

The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1912.

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPERIAL FLEET.

The announcement that the independent rulers and Princes of India propose to contribute three super-Dreadnoughts and nine armoured cruisers to strengthen the British fleet, is of a far reaching significance as an indication of the world in no uncertain terms that the nations of the Empire, of all creeds and races, are uniting to maintain the supremacy of the British Navy upon the seas. It is also convincing testimony to the just and enlightened administration which has prevailed in India, under British rule, and which has won the respect and good will of the native princes and the people. They realize that commercial prosperity and the development of India's trade are dependent upon the protection of the trade routes and they propose to do their share in guarding these ocean highways which would be open to attack in the event of war.

With this end in view India proposes that the new fleet when presented should be stationed in the Red Sea, the Mediterranean and the India Ocean. From India's standpoint the importance of this suggestion will be well understood when we recall that the volume of her sea borne trade is second only to the United Kingdom in the Empire. It is greater than that of Canada and Australia combined. The total value of this sea borne trade in 1910-11 was £259,882,000 and 64 per cent. was with Europe. In the year under notice 8,435 vessels entered and cleared Indian ports, approximating 15,000,000 tons of burden, and of this immense commercial traffic three-fifths sailed to and from the United Kingdom. Upwards of eighty per cent. of the trade of India is carried under the British flag. These facts present weighty and cogent reasons for the suggestion put forward that the Indian Empire's fleet should patrol the trade routes to Europe by way of the Mediterranean.

In an Empire upon which the sun never sets, it is perhaps not surprising if Canadians had but little intimate knowledge of India and her native rulers. A well informed writer on Indian affairs, in the September number of the Round Table, presents an instructive review of the change which is taking place in India following contact with the civilized outside world, after the long repression of the Mohammedan era. The pace at which the change is proceeding, he states, is being enormously increased by the methods adopted by British and Indians alike to educate the people in the thought and learning of the West. The general passion for Western education he regards as "the most striking proof of the rise of a new India; for education means change, the abandonment of early beliefs, the firm conviction that man is the master of his own fate in the world—the antithesis of the fatalistic creed of previous days." An Indian writer is quoted as emphasizing the fact that especially since the Japanese war, and the revolutions in Persia and Turkey, Indians have put forward a growing claim "to be allowed a larger share in shaping the policy of the Government."

The writer in the Round Table repudiates the idea, which he says is held by some people, that the change is "like that of an uneducated mass of barbarians." He continues: "India is full of highly educated, thoughtful and competent people. It has great ruling families comparable to those represented in the House of Lords. It has professional men of the highest qualifications and standing, lawyers, judges, doctors, many of them trained in England. It has a huge hierarchy of public officials holding all but a few hundred of the topmost positions. It has a growing financial and commercial class. The potential influence of these men is prodigious." That this claim for some measure of responsibility is being recognized by the British Government is made clear in the writer's statement that in 1910 there were in India nearly 800 municipal councils and a very large number of district boards. A great step forward has also been made by the enlargement of the Provincial and Imperial Legislative Councils. The Imperial Legislative Council which makes laws for the whole of India now consists of sixty-eight members, of whom thirty are non-officials and elected by the Provincial Councils. It is pointed out in conclusion that not only have Indians been given a direct voice in the control of public affairs, but one of the seats in the Viceroy's Council—the Indian Cabinet—is allotted to an Indian, who thus becomes the head of one of the great departments of State. Two seats on the India Council, which shares with the Secretary of State and the British Cabinet the ultimate responsibility for India, are also held by natives.

That the movement to contribute to the strengthening of the Imperial fleet is not confined to the India Princes and rulers is made clear in an interview in the London Daily Telegraph, with His Highness Shikhar Shri of Soodia with whom the suggestion originated. He states that he has received favorable replies from ten Rajput princes who saw in the plan an opportunity of demonstrating the reality and extent of Indian loyalty to the Empire. Detailed proposals were put forward and sent out to India with the suggestion that an influential committee be formed to consider them, which has now been done. "Our proposal," he adds, "has been received with the utmost enthusiasm by the people of India, who will welcome the opportunity of associating themselves with it."

In Canada the progress of events in India will be watched with more than ordinary interest. It is stated in the London Telegraph that the Indian naval contribution scheme appears to have been first conceived when Mr. Borden and his colleagues were in London. Several Indian princes were there at the time and they determined that as the British Navy was to be strengthened and the Dominion was preparing to meet the emergency India should also make a fitting contribution. Where the vital interests of the Empire are concerned the East and West are one.

PRE-ELECTION PROMISES.

In his speech on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, Hon. Mr. Pugsley had much to say in criticism of the elections in Macdonald and Richelleu. He professed to be deeply shocked at what was said and done in these constituencies by the wily and wicked Conservatives. His chief indignation was because it was alleged that promises had been made that certain public works would be undertaken by the Government if the electors sent supporters to Parliament. This he characterized as an attempt to bribe a constituency and altogether improper. Mr. Pugsley has been a long time in politics and he has used every means that could be suggested to retain the power he had gained. No one was more profuse in promises than Mr. Pugsley himself. It is only necessary to read his first election card, issued to

the electors of Kings county, when he ran his first election in that constituency. He promised important reforms in the Provincial Government, but accepted the Speakership and forgot to make good on a single promise he had made. That was Mr. Pugsley's record after his first election. It has been his record in every election he has since contested.

After serving as Speaker he became Solicitor General in Mr. Blair's Government after Mr. Richelleu was appointed Police Magistrate for St. John in 1889. In the election which followed in 1890 Mr. Pugsley was on deck again with a whole hostful of promises, heavy improvements on the West Side being the chief of these. St. John was a very doubtful constituency for the Government that year and Mr. Blair's fate was wavering in the balance. If the promise of the heavy improvements was not an attempt to bribe the constituency what was it? It was blazoned in big placards on every dead wall of the city for days before the election and it is not on record that Mr. Pugsley ever complained or said the offer was an improper one.

Then in 1908, when Mr. Pugsley ran his first election for the Dominion Parliament in St. John and circulated plans of what he would do in the way of wharf-building, provided the electors sent him back to Ottawa. The heavy improvements he had fallen upon were on deck again in 1908 sent Mr. Pugsley to Ottawa to carry out his harbor improvement scheme. Three years later, in 1911, Mr. Pugsley was back again. Not a stone had been placed on the Courtenay Bay breakwater and not a spoonful of mud had been taken from the channel that was to lead up to a magnificent series of wharves in Courtenay Bay, but Mr. Pugsley, quite equal to the emergency, had an elaborate set of plans and some stereotypical views of these plans, to show to the people in lieu of the actual improvements on which nothing had been done for three years. Fortunately the Government of which he was a member was defeated and the work is now being proceeded with.

If promising improvements to influence an election is wrong, Mr. Pugsley is certainly the worst offender in Canada. But then Mr. Pugsley invariably failed to make good his promises and this is perhaps the reason he feels so badly over someone else making pledges in the Government's name without authority, as was apparently done in Richelleu.

MR. PUGSLEY'S PURITY.

Mr. Fowler, of Kings, did the country a public service when he pointed to the hypocrisy of Mr. Pugsley when he wased indignant over the alleged violation of the election law in Macdonald. Mr. Fowler remembered the scandalous attempt of friends of Mr. Pugsley, then Attorney General of New Brunswick, to add some four or five hundred names to the non-resident vote of Kings county, and in the course of his speech in Parliament referred to the worst attempt at election list stuffing in New Brunswick, and held Mr. Pugsley responsible for the escape of the malefactor's guilty of it. Mr. Pugsley said he could not find the guilty parties. It was known at the time that Mr. Pugsley was not over anxious to find them, as they were all his own supporters in Kings county, which he then represented in the Legislature.

Had Mr. Pugsley been anxious to uncover those guilty of this wholesale fraud he could have done so without the slightest trouble. He had the names of all well known to him and exactly what part they played in the attempted fraud was not only known to Mr. Pugsley but to many others. Had there been a desire to punish the men guilty of this attempted fraud there would have been no difficulty in bringing them before a jury. That Attorney General Pugsley failed in his duty was charged at the time and there is no reason to revise that opinion now. Mr. Pugsley must revise his own methods before shedding crocodile tears over his opponents. It is amusing to refer to purity in politics and Mr. Pugsley at the same time.

The departure of Archbishop Casey for Vancouver leaves a large vacancy in the Roman Catholic Episcopacy in the Maritime Provinces. The most likely candidate for the vacant position is the late Bishop of St. John and Archbishop of Vancouver has already proved a potent influence in this section of Canada, and his translation to another sphere of influence, although wider in extent, is learned with regret. During the twelve years he had been Bishop of St. John, Bishop Casey has done much for the advancement of his people and has proved a worthy successor of those who have preceded him in the important office. He has left many marks by which he will be remembered. As a clergyman he was well beloved by those of his faith to whom he ministered. As Bishop he was faithful in the discharge of the duty he owed to those of his own communion and broad enough in his views not to alienate those who differed from him in matters of theology.

Mr. Fowler made a very pertinent enquiry when he asked why Hon. Mr. Pugsley as Minister of Public Works did not sign the contract for the Courtenay Bay works in August, 1911. This question has been asked before and has not been answered. It is not answered now. There is nothing to show that Mr. Pugsley ever had authority to sign this contract. No one who knows the ex-Minister will doubt that if he had any authority he would have signed the contract the very hour that he knew the name of the lowest tenderer. He had this information more than a month before election day but took no action. The change of Government was a most fortunate thing for St. John. Had Laurier been sustained the Courtenay Bay improvements would still have been dangling in the air.

Last year Mr. Guthrie, who holds an important place in the councils of the Liberal party told the people that Reciprocity was dead. In reply to Mr. Fowler on Friday, Mr. Guthrie said that Reciprocity is still an issue. So also said Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Pugsley. This is good news for the Conservative party and Canada, for while Reciprocity remains an issue that party will rule Canada. The time will never come when the trade policy of this country will be dictated from Washington, as desired by Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Reckless Hunters.

(Montreal Gazette.)
Warren Holden, of Jackman, Maine, a guide, has been shot dead in the woods near the Canadian border by the huntsman he was guiding. He was mistaken for a deer. The hunters are going from bad to worse. First they mistook grazing cows for game even when they had bells on; then farmers standing in barn doors with milk pails in their hands; and now it is the guides. Next we shall hear that they are potting at themselves in the belief that they are wild geese. Which some of them seem to be.

Parental Delinquency.

(Montreal Star.)
It is not wise to uproot ideas, even bad ideas, unless you have something to offer as a substitute, and the error of our social system, which finds one expression in parental delinquency lies very deep and has many ramifications. When children are largely viewed as assets because of their value as income-earners, the point of view, naturally, is different from that which we have, with facile carelessness, come to regard as universal.

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NEWS IN SHORT METRE

LOCAL

A Presentation.
The esteem and affection in which the altar boys of the cathedral hold His Grace Archbishop Casey, was ably attested to Saturday morning when Rev. Dr. A. W. Meahan on behalf of the boys, presented his grace with a gold headed walking stick, suitably engraved.

Heavy Travel From Canada.
Officials connected with the different steamship lines sailing out of this port, are all of the opinion that this will be a very heavy year in travel from Canada to the Old Country, and that the number of passengers going through St. John will be the greatest in the history of the port.

Police Court.
Four drunks appeared in the police court Saturday morning, two of which were fined \$5 or two months in jail, while the others were remanded. Owen Smith was fined \$25 for selling firearms to minors. The fine was allowed to stand, Arthur Love, a coachman, charged with going beyond the allotted stand at the union depot, was remanded until Monday afternoon to allow him to secure witnesses.

Juvenile Court.
Three youngsters were arraigned in the juvenile court Saturday morning. One was charged with throwing stones, and was fined \$5 each, while the other two were fined a like amount for ringing door bells.

Auctions.
The booming privileges and all the boom equipment of Tapley Brothers were offered at auction at Clubb's Corner at noon Saturday, by T. T. Lantulum. No bids were made and the property was withdrawn. A two and a half story house and barn with freehold lot, at Hampton, was purchased by Bruce S. Robb.

Have Reigned.
R. A. McLean and Roy Drinan, who have been in the employ of the St. John Street Railway Co., for some seven years, have resigned. The office staff on Saturday afternoon presented a diamond ring to Mr. McLean, while Mr. Drinan received a purse of gold from the stores department.

Called to Vancouver.
Rev. Dr. David Hutchinson on Saturday received a call from the Central Baptist church, of Vancouver. He has the matter under consideration, and will probably decide in the course of a few weeks.

PROVINCIAL

Lockjaw Caused Death.
Woodstock, Nov. 30.—Frederick Dickenson, a call from the Central Baptist church, of Vancouver. He has the matter under consideration, and will probably decide in the course of a few weeks.

Increased Revenues.
Fredericton, Nov. 30.—Word was received from New York today to the effect that the local men attending the Old Colony Horse Sale, have made five purchases. The animals will arrive some time next week.

Christmas Courtesy.
Montreal, Nov. 30.—The annual custom of showing leniency in the way of imposing duty upon Christmas goods of small value, according to a report issued by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce.

GENERAL

World's Business.
Washington, D. C., Nov. 30.—In the present year the world's financial business will reach the enormous total of \$25,000,000,000, according to a report issued by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce.

Chicago Dynamited.
Chicago, Ill., Nov. 30.—A mysterious explosion early this morning in the rear of the home of Jack Johnson, negro pugilist, caused excitement. The neighbors believed an attempt had been made to dynamite the house that the negro recently gave to his mother. The explosion tore a large hole in the barn next door. The police are investigating.

VALUABLE PAIR OF FOXES PURCHASED.
(Carleton Sentinel.)
George Balmain and George McPhail returned Wednesday night from P. R. I., where they have been looking over the fox ranches in the interests of a company, of which they are members, and which propose establishing a fox farm, probably in this county. They purchased a pair of thoroughbred black foxes, paying a big price. It has not been decided when the pair will be brought here. After the formation of the company the details will be worked out.

SUDDEN DEATH IN SUBSEX.
Special to The Standard.
Sussex, Dec. 1.—Edward McTran, aged 68, died suddenly at his home here, Saturday evening. The late Mr. McTran who was highly esteemed by all, had returned home after a hard day's work, and retired to bed about 9 o'clock. Shortly after this his wife noticed that he was making peculiar noises in his sleep, and becoming frightened, attempted to arouse him, but without success. She then ran to the

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