

"facilities from our educational machinery, it also provided a means for its smoother working in the future. In doing so it took an important step in the direction towards which all wise administration must tend in the present, decentralization and extension of local self-government. Bureaucracy destroyed all feeling of responsibility, and it was time that interest was turned from the mechanism of education to its contents. . . . The main thing in popular government was that officials should be amenable to public opinion. The method of election and selection expressed in the Bill fully provided for this, and also provided for fitness for the special task." Concerning the necessity of the religious element, the Bishop said that "Education was a preparation for life and they could not drop out of their teaching just that portion which dealt most directly with the manner in which principles were to be applied to life."

Compared with what the English government is now attempting, the action which our own administration proposed last session in reference to the Manitoba schools is quite moderate, and the opposition which it met with in Parliament, and in many parts of the country must be explained on some other ground than the intrinsic provisions of the Remedial Act. We have already set forth our own theory on the subject; but it may be that Sir John Gorst's philosophical observation in introducing the new English Education Bill, also applies to Canada. He said that the religious difficulty is not in the practical working of the schools but is confined to Parliament, and is mainly a platform and political difficulty.

THE COMMERCIAL CONGRESS.

Since May, 1895, the London Chamber of Commerce has been engaged in organizing another meeting of delegates from the various Boards of Trade or Chambers of Commerce throughout the Empire. This is the third of this series of Congresses and it is to assemble in London on the 8th of June. As pointed out by Sir Charles Tupper, such meetings are likely to be of the greatest importance, and might be used very effectively for popularizing preferential trade in England and establishing a British Commercial Union.

The object of the forthcoming Congress, and the work it is likely to undertake, may best be ascertained by a reference to the transactions of the previous meeting which was held in London in June, 1892. The subjects discussed were multifarious and included Imperial penny postage, unification of the currency of the empire, a decimal system of weights and measures, colonization, the codification of British commercial law, etc., etc., but the question of preponderating interest was undoubtedly the commercial relations of the British possessions. The foundation for the discussion was laid in the following resolution, which was proposed by Lord Brassey, seconded by Sir Malcolm Fraser and carried unanimously: "That in the opinion of this Congress, it is expedient that arrangements should be devised to secure closer commercial union between the Mother Country and her colonies and dependencies."

This was of course a good beginning, and the terms of the accepted motion seemed to imply that the commercial union so much desired by the Congress meant a union of a closer sort betwixt the British possessions themselves than had previously existed between these and foreign countries. But it soon became evident that even an apparently simple motion like the one above quoted signified different things to different minds. This was shown by the second resolution, which set forth the views of the free traders so called: "That, in the opinion of this Congress, any fiscal union between the Mother Country and her Colonies, and dependencies being based on protection, would be politically dangerous and economically disastrous; and that the arrangement which more than any other, would conduce to an intimate commercial union, would be by our self-governing colonies adopting, as closely as circumstances will permit, the non-protective policy of the mother country."

For the Colonies to follow the course indicated in the latter part of this resolution would have been to reduce their import duties to such an extent as to deprive their industries of any protection as against importations from the United Kingdom or Foreign countries. Leaving out of sight and undiscussed the wisdom of such a policy, the ques-

tion would still remain as to whether its adoption would result in the formation of a commercial union of any sort. If for instance Canada were to abolish her customs tariff to-morrow, would that bring us any nearer the establishment of a British commercial union? Certainly not. Our industries and revenue might be sacrificed, but no closer commercial relations would be brought into existence between England and her colonies than at present. The proposed action would be equivalent to an endeavor to establish an alliance, offensive and defensive betwixt two countries by simply burning their fleets and dismantling their fortifications. Evidently the second resolution was utterly without value as a means of giving effect to the first.

Against this second resolution, which was moved by a London delegate and seconded by one from Belfast, Canada stood up in the person of Sir Charles Tupper, who moved in amendment, seconded by Sir Donald Smith: "That, in order to extend the exchange and consumption of the home staple, products in every part of the British Empire, a slight differential duty, not exceeding five per cent, should be adopted by the Imperial and Colonial governments in favor of certain home productions against the imported foreign articles."

There was no ambiguity about this proposal, but its aim was too direct to suit the opposite party, who, like the Ephesians of old, could only cry "Great is the Free Trade of the English"; that being false free trade and a very dilapidated idol. A dead-set was made against the amendment by the free traders, who, although unable themselves to propose any practical plan of union, did not scruple to characterize every other suggestion as impossible. In fact Mr. Medley, the mover of the main resolution, declared it to be "beyond the wit of man to frame a scheme that will hold water" on the lines suggested by Sir Charles Tupper. Mr. Medley's advice to Canada is very simple: "All you have to do is to do as we have done and open your ports." He might as well have said: "Shut your eyes and open your mouth and union is established."

It must be admitted that the supporters of the amendment did not make any attempt to show that no closer commercial union could possibly result from following the prescription above quoted. Their arguments were mostly based on the commercial independence and self-sufficiency of the British Empire. An overzealous controversialist said: "I believe the duty of 5 per cent on foreign articles, introduced into any portion of the Empire will not enhance the price of that article to the consumer." If the speaker had said that the increase would be only trifling the statement might have passed. As it was, however, it gave Sir John Lubbock the opportunity of maintaining that the duties are paid by the consumer, and if not, "if the duties are paid by the producer, then I should like to ask our friends from Canada 'what advantage would they gain?' Possibly the best answer for our friends from Canada would have been frankly to admit that the proposed duty on foreign foodstuffs would slightly raise prices to the English consumers, but that if they were to pay their taxes on their flour and bacon rather than on their tea and coffee, it would not matter to them and yet be advantageous to the Empire generally."

This argument does not appear to have been made use of and in the end the amendment was lost, 33 Chambers voting in its favour, and 55 against it. When, however, it came to the adoption of the main motion the vote by Chambers stood 47 for and 34 against, so that half a dozen votes would have turned the scale. It was afterwards ascertained that some of the Australasian votes had been given under a misapprehension, and it was on the whole felt that the free trade Board of Trade had not much to boast about. They were, however, able to carry, as a kind of parting shot, the following resolution moved by Mr. Neville Lubbock and seconded by Mr. Dobell of Quebec: "That a commercial union within the British Empire on the basis of free trade would tend to promote its permanence and prosperity."

Before the Congress broke up Sir Donald Smith got a motion put through requesting the London Chamber of Commerce "to take the necessary steps for carrying out the several resolutions of the Congress," but it does not seem that the London Chamber has made the slightest move towards establishing a British Commercial Union on the basis

either of free or "freer" trade. The times have been against such action during the four years which have since elapsed. The advocacy of preferential trade relations within the Empire has been vigorously carried on by the United Empire Trade League. The same policy has been adopted by the Parliament and Government of Canada and by the Ottawa Colonial Conference. The general election of 1895 in England showed unmistakably that a great revulsion of public feeling had taken place there. A very large proportion of the successful candidates, especially on the Unionist side, which secured so large a majority, strongly advocated the views of the United Empire Trade League. The Conference of the National Union of Conservative Association, which met at Brighton in November last, unanimously adopted a motion endorsing the resolutions of the Ottawa Conference. More recently Mr. McNeill's, Mr. Chamberlain's and Lord Salisbury's speeches must have had a most salutary influence and a very different result may be looked for from the Congress that is to meet next month. With Mr. Chamberlain in the chair there is every likelihood that his patriotic sentiments will be supported, and that the foundations will be laid of a British Zollverein!

THE NAVY LEAGUE.

Our readers will remember that when this organization was started, and the first numbers of the Navy League Journal were published, we very candidly expressed our fears that steps were being advocated by the latter which were little calculated to advance the cause of Imperial consolidation. These steps were the exacting of direct contributions of money from the Colonial treasuries towards the cost of the British Navy, and the establishing of auxiliary Colonial fleets. We are much gratified to be able to state that such advocacy no longer constitutes any part of the policy of the Navy League.

The secretary of that body has had the courtesy to send us copies of the various tracts and leaflets published and circulated by the League, which contain abundant proof of the correctness of the above statement. From an article entitled the Colonies and the Navy we reproduce the following extract:-

"Our Colonies can no longer be considered secure from raids by reason of distance and if not dependent—as is the United Kingdom—upon the sea for bread, yet to their inhabitants 'also is the command of the sea of deep and vital moment. This is the fact that the Navy League desires to urge upon all at home and abroad, and to show that our Colonies are equally interested in the maintenance of a powerful Imperial Navy. The point then remains how our Colonies can best assist this great work, and here the Navy League does not presume to do more than suggest what should be done by them. It does not urge direct contributions towards the cost of the Imperial Navy, nor the creation of independent Colonial fleets. The direction of naval affairs and the control of our fleet must be under one authority. A number of separate organizations would have the weakness which has ever been observed in the temporary alliance of foreign powers at sea. There are, however, other ways in which our Colonies may sensibly augment the naval strength of the Empire, and support the objects of the Navy League."

The article proceeds, to enumerate these, but, at the same time, the League does not disguise the fact that some understanding with the Colonies is requisite as to the extent and manner in which they are to be assessed for Naval Defence. In fact it has addressed a letter to the Colonial Secretary of State on the subject and asked him to throw some light upon it. The following is a copy of the letter referred to:-

18 Victoria Street,
London, S. W., 27th Dec., 1895.

Sir,—Having been in communication with the Colonies in regard to the objects of the Navy League, (see copy of letters enclosed), I beg to inform you that the subject has met with a most favourable reception and has led to various suggestions from influential persons, from the newspapers, &c., in the Colonies.

I enclose herewith some extracts from the Colonial press in regard thereto, which I shall be much obliged if you will return after perusal.

I am directed by my Committee to inform you that it is the aim of the League to impress upon all British subjects the absolute necessity of the maintenance of our command of the sea, and it was not the intention of the League to take any steps to induce the Colonies to contribute directly towards the expenses of the Navy. In view, however, of the disposition which is apparent on the part of some of the Colonies to assist in the provision and maintenance of the Navy, I am directed to enquire whether you will oblige my Committee with some indication as to the form which it would probably be agreeable to the Government that any such assistance should take, which information might serve as a guide to my Committee in communicating with the Colonies on the subject, and foster the disposition already evinced.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) W. Cairns Critchley.

The Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain,
M. P.

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

From the date it will be seen that this letter was written nearly six months ago, but it does not appear that Mr. Chamberlain made any communication to the League containing the desired information. Possibly his speech of the 25th March last, so often referred to in our columns, may fairly be taken as indicating the manner in which the Colonies may be called upon to assist in Naval defence. At any rate, the proposition of Mr. McNeill, which furnished the text for Mr. Chamberlain's deliverance, stated plainly that the proceeds of the preferential duties all over the Empire

should be devoted to purposes of Imperial inter-communication and Naval Defence.

We take the liberty of recommending Mr. McNeill's resolution to the consideration of the authorities of the Navy League, being convinced that in it they will find a guide in communicating with the Colonies; and a proposal very likely to obtain their approval for assisting in the provision and maintenance of the Navy.

THE VALUE OF COLONIAL TRADE TO GREAT BRITAIN.

Mr. W. H. Mitchell, of Burley-in-Wharfedale, near Bradford, a good exponent of fiscal federation, says, in a pamphlet on that subject:

"If we take the statistics of trade between Great Britain on the one side, and the three countries from which we draw our chief foreign supplies of food and raw materials—the United States, France and Russia—on the other, we find that these countries do not take half as much from us as we do from them, or in other words, that they spend less than ten shillings with us for every sovereign we spend with them. But if we compare with this the trade between ourselves and our colonies and possessions, we find that they take from us nearly as much as we take from them; in fact, that for every twenty shillings we spend with them, they spend nineteen shillings with us. I need scarcely ask which of these trades gives the most employment to our people. Again, if we take the value to us as customers, of our fellow-subjects in the colonies, and compare it with the value of foreigners, man for man, we find that one Canadian takes more of our productions than three, one South African more than ten, and one Australian more than fifteen citizens of the United States, France or Germany."

PIANOS

The Formost Pianos manufactured in this country are the

MASON & RICH, NORDHEIMER
AND
GERHARD HEINTZMAN.

The names they bear are synonymous with everything that goes to make a truly high class Pianoforte.

SOLE AGENTS,
J. L. ORME & SON,
113 Sparks Street, . . . Ottawa.

ALSO THE FAMOUS
Estey, American, Organs.

THE CANADIAN NORTHWEST.

HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS.

All even-numbered sections of Dominion Lands in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories, except 8 and 26, which have not been homesteaded, reserved to provide wood lots for settlers, or for other purposes may be homesteaded by any person who is sole head of a family, or any male over eighteen years of age to the extent of one quarter-section of 160 acres, more or less.

ENTRY.

Entry may be made personally at the local office for the District in which the land to be taken is situate, or if the homesteader desires he may, on application to the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, or the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Winnipeg, receive authority for some one to make the entry for him. A fee of \$10 is charged for an ordinary homestead entry; but for lands which have been occupied an additional fee of \$10 is chargeable to meet inspection and cancellation charges.

HOMESTEAD DUTIES.

Under the present law homestead duties must be performed in the following way, namely, by three years' cultivation and residence, during which the settler may not be absent more than six months in any one year without forfeiting the entry.

APPLICATION FOR PATENT

May be made at the end of three years, before the local agent, or the homesteader in spectator. Before making application for patent the settler must give six months' notice in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands of his intention to do so. When, for convenience of the settler, application for patent is made before a homestead inspector, a fee of \$5 is chargeable.

INFORMATION.

Newly arrived immigrants will receive at any Dominion Lands Office in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories information as to the lands that are open for entry, and from the officers in charge, free of expense, advice and assistance in securing lands to suit them; and full information respecting the land, timber, coal and mineral laws, and copies of these Regulations, as well as those respecting Dominion Lands in the Railway Belt in British Columbia, may be obtained upon application to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior (Immigration Branch) Ottawa; the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Winnipeg, Manitoba; or to any of the Dominion Lands Agents in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories.

N.B.—In addition to Free Grant Lands, to which the Regulations above stated refer, thousands of acres of most desirable lands are available for lease or purchase, on easy terms, from railroad and other corporations and private firms.