

BRITISH CONNECTION

We have had a good many jeremiads recently in regard to the destiny of the British Empire. Early in the election campaign the Colonist ventured to remark that, no matter which party triumphed at the polls in the United Kingdom, people would wake up the next morning and find the British Empire doing business as usual. Enough has happened to show that the Unionists are in a minority, but we do not believe there is a man to be found, if one should search the Empire from end to end, who honestly believes that the imperial fabric has been weakened in any respect whatever. If it were true that the permanence of the Empire depended upon the accidents of British politics, it would be high time to think of some other destiny for the overseas Dominions than that with which they are now content. It never occurred to Canadians, until they were told so by some one else, that their fidelity to the imperial tie depended upon the market for their wheat in the United Kingdom. We are speaking of the manner in which Canadians regard the connection between their country and the Empire, for that is our business, and we protest that the fidelity of this country is not to be bought by a preference on wheat or by a preference on wool. Let us not be weakened by the fact that we have to meet the rest of the world on an equal footing in British markets. Let us not be understood as saying that a preference on wheat would not be an excellent thing for Canada, for it would. Let it not be understood that we are opposed to the idea of inter-imperial preferential trade, for we yield to no one in our desire to see that brought about. But we do not want to see it brought about under false pretensions. We do not wish the people of the United Kingdom to be told that Canadian loyalty to the Empire is a matter of dollars and cents.

The essence of the imperial tie is not commerce. Perhaps we could not define with any approach to accuracy just what its nature is, but if only those things were real that can be defined with accuracy, much that is best and noblest in the world would be only a phantom of the imagination. What is it that makes the pulse quicken when we see the Union Jack in a foreign land? It certainly is not the hope that at some time, more or less remote, Canadian wheat may have a preference of a few cents a bushel in the markets of the United Kingdom. We all felt the same before any one ever thought of trade preference as a factor in Empire-building. Why was Canadian blood shed in South Africa? Not because the Dominion had given British goods a preference in our markets and the Canadian boys hoped that some day Britain would give Canadian goods a preference in British markets.

Protection for the United Kingdom is purely a commercial proposition. We believe it would prove of great value to the country. It could be made advantageous to the whole Empire because it would provide a means of developing inter-imperial trade, the colonization of the over-seas Dominions by more people from the United Kingdom than now seek homes in them, the more rapid investment of British capital in outlying parts of the Empire. All this we concede as fully as any one can ask; but when we read as we have been reading lately, that without these things the Empire will fall in pieces, and realize that this is based upon the assumption that Canadians demand a preference in the British market as the price of their maintenance of the imperial bond, we feel called upon to say that such a statement is a libel upon a people who regard themselves as much intrinsically a part of the British Empire as any business man in the cities of Britain or any squire in the counties. When will timid patriots realize that the Empire is one, and does not have to be made one?

THE LORDS

We shall hear a good deal about the House of Lords during the next few weeks, and those persons who get their information on British subjects from United States sources, will read many things to the disparagement of that body. No one claims that the constitution of the Hereditary Chamber is ideal either in principle or personnel; but the man who thinks that the baronage of the United Kingdom has played an ignominious part in the history of that nation, ought to read his history. Differ as we may as to the constitutional rights of the Peers, we cannot deny that from the days of Magna Charta to the present the Lords have done much to make the British nation strong and free. As we pointed out some months ago in an article giving some of the history of the House of Lords, the constitution of the House of Lords is a very large number of the peerages are of recent creation and in many instances are held by the men upon whom they were conferred in the first instance. It will hardly be denied that as a rule, which is almost invariable, recent peerages have been awarded

for merit and not simply for favor. It can also, we think, be claimed with truth that the representatives of most of the great political families represented in the Lords have interests in the welfare of the nation and have been educated in traditions that are calculated to give them a sense of responsibility and a high spirit of patriotism. Even those peers, whom Mr. Lloyd George called "backwoods-men" are as a rule excellent people, living decent lives and trying to do their duty as they see it. It is true that the existence of the Hereditary Chamber, as at present constituted, is hardly in keeping with the modern development of popular government. Even the leading Unionist peers admit this; but to condemn the whole body as worse than useless, and to deny to its individual members a fitness for positions of trust in the affairs of the nation is to do an honorable institution a great injustice. We look for a reform in the House of Lords, whereby it will be established more on a representative basis than it now stands; but we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that in centuries that have passed the peerage has done noble work for the British nation.

HOME RULE

It is alleged that Mr. Asquith and Mr. Redmond have reached an agreement by virtue of which the Nationals are to act with the Liberals and the Labor members, and that after certain necessary measures have been disposed of, Home Rule is to be brought up squarely as an issue and be submitted to the people of the United Kingdom at a general election. It is much to be hoped that Home Rule will come before the people in some such way. It ought not to be beyond the ingenuity of the statesmen of the United Kingdom to devise a measure that will meet the reasonable views of the majority of the Irish people, although the task will be one of great difficulty; but whatever solution of the question may be reached, we do not think any government would be justified in giving it the force of law without a direct mandate from the electorate. It is not sufficient to say, as Mr. Gladstone was accustomed to say towards the close of his parliamentary career, that the people of the United Kingdom must give effect to the expressed wishes of the majority of the people of Ireland. That would be a dangerous doctrine and its limits could never be defined. The relations of Ireland to the United Kingdom are such that the people of the whole country ought to have a voice in determining if and how these shall be altered.

Montreal is trying the experiment of a Board of Control. The Board is to number four, and there are eighteen candidates.

It having been proposed that a medal shall be given to the members of the Militia Corps who attended the Quebec Tercentenary, Mr. Hugh Clark, M.P., has risen to suggest that the medals ought to be given to the civilians, who went to Quebec on that occasion and endured the hardships incident thereto. This is one of those happy thoughts that make the sunshine seem brighter.

It seemingly rests with Mr. Asquith as to whether he shall continue to hold the position of Prime Minister. In a few days at the most he must have an audience with the King, and make known to His Majesty the proposals which he wishes to place in the Speech from the Throne when Parliament meets. It is conceivable that he may ask more than His Majesty may feel disposed to assent to, but we hardly think it likely.

A meeting, held in Montreal at the instance of Mr. Bourassa, passed a resolution to the effect that Canada should not embark in naval defence without submitting the question to the people in the form of a plebiscite. Mr. Bourassa's speech shows that his chief objection to a naval force is that it would be of no use for the purpose of defending the Dominion against the United States. We had not supposed that any one thought this the object of the proposed Canadian navy.

The Parliamentary committee on minerals is to investigate the operation of the Nickel Trust in Canada. It is claimed that by sending the metal to New Jersey to be refined the Trust deprives Canadian workmen of at least \$1,000,000 a year. As the Dominion has a monopoly of the nickel product on this continent, and almost a monopoly of the world's supply, it seems as if Parliament has a free hand in determining how this metal when mined in Canada, shall be handled.

We are hopeful that the destruction wrought by the flood in Paris may not

be as serious as the despatches indicate. Experience with high water in Canada does not bear out the belief that any very great damage to buildings are likely to collapse. As the area covered by the rising water expands, the force exercised by it is reduced. Unless within the next day or two we would look for a decided improvement in the unfortunate city. The loss of life and property cannot, however, be otherwise than large, and the business and domestic conditions must be enormous.

HUGE COPPER MERGER

Will Have Capitalization of Half a Billion—To Control U. S. Copper Output.

NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—Preliminary steps were taken today to effect the long-looked-for merger of the principal copper producers of the country into one gigantic corporation. In Wall street another billion-dollar company was frequently mentioned, but the more conservative believe the final capitalization will be closer to \$500,000,000.

The Anaconda Copper Mining Company officially announced this afternoon that at a meeting of the directors yesterday it had been decided to call a meeting of the stockholders in Anaconda, Montana, on March 23 to pass on a proposal to increase the capital stock from \$30,000,000 to \$150,000,000 for the purpose of acquiring the property of other companies located in the Butte district. The Amalgamated company owns 55 per cent of the Anaconda.

Following the merger of the Butte properties, among which are included the Amalgamated Copper Co. and its various holdings, it is expected that the new Anaconda with its increased capital will merge with the Guggenheim, Haggis and other copper interests, thus effecting a corporation which will control the copper output of the United States.

MR. AYLESWORTH

TO RETIRE

Mr. John Sheridan to Run in North York in Liberal Interest

OTTAWA, Jan. 27.—Mr. John Sheridan, the well-known cattle and horse exporter of Toronto, who was in the city today, announced that he would run in the Liberal interest in North York, on the retirement of Hon. A. B. Aylesworth, who, it is announced, will shortly retire from the position of minister of justice owing to continued deafness.

Re-Elected to Legislature.
RICHMOND, Jan. 27.—P. S. G. MacKenzie was today re-elected by acclamation to represent Richmond in the local legislature.

Praises Canada's Banking System.
LONDON, Jan. 27.—Sir Felix Schuster, governor of the Union of London and Smith's Bank at a meeting today said the Canadian banking system was highly efficient and useful.

Recognize His Value.
HAMILTON, Jan. 27.—Walter Mulrins, city editor of the Spectator, today was unanimously recommended by the board of directors for the position of public commissioner of Hamilton at a salary of \$2,500.

Japanese Forger Arrested.
NANAIMO, Jan. 27.—S. Selmo, a Japanese, was arrested late tonight by the local police for passing forged checks on local merchants. Selmo, who has several aliases, including "Aiko," is wanted in Vancouver and Victoria on similar charges.

Strikers on Trial.
HALIFAX, Jan. 27.—As a result of the recent disturbances at Glace Bay seven of the strikers were tried before the stipendiary magistrate Rheaun today and committed to the supreme court, charged with unlawful assembly.

Defeated French Canuck Hockeyists.
MONTREAL, Jan. 27.—In the fastest exhibition witnessed this season by Montreal hockey fans, the Ottawa Stanley cup holders defeated the Les Canadiens team at the Jubilee rink by a score of 8 goals to 4.

Sir Robert Best on Reciprocity.
MELBOURNE, Jan. 27.—Addressing a farmers' conference here yesterday, Sir Robert Best urged the necessity of increasing the wheat production in order to prevent Great Britain relying upon foreign supplies. He suggested ultimately a reciprocal preferential arrangement throughout the Empire.

Greatly Increased Capital.
TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 27.—The United States Motor Company, with offices in Jersey City, filed an amended certificate with the secretary of state here today increasing its capital stock from \$2,000,000 to \$16,000,000. The stock is divided into \$500,000 preferred and \$8,000,000 common.

Recommend Higher Standards.
OTTAWA, Jan. 27.—The Canadian Society of Civil Engineers today appointed a committee to wait on the premier respecting a higher standard for government engineers and an advisory board on national engineering questions. The question of the pollution of Ottawa's water supply by Aymer sewage resulted in the appointment of a committee to look into the matter of the pollution of Canadian lakes and streams.

LADIES—
USE
OUR
REST
ROOM!



A REST
ROOM
FOR
LADIES.
2nd Floor

For Your Parlor

Charming Pieces In Abundance Are Offered

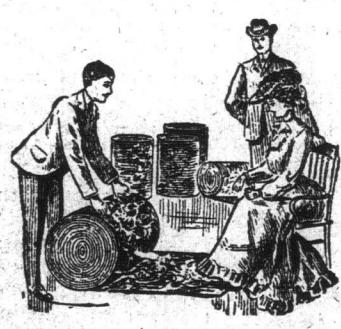
OF course you want your parlor daintily furnished, for, with the exception of your hall, this is the only room of your home that many of your "callers" see. It's necessary to have this room properly furnished, or erroneous impressions may be carried away by your "friends."

And furnishing the parlor doesn't simply mean the choosing of good furniture. The curtains, the draperies, the carpets, etc., are just as important. In fact they are more so, because they'll be more noticed. While our stock of parlor furniture isn't excelled anywhere else in B. C., our offerings in curtains, carpets, etc., present for your consideration one of the most elaborate and comprehensive assortments to be found anywhere.

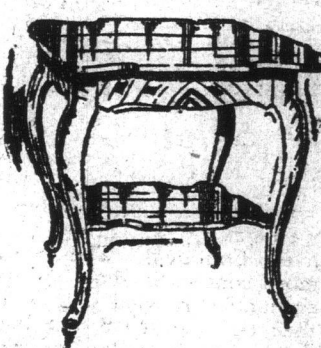
Let us "fix up" your parlor for you. Give us a "free hand" or let us work from your own ideas, and we guarantee you perfect satisfaction—both in appearance and cost.

Music Cabinets from \$8.50

Carpets for the Parlor
An Unequaled Assortment Here



Parlor Tables
Prices Range from \$3.25



Here's a Buffet Style You'll Appreciate

One of the Best Yet—In Either Mission or Golden Oak

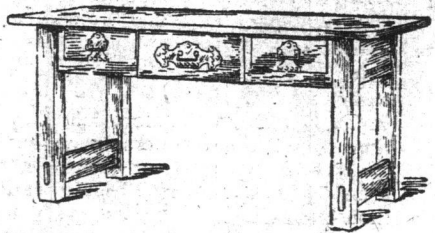
Upon our third floor we show a new buffet style that'll please you. This is a medium priced buffet of unusual style—fit for most any home, and as we have it in either Golden Oak or in Early English finished oak, it'll match your other furnishings. Come in and let us show you this attractive piece of dining-room furniture. Here is a brief description:

Has 1 long drawer and 3 smaller drawers—one lined for cutlery and silver. Also two cupboards of ample proportions. The mirror is a large bevel plate of very best quality. There is a top and 2 small side shelves. Trimmings are of satin finished brass. Shown in either golden or Early English oak. Priced at \$50.00.

We Want You to See These Library Tables

More Especially the Striking Mission—Designed Tables We Show

We want you to see our excellent range of Library tables now on exhibition on the third floor. Some very attractive designs in several woods and finishes are shown, including golden oak, Early English oak, birch-mahogany and genuine mahogany. Prices needn't prevent you from owning one of these very useful and ornamental furniture pieces. Prices range from \$35.00 to \$10.



We call particular attention to the showing of Mission-designed library tables. This style has become very popular of late, and being always ready to fill the popular want, we now show a very complete line of these. Striking in design and finished in that pleasing Early English finish, they are desirable tables. We have them at several prices, but see those at \$20.00.

Come and See This Hand-Painted China

Some Uncommon Creations At Little Prices—Rose Decorations

Once more we speak of new arrivals in the china store—we are continually adding to this store's offerings. This time it is a nice line of hand-painted china—imported direct from a leading European pottery. Decorations on these pieces are roses—a dainty treatment of exceptionally good color. Don't let the low prices confuse you. The pieces certainly look worth more than the figure we have placed on them. See these in the china store today. Just a limited quantity.

We have also received a new China Chocolate Set of new design and pleasing decoration—dainty white and gold, 6 cups and saucers and jug for \$12.00

HAND-PAINTED CHINA SALAD BOWLS at \$2.00
INDIVIDUAL BERRY DISHES at, per dozen \$7.50
BREAD AND BUTTER PLATES at, per dozen \$7.50

Choose One of These New Reed Chairs

Don't fail to participate in the great values we are offering in reed furniture. No "slaughtered" prices or anything like that, but just unusually good values in new chairs of exceptionally smart design. These constitute a big shipment of such furniture just received.

While reed furniture is desirable at all seasons, it is especially so during the summer time, and this was purchased to take care of the early summer demand. But it is here too early and it is bulky, hence these interesting prices in an effort to move quickly. Choose today, while the assortment is complete.

In those very popular and decidedly comfortable English low-style easy chairs we show some great values. These chairs when upholstered are invitingly comfortable. We can do your upholstering if you wish to have them so fixed. Come and see these chairs at \$7.50 and \$6.50.
REED ARM CHAIRS—A great choice of styles in these. Newest shapes and all well built. Prices range at, each, \$9.00, \$8.00, \$7.50, \$6.50 and \$6.00
REED ROCKERS—Several very stylish and comfortable rocker creations, priced at, each, \$8.00, \$7.50 and \$6.00

SEA GRASS CHAIRS—Very popular line this. We have them in either brown or green. Arm styles. Priced at \$10.00, \$9.00 and \$7.50
SEA GRASS ROCKERS—We have several pretty styles in green. Priced at, each, \$8.00 and \$7.50
EXTENSION CHAIRS—Ideal for lounging on verandah. In either reed or green sea grass. Priced at \$7.50
SEA GRASS TABLES—In green, at, each, \$6.00
REED TABLES—Priced at, each, \$5.50

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Hotels
Clubs

The West's Greatest Furniture House

WEILER'S

Furnish-
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Churches
Schools
Boats



Bowes' Hair Tonic

Acts upon the scalp and produces hair-growth just as a good fertilizer acts upon soil that is barren.

Cures Dandruff

Gives food and power to the impoverished hair roots. Per bottle, 50 cents, at this store only.

CYRUS H. BOWES, CHEMIST
1228 GOVERNMENT ST.

ENGLISH SOVEREIGN

"Foul as it is, hell itself under presence of John." So Henry after the death of the great name. Yet he was indignant in conversation at such charm of manner. Ours was pusillanimous in the presence of a wretched bungler, and, an unfilial son and unworthy of confidence, and there is only too much of a murderer. His young nephew heir to the Crown, was killed by John with his own hand. The providence of God then which made him hateful to all, was instrumental in bringing him away nearer its consummation. When we think of John, we associate the Great Charter with so his contemporaries. "Lackland," and with good reason because he was worthy of the name. The Charter was seen that when Coeur was ruler of all the lands in the Pyrenees monarch of his own, he proclaimed himself Emperor of the world, and of risking his life in petty quarrels at greater things, the hitherto Europe might have been a hard was more of a fighter, even in those days, worked chiefly with the sword. Understood that Richard ruled as King of England, or that it by virtue of that title he not the dominions of England, but the personal appanages of the English sovereign. John was a Norman, and Normandy, duke of Normandy, Maine and Anjou, he would have held all that had been able to maintain it, able, they all passed out of England.

A few words of explanation. William the Conqueror, William I, Stephen, Henry II and the reigns of England, but the English sovereigns. They were more concerned about their family in what is about their rights in the British wars, it was for money, for what was transpiring on the English Channel. We think, for example, of Richard, England who was also Count of Anjou, who was also a king, and if we would get his viewpoint on English affairs. During the reign rule the people of England were developing the principles of self-government. The direction were taken in the guilds and merchants' guilds were mutual assistance and protection. These of these guilds soon learned united action and discovered in the purses of kings and barons, they could secure the rights and an extension of their liberties of the British people. It is undoubtedly true that the coin of the realm was paid always with a liberal hand, and towards popular enfranchisement shortly after the conquest, and how degrees until in the time of Henry contained many self-government within which the rights of the people were fairly well defined. It was not nearly as well situated as the artizan and trading classes were disliked by them and were the King. They were as a rule foreign wars and they were sympathetic with the people of the land, they owned their tenants almost their own sweet will for the people to a fair trial on the established courts was system. And yet as events proved, themselves forced in their position to take a position which did nothing else to establish British in their present foundation. It was to such an England as came after losing all his continental possessions, and it was to deal with the individual liberty were being as a tyrannical and humiliated upon, after he had been deposed, his realms, which his predecessors above everything else, and to the wealth of the English people were contributed. It was the failure to appreciate the sense and determination of the people was complete; but his was his quarrel with the Church. In 1205 over the choice of an Archbishop. The clergy wanted a King another; the Pope would have named Stephen Langton. John refused to recognize the election. The Pope laid England under interdict and ordered the King of France to hold his Crown as tributary. Scarcely had he made his peace with the barons refused to obey and assist in equipping an army