The Colonist.

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THE DAILY COLONIST

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IMPERIAL ISSUES.

Mr. Chamberlain has evidently brought up an issue which will rapidly become important, not merely in British, but also in Colonial politics. This will be the first evidence that the unity of the Empire is a reality. Wherever you have two bodies of opinion about the same question, there you have a political entity. If there are two bodies of opinion about the same question throughout the Empire, instead of different bodies of opinion exercised about different questions in the various parts of the Empire, that is immediate proof that the Empire is a political entity capable of united action according to whichever body of opinion is dominant. We are accustomed to speak of the British Empire as of something well defined and coherent. It is in fact something which has just begun to be, which is capable of development, and equally capable of disruption. If we regard the self-governing colonies, we can easily see that the old colonial idea of loyalty to Great Britain, involving as it does acquiescence in, without share in controlling, British policy, must atrophy and decay. It predicates necessarily a subordinate and not a co-ordinate position, and is therefore impossible of continuance. In Canada it is very largely now replaced by loyalty to Canada, and in Australia by loyalty to Australia. The question is not whether this transference of attitude must take place or not, but whether a larger conception of Imperial citizenship can be developed independently of it. We may illustrate by a parallel. Let us suppose that a red-hot state patriot of Virginia emigrates to the State of Washington. It is quite likely that he will become, and it is certain that his children will become, red-hot state patriots of the State of Washington. But this transference of loyalty from one state to another will not conflict with the sentiments held in both to the United States of America. This is the Imperial problem presented to the British Empire today, and to our mind, it depends for its successful solution, upon the recognition of common issues and common divisions of opinion upon matters of Imperial policy. The sentiment of loyalty to the Crown, deeply founded as that sentiment is, and the possession of similar institutions, are in themselves an insufficient foundation for the better unification of the British Empire. But the division of opinion upon the same lines in all the parts of the Empire upon questions of Imperial policy is at once the indication of a real unity and the guarantee of its continuance and development. It is quite clear that no sooner is such an issue thrown into the Imperial arena, than there will be an immediate division of all British subjects into two camps or parties. There will be those in Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand who will limit their political horizon to the particular part of the Empire in which they reside, and will become in spite of themselves, and merely because they are incapable of assimilating the larger conception of Empire, disruptionists. These will be the copperheads of this great movement. On the other side, will be found those who will live and die for this grander than national conception which is dawning upon the world. It will not be very many years before every British subject is ranged on one side or the other, and, however much it may be disguised by particular or local circumstances, the real issue will be the unification or disruption of the British Empire. We are unhesitatingly of opinion that the British race has not been led so far in the development of liberty and pure democracy, to break down before this final test of its capacity for self-government, and the due subordination of the parts to the whole. But it would be idle to minimize the tremendous difficulties in the way, and the great call upon the resources of the race which is about to be made.

SCIENCE AND RELIGION.

Properly the name of Kelvin belongs to an insignificant, muddy and excessively malodorous little stream which meanders through the environs of Glasgow. The worst offence that the James Bay Flats ever perpetrated, at the most favorable juncture of wind and tide, against the outraged nostrils of this city, is attar of roses compared with what is, or used to be, the normal effluvium of the river Kelvin. When Sir William Thomson was elevated to the peerage he took the name of this insignificant little river, thereby doing it too much, and Glasgow, where his life has been spent, not too much, but quite enough, honor. Since then the name Kelvin has come to denote all that is highest, and purest, and noblest in the scientific world. Lord Kelvin has spent a long life, he is now seventy-nine years of age, in the study of physical science, and his name is revered wherever it is known as that of one of the foremost of the benefactors of mankind. Popularly he is best known by the practical inventions with which his genius has endowed civilization. But all the same, the bent of his mind has always been purely scientific and not utilitarian in any degree whatever. Naturally the tribute of this aged sage to religion is of great importance, not to be accepted as an authoritative dictum, but as an indication of his personal experience and of the mental attitude in which he finds himself, after having spent a long life in scientific investigation. "Science," said this aged veteran of science in a public utterance the other day, "positively affirmed creative power. Science made every one feel a miracle in himself. It was not in dead matter that they lived and moved and had their being, but in the creating and directive power which science compelled them to accept as an article of belief. They could not escape from that when they studied the physics and dynamics of living and dead matter all around. Modern biologists were coming once more to a firm acceptance of something, and that was a vital principle. They had an unknown object put before them in science. In thinking of that object they were all agnostics. They only knew God in His works, but they were absolutely forced by science to admit and to believe with absolute confidence in a directive power—in an influence other than physical, dynamical, electrical forces. Cicero had denied that they could have come into existence by a fortuitous concourse of atoms. There was nothing between absolute scientific belief in creative power and the acceptance of the theory of a fortuitous concourse of atoms. Was there anything so absurd as to believe that a number of atoms by falling together of their own accord could make a crystal, a sprig of moss, a microbe, a living animal? People thought that, given millions of years, these might come to pass, but they could not think that a million of millions of millions of years could give them unaided a beautiful world like ours. They had a spiritual influence, and in science a knowledge that there was that influence in the world around them." This statement of Lord Kelvin's reported in the Times drew from him a letter in which he said he wished to delete the word "crystal" because the point he had wished to make was that it was in respect to the coming into existence, or the growth, or the continuation of the molecular combinations presented in the bodies of living things that scientific thought was compelled to accept the idea of Creative Power. "Forty years ago," he continues, "I asked Liebig, walking somewhere in the country, if he believed that the grass and flowers which we saw around us grew by mere chemical forces. He answered, 'No, no more than I could believe that a book of botany describing them could grow by mere chemical forces.'" This speech and the letter from Lord Kelvin which followed it drew a critical protest from a scientific gentleman, evidently somebody, but unknown to us. He declares that in the domain of physics Lord Kelvin is supreme, but "for dogmatic utterance on biological questions there is no reason to suppose that he is better equipped than any person of average intelligence." That appeals to us as quite trivial. What Lord Kelvin says on religion is not important as a dogmatic utterance, but as an expression of the personal attitude of a great scientific thinker, and the fact that he is a physicist and not a biologist makes not a particle of difference. Later on in his letter this scientist delivers himself of a biological dogma with a vengeance. "If growth," he says, "is to be accounted for by a 'vital principle,' this must be capable of quantitative measurement like any other force." We have always thought that biologists took refuge in the phrase "vital principle" to indicate something whose existence they could not deny, but which, nevertheless, eluded their investigation simply because it is not capable of quantitative measurement. Has not then our scientific critic begged the whole question, when he says that if a "vital principle" exists, it must be capable of quantitative measurement. That is to make capability of quantitative measurement the test of existence; whereas biology finds something not so capable, and calls it "vital principle" for convenience. In the presence of this unknown thing, Lord Kelvin finds the necessity of Creative Power, not because the necessity is greater here than anywhere else, but because the human mind, face to face with the fact of life, cannot avoid or postpone the recognition of a Creator.

GERMANY AND BRAZIL.

A German has written a book advising his fellow-countrymen to invest in Brazil. He points out that Brazil is one of the greatest natural storehouses of raw material in the world, and that it is one in which Germans possess facilities for trade and enterprise on account of the large number of Brazilians who are of German origin. What he advocates is not an attempted domination of the country through German control of its natural resources. The German press in commenting on his book, endorses his views, and points to the activity of American trusts, which already have given effect to the far-sighted policy of securing footing in foreign countries to supply themselves with raw materials at low cost and to obtain original and full control of these, whereby they will in the future secure domination in manufacturing. Competition between the industrial countries of the world is getting keener year by year, and the nation which is best supplied with raw materials will have an important advantage over its foreign competitors. If this state of affairs is affecting the relations between German enterprise and Brazilian natural resources, how much more is it affecting the relation between British capital and enterprise and Canadian raw materials. The whole fabric of British manufactures is based upon the theory that the competition of producers of raw material will give the purchaser the cheapest possible supply at the least possible risk. That is valid enough so long as the producers have nowhere to dispose of their product save in the English market, but it becomes much less true when England becomes one and not the only one among manufacturing countries, and it becomes wholly false where her competitors procure raw material at flat cost to themselves, and are able so to control the output that they can charge her a profit on what they do not themselves use. That is the theory upon which American manufactures are carried on, and that is the process through which they hope eventually to secure a dominant position. The British manufacturer who uses copper, goes upon the London market to buy his copper. he would consider it wild and dangerous speculation if he were to attempt to secure a cupply of copper by mining it, or contracting for the output of some particular mine. Whatever be the reason, there is no question at all that the capital of the United States is rapidly acquiring economic control of the raw material of Canada, and that, compared with it, British capital is largely ineffectual in its efforts. Of course Canada does not have to worry, because we can make all foreign capital Canadian in its potency, except with regard to the dividends its pays its foreign owners, and we have no hesitation in using that power wherever necessary. When foreign mills secure our forests as a source of raw material, we make them transfer their mills into Canada. Similarly, when foreign iron men secure Canadian iron deposits to feed American smelters, we tell them they must put their smelters in Canada or go without the iron. As we have said, Canada is not in such a position that she cannot protect herself; it is great Britain who should be opening her eyes to the developments going on around her. The "open door" for her manufactures is her continuous policy. What good will an open door for manufactures going out of the country do, if the door for raw material going into the country is closed? The United States has already played tricks with the English market in cotton and copper that never could have been played were Great Britain in economic control of abundant supplies of these two commodities.

THE INVESTIGATION.

The chapter of inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the Columbia & Western land grants is closed, and on Wednesday the chapter of the political consequences of that investigation will be opened. The committee of inquiry appears to have adopted a happy mixture of the ordinary methods of inquiry by a parliamentary committee, and legal procedure such as we see in courts. Whether this should have gone the length of permitting counsel to address the committee in the interest of their clients we very gravely doubt. For a parliamentary committee it seems a somewhat peculiar procedure. The speech of a lawyer before a court is admittedly an ex parte deliverance. It is not supposed to be impartial. In a case before a court the counsel for one party displays as it were one side of the shield, and the counsel for the opposing party displays the other side. The judge turns the shield round and round and permits the jury to view it on all sides. The function of addresses by counsel which pertains to a lawsuit is impossible of application before a committee, because the address of counsel, while it may inform the members of the committee, is apt also to influence the public. When we say that we make these remarks without having heard or read one word that the counsel have said before the committee, except a very incomplete report of some of Mr. McCaul's remarks, it will be understood that this criticism has reference to the fact of their speaking, and not to anything they have said. The appearance of counsel as professional amici curiae is hardly compatible with the reasons for their presence before the committee to represent particular interests or individuals, and yet, if the committee were addressed by counsel from any other standpoint, they would be likely to influence opinion in favor of one view of all the facts, while those affected persons who may take a different view of all the facts, remained without skilled professional exposition of their standpoint. In this way we think it would have been better if no addresses by counsel had been made, not because the committee is not likely to be assisted by professional talent, but because the ultimate jury of the people may be thereby unduly influenced.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES.

The experience of British Columbia in investigating the Columbia and Western Land Grant scandal, compared with the experience of Ontario in investigating the Gamey scandal, is a very strong argument in favor of parliamentary committees as opposed to Royal commissions as the proper machinery for the investigation of such affairs. The substance of the Gamey revelations was really simpler than the substance of the revelations made in British Columbia. In Ontario there was a definite statement to go upon, a something either to be proved true or false, or left undetermined. In British Columbia, on the other hand, there was only a cloudy matter to be investigated until the evidence of Mr. Dunsmuir placed the whole series of transactions on a more publicly intelligible basis. A series of veiled and delicate negotiations between a country and a railway company extending over years, in fact involving a large part of the political history of the province since 1898, is certainly a more complicated matter than the accusation by a private member that he had received money from a cabinet minister over a matter of support non-existent a year ago. Further than that the British Columbia scandal was intimately mixed up with matters of policy, divergent opinion, and the material interests of the province in railway construction. Yet what do we find? Not only has a parliamentary committee probed the matter with as much thoroughness as any human agency could, but it has done so with far more expedition, thoroughness, and simplicity than the Ontario Royal Commission, and without any waste of time. It is true that the committee gave to various parties affected the privilege of being represented by counsel. But this was rather a concession to the supposed rights of implicated persons, than for any required assistance in the discovery of the truth. And we share the general opinion of the people of this province that so far as the work of the committee was controlled by its lay character, it made for the simple and direct elucidation of the facts, and that so far as the professionally legal element intruded, it tended towards divagation into all sorts of immaterial and irrelevant matters. However, in spite of that, as a piece of machinery for the investigation and discovery of the true inwardness of alleged scandals, the British Columbia parliamentary committee compares very favorably with the Ontario Royal commission. And we do not doubt that its finding will be equally conclusive and definite as a direction to the jury of the people before whom such issues are eventually determined.

REDISTRIBUTION.

The particulars of the Liberal proposals for the redistribution of seats in British Columbia show that in this province at least the Liberals are prepared to depart from the principle of redistribution, for which they take pride in Ontario. In Ontario they have gone upon the principle of restoring the county boundaries which were interfered with by what they call the Conservative gerrymander. They have apparently declared that it is more important that the constituencies should be homogeneous than strictly equal in population. This theory is right, and, if it is being strictly applied in Ontario, so much the better for Ontario, and that it is not being strictly applied in British Columbia, is so much the worse for British Columbia. In this province, it is true, we have no counties in the same sense that they have them in Ontario. But we have provincial electoral districts which occupy a similar position, and serve a similar purpose. There is no reason why the boundaries of the provincial electoral divisions should not be followed in British Columbia, and there is a very strong reason why they should be followed. Yet they are not followed in the Liberal proposal, and four constituencies are affected. The Provincial electoral division of Richmond is divided between three federal constituencies, Comox-Atlin, New Westminster and Vancouver. A piece is carved out of Yale and added to New Westminster, and North Vancouver, South Vancouver, and Moodyville are tacked on to Vancouver city, although Vancouver city is already a larger constituency than Victoria city. We do not for a moment insinuate that the motive for this cutting and carving of provincial divisions is to be found in the openings for fraud afforded. But the way is opened up to fraud in a most conspicuous manner. The voting in Dominion elections takes place on provincial voters' lists, and, according to the provincial law, a voter can vote at any polling place in the riding in which he is registered. The result is that according to this scheme of redistribution, the voters of Richmond provincial division could be impersonated in three Dominion constituencies without any chance of detection, or, without that being done, the whole Liberal or Conservative vote of Richmond could be swung into the Dominion constituency in which it would do most good. We might very easily have the bulk of the Liberal voters in a provincial division voting in one federal constituency, and the bulk of the Conservative voters in another. The provincial electoral divisions form a fresh division of the voters of the province made last year upon natural recognized lines, which should be made the basis of the Dominion constituencies. These should be made up of groups of provincial divisions. To accomplish this satisfactorily, it is not necessary to violate either the principle of representation by population, or the ordinary dictates of common sense.

THE GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC.

We are glad to find somebody else in the same boat as ourselves about this scheme. We had thought it was the difference of longitude between Ottawa and Victoria which accounted for the cloudiness of our ideas about the progress it was making. We see, however, that the Montreal Star in introducing the discussion of the subject says that, "The most noticeable feature of the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme now before Parliament is the absence of definite information about the details of the project." The Star is somewhat critical. It remarks a certain want of definite sponsorship on the part of the Grand Trunk Railway Company. The promoters are certainly officials and men of prominence in the Grand Trunk railway. But that railway as a corporation does not assume any responsibility for the successful carrying through of the scheme. "Before committing themselves," says the Star, "members would naturally like to know, not only with whom they are dealing, but where the line is going; how much it is going to cost; how big a subsidy is wanted; and how long it is going to take to build. Most vital, perhaps, of all, is the necessity for definite information about the Atlantic terminals." These are exactly the points upon which we have been hazy in the extreme, and we are glad to see that a difficulty in treating the matter intelligently is not confined to this end of the continent.

A PUZZLE.

A most extraordinary puzzle is exercising the authorities of the State of Wisconsin. In fiction it might be made, in fact a similar situation has been made the basis of tragedy, but in actual life its tragic qualities are not more pronounced than its qualities of embarrassment. In 1882 a prosperous farmer got drunk and tried to commit suicide. He was incarcerated in a lunatic asylum as a suicidal maniac, and in an asylum he has been ever since. Now he has been examined by doctors, who declare that he is not insane and never has been insane. A year after he was put in the asylum, his wife secured a divorce and married a man employed on the farm, to whom passed the wife, children and property of the incarcerated farmer. It now transpires that the drinking fit and attempted suicide of this legal lunatic were due to the misconduct of his wife, who used them as an excuse for his subsequent incarceration, and her freedom to take another husband. This at any rate is what a man now declared to be thoroughly sane believes and asserts, and, which makes the puzzle, proposes to act upon. In his own mind, he has been the victim of a conspiracy, a conspiracy to which the subsequent circumstances give some color, of which, however, he could never get legal proof, and for which he could never get adequate remedy. He knows, nobody else could ever know for certain by any process of legal demonstration, that he knows, and he proposes to kill the woman. He makes no secret of his intention, he recognizes its legal consequences and its moral complexion in the eyes of the world. But in twenty years' brooding over his wrongs he has settled all that long ago, and has made up his mind to kill his former wife. Whatever this determination is, it is not an evidence of insanity. Yet the only ground on which the authorities can hold him is the ground that he is a lunatic. Apparently the only means by which the authorities can prevent a denouement of the tragedy unsuitable to the prosaic soil of North America, is to consider such a fixed determination a sort of constructive legal lunacy, and keep the unfortunate man where he is.

THE METHODIST CONFERENCE.

The sittings of a parliamentary committee and a Royal commission in and near Victoria during these last two weeks, and the publication of the evidence heard by them, has filled the popular mind with greater interest in economic and political conditions than ever before. But while these things have been going on, another body of men, whose relation to these conditions is by no means unimportant, has been quietly and without ostentation considering grave moral and religious questions in the city of Victoria. The Methodist conference, which closed its sessions on Wednesday night, was notable in many respects. Visitors at the conference more than once remarked upon the spirited debates and the intelligence with which important questions affecting the public morals were dealt with. The first yearly conference of Methodism took place in the year 1744. In those early assemblies the doctrines of Methodism were discussed, defined and defended; the organization of the church was shaped and perfected, and all the machinery of the growing system was kept in working order. Since that day great changes have taken place in every sphere of life, the gradual unfolding of art and science, the religious and political transformations are simply marvelous to the student of history. The growth of Methodism has not been retarded by those great revolutions which all have a bearing on the social, civil and religious life of the community, which shows that there is no barrier between religion and science when rightly understood. The youngest of the conferences in the Dominion is that of British Columbia, but though young, it is not small in influence or power. The conference which has just closed its sessions in the capital of the province will be recorded as one of the most harmonious and successful since its organization in 1887. It was certainly a representative one in every particular with the exception of the Yukon district, which is too far distant to send a delegate, except at great expense. The conference at the outset paid itself the highest possible compliment by electing to the presidency Rev. James Turner, one of the pioneer ministers of the church in this province. Mr. Turner's name is a household word, and wherever he is known, his sterling Christian character, consistent religious life, genial good humor and ready Irish wit have endeared him to saint and sinner alike. In the earlier years of the Methodist conference in British Columbia, whenever it was found difficult to secure a suitable minister to take frontier work, such as in Cariboo, and in that vast region now known as the Kootenays, the problem, so far as the conference was concerned, could always be solved by proposing to send Mr. Turner, and he never demurred, stood not upon the order of his going, but went. In this way it was he who laid the foundations in the interior of this province of what is now a flourishing series of churches and missions. He also laid the foundations of Methodism in the Yukon, penetrating that terra incognita almost before the first rush of gold, like the spies who went into Canaan, he brought back a report of the goodly land which aroused the church to her responsibilities to the fortune-seekers there. The reports and recommendations of the conference respecting the work of temperance and moral reform, as well as those respecting young people's societies and Sunday schools, show that the Methodist body fully realizes its responsibilities to the rising generation, and some of the orders of the conference will, if carried out, undoubtedly result in more efficient supervision of these with consequently more satisfactory results. Perhaps the most important resolution before the conference, from a public standpoint, was the one on sociology and economic conditions. It would seem to indicate that there is a growing feeling among religious bodies that social and economic questions must be approached, investigated and finally solved along scientific lines, and that this can be accomplished without any elimination of the religious and spiritual elements of the Christian religion. The conference, while emphasizing the supreme importance of the latter, nevertheless gave instructions to its members and ministers to study the standard theories which are so widely accepted as being steps in the right direction so as to be able to hasten remedial legislation whatever form it may finally assume. It will be gratifying to know that, with the inflammatory agitation that is so characteristic of certain sections of the reform elements in society, the same problems as are being discussed by them, are being studied and discussed by a strong religious body with judicial fairness and with an unalterable determination to assist in such reforms as are for the material and moral good of all.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Blair have both risen in their places in the House of Commons to defend the Treadgold concessions. So much for Mr. Ross.

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THE RUSSIAN MASSACRES.

When we consider what the Jews have given to civilization, and the recompense that civilization has made to the Jews, we ought to feel ashamed. For ages upon ages the Jews were the repository of that whole conception of the cosmos and its Ruling Power upon which all our religion, and a great deal of our law and polity, are based. Jesus Christ, the man-God, was a Jew. The Apostle Paul, the Aristotle of theology, upon whose intellectual level we should be inclined to place not more than four or five human beings known to history, was a Jew. In modern times, the Jewish race has produced many great philosophers, great writers, great musicians not to speak of great financiers, in which it has been prolific. Doubtless the Jews would have produced great statesmen and great soldiers also. They were driven to finance because it was the only avenue in which they were allowed to exercise their energies. Yet, for the great gifts of the Jewish race to Western civilization, they have been repaid by insult, humiliation, persecution and cruelty unimaginable. This is now the twentieth century, yet persecution of the Jews is carried on as openly and as flagrantly as it ever was. At Kishineff, in Russia, only the other day, the Russian mob overwhelmed the Jews, one hundred to one, carrying fire and devastation throughout the entire Jewish district of the city. Like fiends they sprang upon the helpless disarmed Jews, massacring the victims and torturing with every hideous and indescribable outrage. Women were throttled, subjected to every dishonor, or shot down mercilessly. Their children were thrown from windows and butchered before their eyes. Jewish men attempted, even in their unarmed condition, to defend their wives, children and homes, but were shot or butchered mercilessly. For three days the brutal Russian mob roamed the streets, massacring, pillaging, torturing and outraging. No Jew in all Kishineff was unwounded. Not a house or store was left undemolished. The mob, after carrying off all the goods on which they could lay hands, destroyed the rest by pouring kerosene oil thereon, and burning. The police, whose duty it was to defend the Jews, openly aided and abetted the mob, and when Jews approached the chief of police and demanded protection, they were thrown out of the police headquarters, and literally torn to pieces by the frenzied Russians. Every synagogue was wrecked. The scrolls of the law, after being desecrated with filth, were hurled into the flames. The military authorities, who secretly sympathized with the mob, remained perfectly indifferent, and only after the slaughter had become too horrible for the authorities to safely permit it to continue, were the soldiers ordered to check the mob, and stop the to the fearful scenes. A few days later, in spite of all warnings, violence was renewed, and a still more violent outbreak took place at Tirospol. Here, although but few in number, as compared with their assailants, the Jews made a desperate stand. They managed to secure a magazine of arms, and for several hours held their assailants at bay, among whom were quite a number of police and soldiers, openly helping the mob. Notwithstanding the superior arms of the latter, the Jews fought so desperately that they drove the mob and soldiers back over and over again, and it was only after a long fight that the Jews were overcome by superior numbers, and were slaughtered almost to a man. The streets of the town presented the appearance of a battlefield. Slain Jews, Russian soldiers, police and peasants were lying commingled in heaps upon the ground. That is the sort of thing which is going on under the aegis of modern civilization, in a country which recognizes Christian ethics as expounded by a Jew to the Jews in the Sermon on the Mount. But we say that these outrages are committed by Russian peasants. So they are, but the spirit which inspires them, is the spirit of modern civilization towards the Jews, to whom, if to any race on earth, modern civilization owes protection and liberty. The outbreaks of anti-Semitism in France and other European countries among educated people, are not less cruel and ruthless, only less barbarous in their manifestations than the massacres of the Russians. On British soil and in the United States of America, the Jews are free. They betray no ingratitude. On the contrary, they manifest a fine spirit of patriotism, treasuring as a privilege what other people assert to be their right. It is not so very long ago that Great Britain removed the disabilities of the Jews, disabilities under which they never should have suffered, vile relics of pagan barbarism. What has been the result? They have given freely of their blood, their treasure, and their great talents to the maintenance and prestige of the British Empire. If the British Empire had to fight for its continued existence tomorrow, Great Britain would have no more devoted subjects at home, and no more powerful allies abroad, than the Jews. But that is a matter of sentiment. Justice and liberty are not matters of sentiment; they are matters of right. And the less able any human beings are to assert them for themselves, the more insistent does their right become to receive them from others. The persecution of Jews in Russia or elsewhere, is a blot upon modern civilization, and calls loudly for the interference of every man who believes justice to be the foundation of all proper human relations.

A DECADE OF SEDDON.

At the beginning of the present month Mr. Richard Seddon celebrated his tenth anniversary as Premier of New Zealand, and both he and his government are apparently more strongly seated in power now than at any previous period during the decade. During that period of ten years, New Zealand has emerged from a condition of financial and industrial stagnation, to a condition of great prosperity and industrial progress and activity. The most marked features of affairs in New Zealand have been repeated in Canada, the United States, and to a lesser extent in Australia, which has been retarded by climatic conditions of great severity peculiar to that continent. The growth of prosperity and comfort in New Zealand has been very naturally attributed to the peculiar characteristics of Mr. Seddon's government by the admirers of those characteristics, just as prosperity in Canada has been attributed to the Laurier government by its friends, and to Republican principles in the United States by the friends of the Republican party. The true test of political institutions, however, is not their effect during prosperous times, but their effect during adverse conditions. If hard times come to other parts of the world, and the sun of prosperity continues to shine upon New Zealand, or even if the clouds there are less heavy and the gloom less prolonged than elsewhere, then it may be admitted that in the legislation of New Zealand has been found, if not a panacea, at least a mitigating influence for the economic troubles of civilization.

BORN.

RICHMOND—At Strawberry Vale, on the 17th inst., the wife of William Richmond of a son.

DIED.

ANGUS — At his late residence, "Ellesmere," Belcher street, on the 16th inst., James Angus, a native of Bathgate, Scotland, aged 70 years.

CHARLES—At the family residence, 230 Fort street, on the 21st instant, William Charles (late inspecting chief factor Hudson's Bay Company), a native of Winnipeg, Manitoba, aged 72 years.

FURNELL—In this city, on the 16th inst., George S. Furnell, a native of Middlesex, London, England, aged 37 years and 11 months.

WANTED—Faithful person to travel for well established house in a few counties calling on retail merchants and agents. Local territory. Salary $1024 a year and expenses, payable $19.70 a week in cash and expenses advanced. Position permanent. Business successful and rushing. Enclose self-addressed envelope. Standard House, 315 Caxton Bldg., Chicago.

EGGS FOR HATCHING—Buff Orpingtons, Brown Leghorns, Barred Rocks, Langshans and Pekin Ducks. Leave orders W. A. Jamison, 63 Fort Street, P. O. Box 187. Quick Bros.

B. C. STEAM DYE WORKS, 141 Yates Street, Victoria, Ladies, and Gentlemen's Garments and Household Furnishings cleaned dyed or pressed equal to new.

When we think of Seddon, we think of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act by which strikes have been banished from the Islands. As a matter of fact, that act is only a small part of the accomplishments of the New Zealand Progressives. Their land policy, and their policy of encouragement to export trade have, to our mind been far more important and more fundamental, and have proceeded along far sounder lines than their labor policy. But in spite of that, this experiment in industrial conciliation and arbitration is what has caught and arrested the popular eye about the Progressives in New Zealand. We have lately been reading with some care the description of the character and working of the act by its author, Mr. Reeves, and we have come to the conclusion that while it may be workable in a country of small population, without manufactures, save for local needs, it could not be applied with any success in any one of the four great trading and manufacturing nations, any more than the sumptuary laws of the Middle Ages could be revived. It would be likely to cause disturbance to industry far more far reaching and ultimately disastrous than any strikes. This, however, is merely an opinion based upon a much less perfect knowledge of New Zealand, its laws, customs, conditions, and people, than would be necessary to make it in any way authoritative. In its working the law fits over industry a covering body of minute regulations. If, in New Zealand the labor of doing so has been enormous, the need of readjustment continuous, and the danger of injustice very great, what in the wide world would the result be of applying such a process to industry even in Canada, not to mention Great Britain or the United States? It is besides, to our mind, very doubtful whether the law does more than register changes in the condition of industry which would take place, and have taken place, prior to its cognizance of them altogether, and have been due to entirely independent causes. Those who defend the law can point to a general rise in wages and increase in the comfort of the working classes since it came into force. But the rise in wages and comfort in New Zealand have certainly not been greater than in Canada or the United States during the same period. The act has not caused them, merely recorded them. The question raised by its critics is whether if it has been given a causal connection with improvements in the condition of industrial workers to which it is not entitled, it will not also be given a causal connection with declining wages and lack of employment during dull times. If it has been accredited with an advance, will it not also be accredited with power to arrest retrogression or to remedy a condition of stationary industrial conditions. The flux and reflux of industry are things about which science is so far unable to tell us very much. But in practice we know that times do come when the great body of industrial workers must either accept less remuneration or go idle. In some mysterious way the power of society as a whole to pay them for what they do is diminished. Face to face with a fact like this, where would a law be that was accredited with power to prevent the inevitable consequences of that fact? A bundle of dry twigs in a fire, a stray thistle down in a gale of wind, these things would be stability itself compared with such a law. We cannot alter or regulate the ebb and flow of industry till we know what causes it. It is quite certainly not caused by any statute law, nor has any statute law the power to prevent it. If a law is credited with such power, its operation is likely, not to diminish, but to intensify friction so soon as the movement in industry becomes unfavorable. We do not believe that in New Zealand, the fame and influence of Richard Seddon rest upon the industrial legislation his government has brought into force. They rest far more upon the character of the man himself. He is a great man, large of mind and large of heart, bluff, honest, and sincere, in whom the people of New Zealand repose the utmost confidence that whatever is done, will be done with a single eye to the benefit of the country.

TENDENCY OF THE TIMES.

The tendency of medical science is toward preventive measures. The best thought of the world is being given to the subject. It is easier and better to prevent than to cure. It has been fully demonstrated that pneumonia, one of the most dangerous diseases that medical men have to contend with, can be prevented by the use of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Pneumonia always results from a cold or from an attack of influenza (grip), and it has been observed that this remedy counteracts any tendency of these diseases toward pneumonia. This has been fully proven in many thousands of cases in which this remedy has been used during the great prevalence of colds and grip in recent years, and can be relied upon with implicit confidence. Pneumonia often results from a slight cold when no danger is apprehended until it is suddenly discovered that there is fever and difficulty in breathing and pains in the chest, then it is announced that the patient has pneumonia. Be on the safe side and take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy as soon as the cold is contracted. It always cures.

One Hundred dozen English Cashmere Sox in black, navy, cardinal, and maroon, at 25c. per pair. Just in. B. Williams & Co.