fail to be a change of institutions. If you have an empire you must have an emperor."

Japan in Formosa

By her conduct of affairs in the island of Formosa which she acquired in 1895 as a result of the war with China, Japan appears to be giving satisfactory proof of her ability as a colonizing

power. Formosa had been under the rule of several European powers before it came into the possession of the Chinese, but its population as a whole had never been completely subdued until in 1901 the Japanese army succeeded in making a complete conquest. The administrators sent out from Japan have given proof of their ability and efficiency and great sums of money have been expended on the island. More than a thousand miles of highway have been built and nearly a hundred miles of railway, and \$15,000,000 are to be spent upon the railroad system of the country. There are 2,600 miles of telegraph and 1,390 miles of telephone lines in operation. There has been a remarkable development of the agricultural resources of the country. The production of rice has increased 10 per cent., and tea 500 per cent. The output of camphor was more than doubled and millions of camphor trees are being cultivated. The mining industry is active—gold, silver and coal mining being carried on extensively. The population has increased from 2,455,357 in 1897 to 3,082,404 in 1903. The opium traffic was made a government monopoly, not for the purpose of deriving a revenue, but to discourage the use of the drug which was sold only to confirmed opium smokers who must also obtain a license. This policy is said to have worked very successfully so that the number of opium users is constantly decreasing and the amount of opium imported has fallen from a value of 3,392,602 yen in 1900 to 1,121,455 yen in 1903. There has also been a great improvement in the public health due to construction of water works, sewers and canals. The deaths from the plague have declined to one third of their former number. Schools have been established and the Japanese language is being taught among the natives. As an evidence of the growing thrift of at least a part of the people it is stated that in 1902 the postal savings banks were used by 41,145 depositors and the amount deposited was 763,575 yen.

Church and State in France.

On Saturday, October 29, Premier Combes presented the Government's project for the separation of Church and State to the committee of the French Chamber of Deputies having charge of the subject. The measure embraces twenty-five articles, which do not differ materially from the measure heretofore prepared. Some of the chief features of the Government's bill are as follows: Instead of making an outright separation as the committee proposed, M. Combes provides for a period of transition with the view of the organization of new church conditions, and allows the clergy an indemnity of 400 francs for four years following the separation, in order to permit of their making new arrangements for the private support of the churches. A system of pensions is provided for the dignitaries of the church according to age and position, provision is made against public and religious manifestations on the streets and highways, the general supervision of cults is retained, the French embassy to the vatican suppressed, and there are many detailed provisions for carrying out the new regime.

The Commission in the North Sea Affair.

The text of the agreement between Great Britain and Russia for the formation of an international commission to inquire into the North Sea affair has been published. The commission is to consist of five members, two of them to be officers of high rank in the navies of Great Britain and Russia respectively. France and the United States are to be requested to select each one commissioner, and the fifth to be selected by agreement between the four mentioned. If they do not agree the choice of the fifth is to be intrusted to a reigning monarch. By agreement of both sides the commission will inquire and report upon all the circumstances of the case, and particularly as to where the responsibility lies, and the degree of blame that attaches to those upon whom the responsibility is found to rest.

Fruits of the War.

According to the Russian correspondent of the London Times the situation of thousands of poor people dependent upon the reservists despatched from the southern Russian provinces to Manchuria is already well nigh desperate. It is everywhere

foreseen that destitution faces the bulk of the families left behind during the approaching winter. Even in Odessa itself the problem is one which the municipal and other authorities admit is capable of only partial solution. Credits have been opened by the town council, but the pittance they promise is at best but a miserable one. To make matter worse, other municipal authorities in the larger south Russian towns either refuse altogether to move, basing their refusal on the absence of means or confine their activity to voting sums of money which they admit must prove quite inadequate to meet the urgent necessities of the situation. In view of the large numbers of men killed and incapacitated at the front, the military authorities have been approached as to the extent to which the various municipal corporation and charitable organizations may depend upon Government assistance later on. The answer of the military authorities is that with the death or incapacitating of either soldier or reservist they no longer officially "exist," and that the burden of assisting their wives, families or other dependents cannot be borne by military funds.

New Agricultural College.

It is announced that Professor Robertson has resigned as Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying to become the head of an Agricultural College to be erected at Ste. Anne de Bellevue on Montreal Island. The college is to be established by Sir William Macdonald, the millionaire tobaccoist of Montreal, and will constitute a very substantial addition to the large amount of wealth which Sir William has already contributed for the promotion of educational interests in his own city and in the Dominion. It is said that Sir William Macdonald's gifts to McGill University amount to between two and three million dollars. He has also established at large expense the Macdonald Institute at Guelph, the aim of which is to provide for young women very thorough courses of instruction in Domestic Science and Domestic Art. He has also devoted considerable sums to secure the introduction of consolidated schools in connection with the public school system of the country; Professor Robertson has been associated with Sir William Macdonald in carrying into effect the plans of the latter for the advancement of popular education in connection with the Guelph institution, the consolidated schools, etc., and he has accordingly been chosen as the head of the new agricultural college which, it is understood, will be similar to the Provincial College at Guelph. For this purpose the Reform farm, regarded as the best farm on Montreal Island, has been acquired and four hundred acres besides, so that in all 700 acres will be available for carrying out Sir William's plans. The idea of the founder is to establish an institution where scientific instruction in all branches of agriculture can be given and original research conducted.

The War.

The most interesting war news of the past week is connected with the arrival at Chefoo from Port Arthur of the Russian torpedo destroyer *Rastorofny*. The principal object in sending the vessel to Chefoo is understood to have been the conveying of despatches from General Stoessel to the Czar. After its safe arrival at Chefoo the *Rastorofny* is reported to have been blown up by the Russians to prevent its capture by the Japanese. General Stoessel's despatches have not been made public, but from Russian sources it is learned that they are of an encouraging character and that the Russian commander at Port Arthur affirms his ability to hold out until the Baltic fleet, now en route, shall arrive in eastern waters, provided that he is supplied with the necessary munitions and provisions. These it is declared that the Russian Government will supply at all costs. But the promise in this case may be much easier than the performance. It is however very doubtful if conditions are as favorable for the defenders of Port Arthur as the Russian despatches represent. The two great armies south of Mukden continue to watch each other, neither being willing it would seem as yet to take the offensive. It is reported, however, that the Japanese forces have been heavily reinforced since the last great battle and aggressive action on the part of Field Marshal Oyama is probable.