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A FIELD FOR HINDU IMMIGRATION.

Canadians are not personally concerned in the politics of East Africa, and may take only a remote interest in the fortunes of Mr. Winston Spencer Churchill, but we may find a national and direct concern in a recent unofficial proposal of that gentleman relating to Britain's possessions under the equator in the heart of the "dark continent." Mr. Churchill has been telling through the Strand Magazine his experiences on a recent tour through East Africa, interspersed, of course, with news and views of the political situation in those regions. A recent article discusses the question of Hindu immigration to East Africa, and the discussion may be interesting because it seems to point the way to a diversion of India's surplus people which would free British Columbia from the nightmare of an "Indian invasion."

The Indians are in East Africa in large numbers, were there before the British, and are going in larger numbers. There are also those who demand that East Africa must be kept as a "white man's country" or so much of it as white men can permanently occupy. To them Mr. Churchill propounds the unanswerable query:

"Is it possible for any Government "with a scrap of respect for honest "dealing between man and man to "embark upon a policy of deliberately "squeezing out the native of India from regions in which he "has established himself under "every security of public faith? "Most of all must we ask, is such a "policy possible to the Government "which bears sway over three hundred millions of our Indian Empire?" To this there can be but one reply and that reply is that on no defensible grounds could the Indian residents of East Africa be "administered" out of the country.

Nature seems to endorse the political necessities of the case by requiring that East Africa be inhabited by tropical people or none at all. The territory lies under the equator and the only portion claimed to be permanently inhabitable by white men is the highlands. Even the highlands are not assuredly fitted for white settlement for the excellent reason that they are too high. An altitude of from five to six thousand feet throws a strain on the nervous organism, brain and heart of the white man which his constitution cannot ordinarily stand. Through successive generations born and reared in the country a racial constitution would no doubt be evolved adapted to the conditions; but the difficulty of rearing children has been the barrier to the settlement of British people in India and would probably be found a decided hindrance to their permanent settlement on the East African highlands. However this may be, the highlands form a comparatively small part of the country and in the lowlands such settlement is admittedly impossible. The chances appear therefore that despite the shrieking of the anti colored advocates East Africa will continue to be inhabited by other than white-skinned people and to offer a large and favorable field for the emigration of people from India.

From this standpoint Mr. Churchill discusses the "Asiatic question" in the light of Imperial duties and interests. A few paragraphs from his article may not be uninteresting as indicating at least the unofficial views of a member of the Imperial Government on a subject of very considerable importance to Canada and similarly conditioned Dominions. Incidentally, it may be that the prevalence or weight of these views made easier the task of Canadian Commissioner King, who received assurances from the Home Government that measures would be taken to divert Indian immigration from British Columbia. Mr. Churchill says:

"We are in presence of one of those apparently hopeless antagonisms of interests which baffle and dispirit all who are concerned in their adjustment. And these questions are not confined to East Africa or to South Africa. A whole series of new problems has arisen, and will grow graver and larger as the immediate history of the British Empire unfolds. They erect themselves upon a field almost wholly unstudied, and familiar only by the prejudices which in every direction obstruct movement and view. The entry of the Asiatic as laborer, trader, and capitalist into competition in industry and enterprise not only with, but in, the western world is a new fact of first importance. Cheap, swift, easy means of communication, the establishment of peace and order over land and sea, the ever-growing interdependence of all men and all countries upon one another, have given wings to Asiatic commercial ambition and rendered Asiatic manual labor fluid, as it has never before been fluid since the beginning of things. Unless these new elements in the economic life of mankind can be scientifically and harmoniously controlled and assimilated, great and novel dangers menace alike the Asiatic and the European he supplants. On the one hand we see the possible exploitation under various unhealthy conditions of immense masses of Asiatic labor, to the moral injury of the employer and to the degradation and suffering of the employed; on the other the overturn of the standards of living laboriously achieved or long obstinately battled for among Europeans.

"Super-added to these we must foresee the confusion of blood, of manners, of morals, amounting, where operative upon any extensive scale, almost to the disintegration of the existing order of society. And behind—very close behind—lie the appeals to force, by mobs or Empires, to decide in a brutal fashion, the brutal question which of two sets of irreconcilable interests shall prevail. It is not easy to measure the degree of political instability that will be introduced into international relations when the subjects of a powerful military and naval State are continually exposed to penal legislation and open violence, and into private life when the white artisan is invited to acquiesce in his own extinction, in virtue of laws which he himself controls, by a competitor or whom he believes he could strike down with his hands.

"Yet the Asiatic, and here I also include the African, native has immense services to render and energies to contribute to the happiness and material progress of the world. There are spacious lands whose promise can never be realized, there are unnumbered harvests which can never be garnered without his active co-operation. There are roads and railways and reservoirs which only he can make. There are mines and forests which will slumber for ever without his aid. The mighty continent of tropical Africa lies open to the colonizing and organizing capacities of the East. All those new products which modern industry insistently demands are offered in measureless abundance to the West—if only we could solve the Sphinx's riddle in its newest form.

"And is it after all beyond our reach to provide, if not a perfect, at any rate a practical answer? There ought to be no insuperable difficulty, in the present state of political knowledge and social organization, in assigning different spheres to the external activity of different races. The Great Powers have partitioned Africa territorially, is it beyond the wit of man to divide it economically? The co-operation of many different kinds of men is needed for the cultivation of such a noble estate. Is it impossible to regulate in full and intricate detail the conditions under which that co-operation shall take place? Here white men can live and thrive; there they cannot. Here is a task for one, there the opportunity of another. The world is big enough. (I write as the stream of the Nile bears me between the immense spaces of beautiful, fertile, unpopulated country that lie north of the Albert Lake.) There is plenty of room for all. Why cannot we settle it fairly?

"It must be noted that the question of Asiatic immigration presents itself to the Imperial point of view in several quite distinct forms. There are, first of all, colonies which stand on the basis of a white proletariat, and whose inhabitants, rich and poor, employers and employed, are all Europeans. The right of such colonies to forbid the entry of large numbers of Asiatics, and to preserve themselves from racial chaos and economic disturbance inseparable from such immigration, cannot be denied, although its exercise ought no doubt to be governed by various prudential and other considerations. But these colonies differ markedly from those where the mass of the population is not white, but black. Again, there are colonies which possess responsible government and where the number of the white middle-class inhabitants very largely exceeds the Asiatic community. It is evident that these stand in a wholly different position from that of places like the tropical Protectorates of East and West Africa.

"Indeed, it may be contended that the very fact that the native of British India will undoubtedly, wisely or unwisely, rightly or wrongly, be refused access in any large numbers to several South African and all Australian Colonies by their respective governments makes it all the more desirable that the Imperial government should afford in the tropical protectorates outlet and scope to the enterprise and colonizing capacity of Hindustan. And, as I have written, these countries are big enough for all. There is no reason why those Highland areas which promise the white man a home and a career, and where alone he can live in comfort, should not, as a matter of practical administration, be in the main reserved for him. Nor, on the other hand, why the Asiatic, if only he does not teach the African natives evil ways—a contingency which must not be forgotten—should not be encouraged to trade and settle as he will in the enormous regions of tropical fertility to which he is naturally adapted. Somewhere in this direction—I do not wish to dogmatize—the immediate course of sound policy would seem to lie, and, guided by the lights of science and tolerance, we may easily find it."

WOLFE AND MONTCALM MEMORIAL.

It is gratifying to note the interest that the tercentenary anniversary of the beginning of our colonial history has aroused in the Old Country. The inauguration of a scheme to promote the Wolfe and Montcalm memorial fund was launched last month at the Mansion House under the most distinguished and influential patronage. The addresses of the distinguished gentlemen present were uttered in tone of heartiest sympathy with the project of the Canadian people to commemorate the founding of Quebec by Champlain 300 years ago, and the beginning of our national life.

In truth Quebec is one of the great names in British history. There are many names all over the world, mention of which thrill us with the recollections of the past. But some few names are sacred. Such are Quebec, Trafalgar and Lucknow. Before Quebec Great Britain was but an insular power whose international activities were concerned with one continent. From the beginning of the struggle between the British and French colonists in America, Great Britain grew unconsciously to be an imperial power, until the call of Pitt inspired her with the knowledge of her imperial mission. Among all the historic dramas of the past there is none that surpasses in human and political interest the one that was played in Canada in the middle of the 18th century, and none is more complete in unique and essential details. The struggle on the whole illustrated the comparative features of British and Gallic colonial policy. Both Powers were equal in race of honor, and well matched in the final victory, for it must be remembered that though the British won on the Plains of Abraham in 1759, the victory of St. Foye went to the French in 1760. In the closing scenes both nations were represented by men who combined in their personalities the genius of their respective races. Both met a common fate, and though the fortunes of war went against the French the subsequent splendid history of their compatriots in this country has effaced the memory of that defeat, and they now strengthen the provinces the fortunes of war decided they should not control.

Aside from mere dramatic interest the tercentenary celebration illustrates the success of building a nation and promoting a high and fervid spirit of nationality out of different races. The possible fusion or peaceable existence of the French and English in Canada was looked upon with alarm by many British statesmen in the early days of our history. The result is a triumph for British and Canadian political institutions. The French have always remained Canadians. They have not lost their identity, they have not been Anglicized. On the other hand, their religion, habits and prepossessions are more considered and respected more than they would have been under the dominion of old France. Consider this in the light of the turmoil of Central Europe today where the process of denationalization is being ruthlessly carried out by the conquering Powers and causing a long train of assassination and judicial murders.

Though Canada is regarded as a new country it is three hundred years old. High hopes for the British people are embarked on its career. It is a country throbbing with many prosperous industries and instinct with a great commercial life. It stands in the forefront of a movement for the highest form of education. Towards Canada there moves a steady flow of emigration from the Old World. What a lesson for the emigrant as he arrives at the gate of the New World that he should be encouraged to bare his head to the memory of the country's splendid past and contemplate the significance of the Wolfe-Montcalm memorial! What a good thing it will be for generations of Canadians to bring their children from all over the great Dominion to imbibe something of the sense of dignity of our history, and reverence for our heroes who stand at its illuminated portals.

SOUTH AFRICAN COLONIES AND FEDERATION.

The Canadian people will look with fervid and hopeful sympathy upon the news that a resolution in favor of closer union of the South African Colonies was adopted at the conference sitting in Pretoria on Interstate Customs and Railways. The delegates to the conference have declared for the principle of closer union, and have undertaken to submit the resolutions to their various parliaments for ratification. Further, the various self-governing states will be asked to appoint delegates to a National Convention to frame a draft constitution. The British House of Commons has passed a similar resolution expressing confidence that the constitution would be broad and liberal enough to render possible the ultimate inclusion of the whole of British South Africa in a Federal Union.

The federation of a number self-governing states will necessarily require a long and tedious process of compromise and negotiation and much rough ground will have to be covered between the first step and the goal. The action of the conference is all the more significant since it is composed entirely of ministers and officials, and represents the action of the predominant and governing parties in each colony. It is to be regretted, however, that some provision has not been made for the admission of minorities. To make the union a reality the union must be consummated with reasonable consideration for the minorities which represent factors in the community which statesmen cannot with prudence ignore. They are intelligent, energetic and on the whole wealthy, and upon their abilities and capital depend the mining industries which are the mainstay of South African prosperity.

The drift of affairs indicates that it is well there is no question of British sovereignty among the South African States that existed before the war. The British Government will not lead in the movement, but will leave it to the colonies themselves to decide. However, the Imperial Government will hardly give assent to the new South African constitution unless it is based on absolute fairness and impartial justice to all classes who are to be the citizens of the Federation. Canadians have reason for their lively interest on account of the part taken by them in conserving British sovereignty in South Africa, and the success of the Canadian federation in mollifying sectionalism and in promoting a true national spirit based on the sentiment of autonomy of the part combined with unity of the whole.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Jupiter Pluvius is working overtime just now in order to get a holiday next harvest.

The "thin red line" is not half as thin as the arguments of Conservative apologists.

Oats are selling for 75 cents at White Whale Lake. In that case it is highly disrespectful to call them coarse grains.

In the Old Country the leisured class follows the hounds. In Canada the hounds are generally put after the leisured class.

The Merry Widow hat is being criticized because it leaves nothing to the imagination. Not so! Consider the cost.

Though the coal supply will run out in two hundred years it must be cheering to some that ice will last forever.

New York has now a chauffeur's union. Advocates of the open shop henceforth will do well to walk in the lanes and back streets.

It is said there are over 2,000,000 bachelors in the United States. How fortunate for them that Mrs. Guinness is dead!

It looks as if many prominent citizens of the United States will soon have to wear "Let Us Alone" buttons, lest they have the vice-presidency thrust on them.

The Toronto News is resorting to graveyard history to discredit the attitude of the Ontario opposition on the temperance question. The News has some open graves in its own cemetery that it might cover up.

Referring to the G.T.P. the Conservative apologist in this city says: "It was expected that this road would be built without any serious scandal." Congratulations! It was never known before that Conservative expectations were so high.

Last Saturday the United States closed the eleventh month of the fiscal year 1907-08 showing a deficit of $64,000,000. Revenue during the period has fallen 53,000,000, below the eleven months of the previous year, while the expenditures have increased $74,000,000 so that the treasury is $127,000,000 worse than a year ago.

A clique of St. Louis capitalists have inaugurated what they called a "sunshine" movement to boost trade by sending out inflated and optimistic reports. These Christian Science methods of business will be a failure. Fortunately Alberta has sunshine of a more material kind that is calculated to improve the situation. She has eighteen hours a day of sunshine.

A private soldier of the Engineer Corps of U. S. A. army has been sentenced to five years' imprisonment for shaking hands with Emma Goldman at a public meeting. The incident indicates that the bacillus of militarism has inoculated the blood of the American war authorities to an alarming degree. One thing is certain that soldier will leave prison an avowed anarchist.

The year 1908 has been a test year. Especially is this true of national banking systems. The United States Congress has spent most of its time this year in preparing a suitable banking law. Now Germany has appointed an Imperial Banking Commission to make a thoroughgoing investigation into the present system of the Reichsbank. A great advance in settling the financial ills of the two countries in question would be made if banking experts and business men did not put so much faith in mere technical banking expedients to overcome the scarcity of investable capital.

The behaviour of the three Georges at Ottawa is merely a reversion to the essential type of ancient Toryism which meant government by hold-up instead of government by parliament. Clearly the Opposition is fighting for the party advantage that the Roblin-Rogers list would give them in Manitoba. If it is a matter of principle, why is obstruction employed in this case alone? There are a dozen government bills on the order paper; but if the Government gave way on the Election Bill, the Opposition were ready to give assurances that the session would close by the First of July. That is, public business would receive scant attention if the Opposition got its own way on the party question now at issue.

THE ROSS RIFLE.

Hamilton Times—The political controversy over the Ross rifle culminated in a division of the House of Commons on Friday night; and the verdict of the vote was decisively against the hostile criticism to which the new national arm has been subjected, and in favor of the general policy of the militia department. The attack on the Ross rifle was led by Col. Hughes-Hughes, Conservative member for Sherbrooke, who had the official but not very enthusiastic support of his party; and the defence of it was sustained by the minister of militia, who had the official support of the Liberal party and the enthusiastic support of the military critic of the Conservative party, Colonel Sam Hughes, member for Victoria and Haliburton, a thorough believer in the merits of the Ross over the Lee-Enfield. It needs courage to advocate a new firearm. Let a rifleman at the butts use one to which he is not accustomed, and, if he does not break a record, he will invariably say he could have done better if he had had his own rifle. It is the same with billiards. If a billiard player is without his accustomed cue and he makes a poor score, the cue is always to blame, and not his hand or eye or both. How much greater, then, is the force of Conservative prejudice when a man has a weapon, not only not the one he is accustomed to use, but not even of the same make? He has to master new features; has to become accommodated to a different action; his hand may not as freely respond to his eye; the stock may not rest with the same intimate friendliness against his shoulder, and a slight difference in weight may bewilder him. The unaccustomed thing gets on his nerves; he is sure he can never do any decent shooting with it. He is impatient; a slight deterioration in his record of effective shooting touches his vanity; and he, off-hand, condemns the strange weapon.

Such feelings as these have largely entered into the agitation against the Ross rifle. Riflemen have got used to the Lee-Enfield—the older weapon—they are familiar with every detail of its mechanism; their records have been made with Lee-Enfields, and each one has a particular Lee-Enfield which is his mascot. Put another weapon into his hands and he will assuredly not make as good a score. If, added to this, the marksman is a Britisher, with the peculiar strength of his native air in his lungs, he will, somehow, confuse disloyalty to the Lee-Enfield with disloyalty to the Union Jack, for the Lee-Enfield is the arm of the British army, and it ought, therefore, to be the arm of the Canadian militia. There is, be it remembered, nothing more full of prejudice than a musketry instructor, ex the British army, which is generally the whole thing as far as he is concerned, and such prejudice is not always a bad thing. The British non-commissioned officer, mind, you, is a good fighter; let nothing be said against him on that score; but he has notions, and it goes hard with the man or the government—unless they treat him firmly—that goes counter to those notions. The man from Missouri says "show me;" but he won't even be shown.

It will, therefore, be realized that the Ross rifle began its career, as a national weapon, with the forces of conservatism and prejudice strongly entrenched against it. Besides which it had to overcome its own inherent defects. Because, while superior in principle, it was undoubtedly inferior to the Lee-Enfield in detail. The Lee-Enfield, when first adopted in the British army, had also been inferior in some of its details to the arm which it superseded, but it was improved and improved, just as the Ross has been in the last five years, until it reached perfection, or as near perfection as the principle of the Lee-Enfield was capable of being carried, when being translated from drawing paper to death-dealing cylinders of steel.

The Canadian government refused the first mark of the Ross rifle and another mark was issued, remedying most of the defects in the original weapon. A number of these rifles the militia department allowed to be distributed; but still there were defects to be overcome; and a third mark has been issued, which is highly approved by marksmen. When this latest Ross rifle is in general use and the military have become at home with it, they will probably acknowledge its superiority over the Lee-Enfield. The Lee-Enfield belongs to the lever or rotary motion class of rifles. There are four motions in loading and firing it. The Ross has only two. The rifleman has simply to pull back the bolt and press it forward. Consequently, there is a great gain in rapidity. One hundred and fifty shots can be fired from the Ross while 100 are being discharged from the Lee-Enfield. In the case of a rush by the enemy, 100 men, armed with the Ross, could do as much execution as 150, armed with the Lee-Enfield. The Ross would be especially serviceable in cases of night attack, when a rapid fire at close quarters is most effective. On such an occasion, the Ross would possibly be a chief factor in deciding the fate of the encounter.

This rapidity in working is not accompanied by any great complexity of parts. The Lee-Enfield is made up of 100 parts; the Ross of 76. The operation of taking the Ross to pieces and putting it together again occupies much less time, we are told, than it does with the Lee-Enfield. The breech of the Ross can actually be taken apart and put together again, with an ordinary knife. The bore and calibre are the same as in the Lee-Enfield, and if the Canadian troops and the Imperial troops were in action together against a common foe, they could exchange ammunition and supply and deficiency there might be in either camp

The Ross is quite as accurate as the Lee-Enfield. The Ross was at first fitted with a short barrel, suitable for active service, but not for range firing; and hostile critics compared the short Ross with the long Lee-Enfield at the butts. There was no parity in the comparison. With the long barrel, however, the Ross is admitted by experts to be equal, for accuracy, to any rifle in the world. Recent tests give the following extraordinary results of accuracy combined with rapidity: 300 shots in 14 minutes, 11 seconds, 291 being hits and 101 bull's-eyes; 150 shots in 5 minutes and 1 second, 147 being hits and 34 bull's-eyes. This is a record, said Col. Sam Hughes, that no two rifles in the world have ever approached.

Sir Charles Ross submitted his rifle to the United States ordinance department before he opened negotiations with the Canadian government; and, said Col. Sam Hughes, had they not, two years previously, adopted the new Springfield rifle, the chances were a thousand to one that they would have adopted the principle of the Ross. He learnt that from gentlemen high up in the United States ordinance department. The test of the Ross rifle was as good as, if not better than, that of their own servict rifle.

UNDER WHICH KING.

Montreal Herald—The question raised by the opposition at Ottawa is simply this:—

Is the majority or minority in parliament to rule?

The opposition does not like a certain bill brought down by the government. It does not pretend that it is unconstitutional, or that it is fraught with injustice so grievous as to justify extreme measures in securing its defeat. These arguments are not advanced. The opposition does not like the bill, therefore it is prepared to obstruct the business of parliament until such time as the government meets its wishes in regard to the proposed measure.

In other words, the minority proposes to control the majority. The power to do so is certainly inherent in an opposition, which by endless discussion can prevent the House concurring in "supply." But the power has always been exercised with the greatest care, and only under circumstances the most extraordinary. It has been felt that to invoke it on slight occasion would be the negation to parliamentary government, and that a very serious responsibility would rest on the parliamentary minority which exercised it.

That responsibility the present opposition has definitely assumed. On a matter of minor importance; on a measure which has been trimmed and pruned by the prime minister in an honest effort to meet its views, the opposition has taken its stand, and refused supply until this now innocuous measure is withdrawn. It is a heavy responsibility. The King's government has to be carried on. The majority in the House are ready to let it be carried on, but the minority refuse permission.

The bill on which the fight is taking place is, as it now stands, of minor importance. It is merely a cloak for the design of the opposition to embarrass the government. If it were not this bill it would be some other. The opposition which would dare adopt the last recourse of parliamentary warfare in regard to so insignificant a measure, would adopt it in regard to any bill. If the government conceded the demands of the opposition today it would have no guarantee against being held up tomorrow on some equally insignificant matter, the merits of this particular bill, but

The question, therefore, is not as to as to whether the government or the opposition is to rule. The government represents the majority of the House, duly elected by the people. There is no evidence that the government has lost the confidence of the electorate. On the contrary, the bye-elections have shown that it retains that confidence. It is not at the end of it parliamentary term. It is not jamming through legislation which in a moribund House might with justice be postponed. It is simply seeking to carry on the business of the country.

Moreover, it has not sought to cram any particular bill down the throat of the opposition. It has made no attempt to dragoon its opponents. On the contrary, the government has made every reasonable and honorable attempt to meet their wishes. Sir Wilfrid has plead for a measure acceptable to both parties and fair to both. He has modified the objectionable clause so that all savor of partizanship has been taken from it.

The opposition is assuming a very grave responsibility. For the sake of party advantage it is obstructing the country's business, prolonging the work of parliament, and bringing distress to thousands of civil servants and other creditors of the government. Should it, by these tactics, force a dissolution of parliament, it will go to the country condemned in advance, in the minds of well-thinking citizens, as composed of men unable to appreciate the responsibilities that devolve upon an opposition, and therefore unfit to be entrusted with the still more onerous responsibilities of a government.

OBSTRUCTING PUBLIC BUSINESS

Vancouver World—The obstructive tactics now being pursued at Ottawa were at first observed with some amusement by the country at large. Politicians would possibly be surprised to find how accurately the general public sizes up their manoeuvres. In this instance the people were not deceived for a moment. The election bill was faulty as first introduced. The faults were remedied and there was no reason for delaying its passage other than the unfortunate loss of their property rights in the Manitoba lists which it would cost the Conservative lawyers of that province. The public saw the game and smiled, as it smiled on that other famous occasion when after keeping the House in continuous session for nearly a week, His Majesty's opposition incontinently collapsed. The matter, however, has now gone beyond a joke. The business of the country is being seriously retarded, and the members of the civil service find the prompt payment of their salaries jeopardized—which in the case of men drawing small pay and without other resources, means a substantial fine. Worst of all, the international engagements of the country cannot be carried out. As we stated in our news columns yesterday, the Canadian members of the boundary delimitation commission are in Ottawa waiting for their supplies, when they ought to be in the Yukon, whither the representatives of the United States have already proceeded. These latter, meanwhile, are cooling their heels while their pay goes on, this involving the government of the United States in quite unnecessary expense by reason of what acounts to a breach of faith, or, which cannot be at all satisfactory to Canada, marking the boundary themselves. What further complications are in store nobody can say, but enough is known already to demonstrate that it is time this unseemly farce at Ottawa were terminated.

CANADIAN DEFENCE.

Canada—Writing in the current issue of the National Review, Mr. L. S Amery, who ranks as one of the two ablest military critics in Great Britain, deals suggestively with the question of Canadian defence. He is seemingly convinced that an attack on the Dominion by any power operating across the Atlantic or the Pacific could be checked without difficulty as long as the British fleet was in being. But there is no doubt in his mind as to the impossibility of defending Canada against an attack directed across her long land-frontier which, owing to the lack of buffer-states and mountainous, inhospitable lands, such as Thibet, is far more open to the enemy than that of India. It would be impossible, in his judgment, to defend Canada against the United States owing to (1) the vastly greater population of the latter country; (2) the smallness of the assistance which could be given by the British navy; and (3) the present lack of strategic transcontinental railway along which to send reinforcements to the Canadian militia. Obstacle No. 1 would be removed, so he thinks, when the population of the Dominion reaches twenty millions. Even then the United States would be able to bring a much larger army of fairly efficient volunteers into the field, but the Canadian advantage in quality—for men grow harder, the further north they live—would partially compensate for an inferiority in quantity. Obstacle No. 2 can only be remedied, it would appear, by some form of conscription which would make the military strength of the mother country equal to her imperial responsibilities. Obstacle No. 3 will vanish when the new transcontinental line, which runs at a much greater distance from the frontier, is finally completed, though, even then, the "neck of the bottle," near Winnipeg, will be a weak point. However, the construction of a line above Lake Winnipeg and the establishment of the Hudson Bay route would render the west defensible, supposing the other conditions were satisfied. We happen to know that Lord Dundonald's reasoned opinion is the same as that of Mr. Amery, and it has long been known that the experts of the German staff, one of whose functions it is to study all such problems of military geography, hold much the same views for the self-same reasons. Except for the ultra-patriotic, who choose to ignore all the lessons of military history, these conclusions should form the basis of all discussion of Canada's powers of self-defence. The war of 1812-14, in which Canada, with the help of British soldiers, more than held her own, has little or no bearing on the present problem. Then Canada was no more than a river-state, under the direct protection of British sea power, which by driving the commerce of the United States from the high seas, turned the main issue in favor of the nascent empire. Today she is a transcontinental polity, half of which is out of touch with the sea. Of course, it is needless to point out that, even if the three conditions mentioned above were satisfied, the destruction of the British fleet would render Canada as indefensible as the southern states were in the later stages of the civil war.

FLOOD TREATENS ST. PAUL.

If Mississippi Rises Another Foot Result Will be Disastrous.

St. Paul, Minn., June 2—If the Mississippi river rises another foot, hundreds of the St. Paul poor will be homeless. The flats in Minneapolis, higher than those in St. Paul, are not endangered. The river was higher today than it has been for five years. The lower flat district between State street and the river in St. Paul is threatened with destruction. The inhabitants nearest the river were forced to leave their homes early this morning and the river is slowly rising. The railway tracks at the foot of Sibley and Jackson streets are threatened with inundation which will stop all traffic to St. Paul over these roads. The outlook is adverse, for rain is predicted for tonight and Wednesday and a heavy rainfall in the northern part of the state.

MAGNIFICENT PA[GEANT] OF THE TERCEN[TENARY]

Frank Lascelles, Mast[er of] Pageant, Who Made [Suc]cess of a Similar Affa[ir] Last Year.—Describes [Pageant] to Be Enacted at Que[bec]

Quebec, June 3—Chief [Festi]vitities of the Quebec [tercentenary] will sand out these [days] dramatic scenes of the pa[geant] will show forth to the [world] romance and chivalry is [the story] of early Canadian history.

Mr. Frank Lascelles, t[he master of] the pageant, fresh from [his success] last year at Oxford, and [now] ready in hand the pageant [of] London, with its 15,000 [people,] has just taken the people [of Quebec] into his confidence and [told them] to them what a pageant [will be,] exactly what the coming [festivi]tions upon the Plains of [Abraham] are to be like. Among [other things] he said:

Commends Celebr[ation]

"It is a striking fact [that] which you are undoubted[ly to be] congratulated, that you [have] chosen to commemorate [the] hundredth year of your [existence] a form of celebration whi[ch is] and yet old, a form whi[ch is] wind all the charms that [romantic] situation, a great history, [glo]rious and poetic mine[s to] can give—a country's hist[ory].

"It will enable the vo[ung] country to realize better [than] have ever done before, th[e glories] of your national history [to] show forth with all the [accuracy of] archeological accuracy, bea[utiful and] stately ceremonial and [the] tones of music, the great [events] you have to remember.

"On the corner of the [plain of] Abraham with the ground[s fore]mont on the right and the [river flow]ing beyond and below, a g[rand view] is already in course of cre[ation that] will seat many thousands [spectator]s; and on the broad stre[tch be]tween the grand [stands and] the river, will be reproduc[ed the] great exactitude as possib[le scenes] ring scenes of early days.

Coming of Jacques C[artier]

"We shall see as the st[ory] overture die away a gro[up of Iro]wams set beneath the tr[ees a] wild Indian dance in prog[ress on the] banks. Jacques Cartier [and his] sigh, with his crew and pl[anted the] earth in the midst of the [Indians, the] the mighty cross [with] the golden lilies and the [fleur de] France.

"After a scene which wi[ll vividly] vividly as history can hel[p us to] the actual progress of [Canada] reads to the crowded sava[ge crowd] ed on the banks of the ri[ver] did nearly four hundred [years ago] the familiar words of the [poet Gray] poet of St. John. Then do[wn] to the river to embark o[n the ships] which is to bring him back [to France.]

"So the French pioneer [and the] Indians pass out of view a[nd are] transported in our imagina[tion to the] court of France. The sa[me] sward is under foot and [the same] sky is overhead, but the [martial] music and groups of gay [courtiers] show us that the scene is [not a] little village on cliffs at [Quebec] side, but that this is the [court of St] Francois Premier at Fonta[inebleau.]

"In great state, he ride[s at the] head of his cavalcade, an[d Champlain,] who has returned from h[is journey] to the west, is brought b[efore him] and tells him of his wande[rings and] presents some Indians who [have] brought back with him fro[m the New] World.

The Scene Again —a[gain]

"Then they ride on and [the scene] changes again. Once more [we are in] the Court of France, but [this time] the court assembled at the L[ouvre. The] throne is set up in he[Gallery of] tapestries unfolded round, [while gor]geous halberdiers keep gua[rd. The] court of Henry IV. has suc[ceeded that] of Francis I. Resplendent [in velvets] and silks of many colors, t[he knights] and gentlemen troop in, [and Henry] i. danced before the king. [Henry, gi]ves in state, and to a yo[ung man] who stands at the foot of t[he throne it] is given a commission to [explore] where Cartier had gone be[fore and] Champlain receives his ord[ers from] the King.

"Then back the next scen[e takes] us to the little village of S[t. Malo] and Champlain with his gi[rl wife is] received with wonder by the [people.]

"The years again pass [and] Champlain and his wife [are] since dead. Stadacona ha[s become] Quebec and the populace ha[s increas]ed to over 2?0. The governo[r, Champ]magny, goes down with h[is retinue] and receives the gentle and [fair Mar]ther Marie and the ladies [of] France, who have given [their] lives to bring the name of [Christ to] the new country. She tea[ches the] little children the Bible st[ories she] were taught to each of us [at her] mother's knee, and the sce[ne shifts] on.

Repelling the Iroquo[is]

"A fort is being defendo[d by a] brave young Frenchmen ag[ainst the] hordes of Iroquois, and the [war whoop]rows, the awful war-whoops [and the] burning of the fort, recall t[o mind] of the terrors and martyrdom [through] which our forerunners had t[o pass.]

"Then the ashes of the [martyrs] are swept aside and the [Te Deum] chanting falls upon our ea[rs as the] great archbishop, Mgr. de L[aval, sur]rounded with all the stately [pomp] of the church, comes down [from] the representative of the K[ing, the] resplendent among his cour[tiers and] his nobles, pays reverent h[omage to] the church. "In the prese[nce of the] fur traders and the merch[ants Pier]mont de Saint Lusson takes p[ossession] in the King's name of the c[ountry of] the west and later on th[e Count] Frontenac gives his answer [from the] mouth of my guns," to the [Governor] of Phips.