

There are, as we have said, occasions when the most favored nation treaty seems to work unfairly, giving privileges to some countries which seem to give no return. There are many occasions—and probably more of them—in which the most favored nation clause is seen to be beneficial to all concerned.

The Empire a Unit

FROM some of the remarks concerning the representation of the Dominions at the Peace Conference—especially by Premier Hughes of Australia—it would seem that there has been an expectation, not only that the Dominions' Premiers would be admitted to seats at the Conference table, but that each of them would have the right to set forth a policy of his own, apart from what might be the policy of the representatives of the British Government. A little thought, however, must lead to the conclusion that such a situation is impossible. Canada, as we have several times pointed out, can have no independent standing at the Conference. If a Canadian representative should have a seat there it will be as one of the representatives of the British Government. The British delegation will be organized. On every question that arises some member of it will be chosen to speak for Great Britain. He will speak in accordance with a policy previously agreed upon, and he will speak for all. If any other British delegate speak on that subject, it will be to support the same view. The spectacle of Mr. Balfour declaring a policy respecting the German colonies, and Mr. Hughes rising to present a different view, is one that could not be permitted to occur. Nor could Sir Robert Borden, if present, be permitted to set forth on any question views of his own, or of the Canadian Government, differing from those expressed by Mr. Lloyd George or Mr. Balfour. These being palpable facts, the question concerning the admission or exclusion of a Canadian representative at the Conference table is really of no importance. Representatives of the Dominions could only speak for a policy agreed upon and supported by the British Government. Whatever views are held by the Dominions' representatives will be expressed by them to the British Government, and of course all reasonable effort will be made to impress on the latter any Dominion interests that deserve consideration. After such discussion a conclusion will be reached which will be taken to the Conference by the delegate chosen to speak on that subject. No British representative—whether from the mother country or the colonies—will be permitted to advocate or propose any policy at variance with that so set forth.

Why, then, should anybody in Canada worry over the question of a Canadian representative having a seat at the Peace Conference?

Memorials

THERE are movements in many quarters looking towards the erection of monuments to mark Canada's part in the war. In Ottawa and Montreal there are cries for the construction of great public halls. Strange to say, it seems to be assumed in the capital city that such a monument will be constructed at

the expense, largely if not wholly, of the Dominion treasury. Writers in the Ottawa journals warmly condemn the idea of anything in the ordinary monumental line, and urge that something useful be provided, a great music hall preferably, or an hospital.

In all parts of Canada there will be a desire to erect structures which will remind future generations of Canada's part in the great war, of the men who fought and the men who died for the cause of freedom. Scores, nay hundreds, of such monuments will be raised in Canada within the next few years. A well-equipped hospital for the treatment of the sick is a form of memorial that will be widely approved. Something, perhaps, can be said, too, for great public halls designed to encourage the cultivation of music, and to provide larger accommodation for important public gatherings. Such buildings as Massey Hall in Toronto are certainly of much value in a large community. Several of our larger cities, Montreal included, are in need of such accommodation. But both hospitals and music halls are necessarily almost local in their character. The cities which desire their monuments to take these shapes should expect to pay for them, either by civic grant or by private subscription. The proposal, gravely made by some Ottawa writers, that the Dominion Government should provide the capital city with a music hall must produce many smiles.

If it be deemed expedient to have at Ottawa, as the capital, a monument of a national character, neither an hospital nor a music hall will fill the bill. Perhaps some other kind of institution, not local in its character, may be found possible. But while in the case of local monuments the practical and useful may be insisted on, in the case of a national monument at the capital there is no reason why, at the proper time, the artistic talent of the country should not be encouraged to offer suggestions and designs.

The British Elections

THE British elections are over, but not for some days will the country have details of the voting. It is a remarkable fact that only at this late day has the mother country adopted the principle of simultaneous polling, which has long prevailed in Canada. Here we have a vast territory, with limited facilities of communication, yet, with the exception of two or three isolated districts, we have been able to take the votes of the whole electorate on one day. In Great Britain, a comparatively small country, with the most perfect means of communication, the elections have hitherto been stretched over many days. Under that system many men were able to multiply their votes, having electoral rights in a number of districts. At last Great Britain has terminated this old and objectionable system and adopted simultaneous polling. But some days are allowed for the receiving of the votes of the absent soldiers, and in the meantime the counting of the votes is held in suspense.

While details of the voting are for this reason delayed, enough is known to make sure that the Coalition Government has been sustained by a large majority. Indeed, there never was any doubt of this result. The issues of the campaign were such that practically all Conservatives and Liberals became support-

ers of the Coalition, though some of the Liberals refused to pledge themselves to an unqualified support of Mr. Lloyd George. For the present the Coalition will be maintained. But the influences which operate to hold the two sections of the Cabinet together will gradually weaken. Before another election comes round, party lines will be shaped again. It is a fair prediction that Labor representation, which has increased so much in late years, will at the next contest be strong enough to challenge both the old parties. A Labor Government for Great Britain in the not distant future is not to be regarded as impossible.

Ireland

THE saddest feature of the election campaign that has just ended in the United Kingdom is that which discloses the political situation in Ireland. There were troublesome features in other quarters. There was dissension in the Liberal and Labor parties, and even the Conservative or Unionist party was not wholly united; but it was in Ireland that the most serious trouble was found. After long years of strife, a condition had been reached which seemed to promise an early realization of the Home Rule movement, for which so many Irishmen had labored. The Ulster objections to Home Rule had not been removed, but they had been much modified. The Dublin convention, though it had not led to an agreement, had brought about a much better feeling among the several sections of the people. Influential Southern Unionists had so modified their views as to encourage a hope that they would be able to co-operate with the Nationalists in working out some scheme of Home Rule. The majority of the people of England and Scotland had given evidence of their desire to go a long way towards meeting the wishes of the Irish majority. This promising situation seems likely to disappear as a result of the elections. Home Rule measures, as approved by the people of England and Scotland, and as accepted in principle by the Irish Nationalists, meant in all cases Home Rule within the British Empire. If the idea of separation from Great Britain had ever been seriously entertained it had been practically abandoned. Now the Nationalists, who labored for constitutional Home Rule, have had to engage in a struggle with the disloyal Sinn Fein section, and the indications are that the latter are to be successful. The Sinn Fein party put candidates in the field everywhere, who seem to have captured the support of the electors. Twenty-two of their candidates were elected to the House of Commons by acclamation. The Nationalist leaders are likely to be defeated. Not more than a dozen of the Nationalists, it is believed, can hold their seats. The Nationalist party may be almost wiped out, and in their place we shall find the Sinn Fein men, who insist that Ireland shall be entirely cut off from British connection. These men, though elected, will not take their seats at Westminster. It is their policy to stay away from Parliament, as a protest against British connection of any kind. The British public opinion that had been won for the Home Rule cause will naturally resent the attitude of the disloyal section. Home Rule, such as sane men have long labored for, seems likely to be put back again, perhaps for a long period.

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