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NOTICE TO READERS.

THE ANGLO-SAXON goes regularly, to Sons of England lodges and branches of the St. George's Society in all parts of Manitoba, the British North West Territories of Canada, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island; to branch societies of the Sons of St. George in all parts of the United States, to Clubs, Reading Rooms, Emigration Societies and similar institutions in Great Britain and Ireland, and to British citizens generally throughout Canada, the States, Great Britain and the Empire.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

LIBERAL AND RADICAL.

Last month there took place a somewhat interesting electoral contest for the representation of the constituency of Bradford, east division, England. It was a triangular fight and very well illustrates the unfriendly feeling which now exists betwixt the two wings of the Liberal party. Not only do divided councils prevail among the leaders, but the rank and file have their feuds also. The candidates were Greville, (Unionist) Billson (Liberal) and Kier Hardie (Radical). The latter gentleman, who had experienced defeat at the general election, was the nominee of the Bradford Liberal and Independent Labour party who plainly declared that their intention was to "burst up the Liberal party, and clear away the hypocritical show."

The contest had also its comical side in the mottoes and literature of the contending candidates. In one of the cartoons issued on Kier Hardie's behalf a grave was depicted, on the headstone of which occurred the words:—"In memory of the Manchester School of politicians who died July, 1896, at the general election." Mr. Billson came in for some good-natured chaff, as the following effusion testifies:—

Old Billson he has come again To gull the workingman, He'll keep us down to nothing but Cold water if he can. There's England for the Irishmen, And London for the Jews, But British Labour has to bear Debts, taxes and abuse. Good old Billson!

A Liberal orator referred to the Unionist candidate who was wealthy and fashionable as the "eight of clubs," the gentleman being a member of eight of these expensive resorts. On the other hand a conservative speaker proposed that Captain Greville would be turned up as ace of trumps on election day.

And so it turned out; the Conservatives won, and the Liberal show was "burst," when the following result of the polling was published:—

Table with 2 columns: Candidate Name and Votes. Greville 4,921; Billson 4,526; Kier Hardie 1,953.

These figures show plainly enough what might have been if Liberals and Radicals had been united, and confirm the following remarks of the Times in its issue of 18th Nov. last:—"For the present, and so far as can be seen, for a long time to come, the Unionists are unassailable in the House of Commons. Their adversaries have not only to reorganise the ranks shattered in the last campaign, but to discover a common rallying cry, which the various factions of their army can agree to shout together."

ENGLAND'S FOLLY.

In these columns we have on various occasions expressed ourselves to the effect that the Parliament and Government of England were extremely remiss in neglecting to take measures to protect their trade and industries from unfair foreign competition. Not long ago we were however told, by a very esteemed contributor to this journal, that "the sooner the friends of closer union recognise the fact, that sanity of mind is still retained by those who direct the commercial policy of Britain, the better it will be."

We do not remember having gone so far as to charge English statesmen with positive insanity on questions of poli-

tical economy. But in considering the above quotation we are reminded that there is such a thing as monomania, or derangement of mind with regard to one particular subject, and this seems to be the mild form of lunacy with which certain people and powers in England are afflicted, in their notions of what they are pleased to call "free trade." Because they attempted fifty years ago to establish this, their pet economic system, they fancy they have succeeded, although almost every other nation and nearly all their own colonies have rejected it. For what is trade in its international aspect? The exchange of commodities between nations; and what is free trade? The free interchange of such commodities. Can such free interchange exist without the co-operation of two nations? Certainly not, and unless England can find another nation willing to accept her products as freely as she allows entry into her own markets free trade cannot exist. What England enjoys to-day is not free trade but a system of free importation of foreign products while her own exports to other countries are far more heavily taxed now than ever they were since she began her "free trade" agitation. England is now farther than ever from true free trade, and, in supposing that she is in possession of it, she is labouring under a hallucination, which, the dictionary tells us, is "a perception of objects which have no reality."

Of course it is a very difficult matter to convince a monomaniac that he is "a little off," and just as hard to make English free traders believe that their country is less prosperous than it should be. But the warning voices are becoming quite numerous. In a recent letter to the Times, Sir Howard Vincent states that for the twelve months ending 30th September the importation of foreign manufactures into Great Britain exceeded £81,000,000, or close upon £10,000,000 more than in the preceding year. In our last issue we gave an extract from Lord Rosebery's speech at Epsom, and more recently, at Colchester on the 20th October, his Lordship returns to the charge in the following words:—

Whenever any body raises a cry of foreign competition they are at once crushed by the declaration that England never was so moneyed and prosperous as now. Whether that prosperity and wealth rest on an absolutely sure and stable foundation, I will not at this moment stop to enquire. But what I am sure of is this—that we are being cut out, in some of the markets of the world, by foreign competition entirely owing to the want of the commercial and technical education, which you in Colchester are determined to apply to your fellow citizens.

His Lordship is also moved to ask:—"Cannot the Government order an inquiry into the facts of this matter?" This is the regulation method of the English politician for indefinitely postponing the settlement of a troublesome question. But Lord Rosebery ought to know that it is not available in this instance. Ten years ago a Royal Commission, "appointed to enquire into the Depression of Trade and Industry," completed its report which exhaustively discussed the whole subject, including that of technical education, regarding which the Commission concludes as follows:—

In the matter of education we seem to be particularly deficient as compared with some of our foreign competitors; and this remark applies not only to what is usually called technical education, but to the ordinary commercial education which is required in mercantile houses, and especially the knowledge of foreign languages.

The report of this Commission shows that the time for enquiry is past, and that full enquiry has been made not only regarding the deficiencies in education above referred to, but also with reference to the other causes which in the opinion of the Commission have contributed to bring about industrial depression in England. Among these are mentioned fraudulent marking, royalties on minerals, difficulties connected with inland railway carriage, deterioration in the quality of English goods, over-production, etc., but one of the special causes of the depression is stated by the Commission in the following passages:—

We are disposed to think that one of the chief agencies which have tended to perpetuate this state of things is the protectionist policy of so many foreign countries which has become more marked during the last ten years than at any previous period of similar length. The high prices which protection secures to the producer within the protected area naturally stimulate production and impel him to engage in competition in foreign markets. The surplus production which cannot find a market at home is sent abroad, and in foreign markets under-sells the commodities produced under less artificial conditions. . . . Our trade with foreign countries is becoming less profitable in proportion as their markets are becoming more difficult of access owing to restrictive tariffs. . . . Further, in neutral markets, such as our own colonies and dependencies, and especially in the East, we are beginning to feel the effects of foreign competition in quarters where our trade formerly enjoyed a practical monopoly.

These extracts are from the majority

report, and, since its publication, foreign competition has not only been severely felt by English merchants in the markets above mentioned, but it has invaded England itself in an unheard of degree, as has been shown by Sir Howard Vincent and others. The fact of there being a perfectly open market there for the excess in production of all the world has encouraged the foreign manufacturer to keep his men and machinery at work, and to sacrifice in England the goods he cannot sell at good prices in his own country. It is well known that manufacturers of various commodities in England live in constant fear of spasmodic foreign importations which often completely derange their market and dissipate their expectations of profit.

In speaking before the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce on the 13th June, Mr. Chamberlain made light of German competition and other "bogeys" as he called them. He was however forced to admit that the returns which he had received from the Colonies in reply to his circular "do show that in certain branches of our trade, in particular industries, in particular classes of goods, we have been outstripped by our competitors, and have lost trade which we ought to have maintained." But this loss, Mr. Chamberlain attributes to inability or unwillingness on the part of English manufacturers to comply with the requirements of their customers, or as he called it, "the too great independence of our manufacturing population." Like Lord Rosebery and some other English statesmen he is prepared to lay the blame on every cause except the right one, in order that his favorite free trade policy may not be discredited.

We hope in future issues to place before our readers the details of some disastrous interferences by foreign producers with the natural course of trade in England. Meanwhile we desire to point out the supreme inconsistency and cowardice of parties and politicians now in power there, who can see their free trade principles trodden under foot by the foreigner, and their agriculture and manufactures suffering in the unfair strife, without making the slightest effort to cure the evil by administering to alien manufacturers a dose of their own medicine. This utter disregard of everyday experience on the part of the home authorities, and inattention to the warnings they are constantly receiving is simply astonishing. We who have also tendered counsel which has remained unheeded, may comfort ourselves with the reflection contained in a very old proverb:—"Against stupidity the gods themselves contend in vain."

THE B. E. LEAGUE IN CANADA.

The Executive Committee of the British Empire League in Canada has recently issued a pamphlet in which are detailed its origin, constitution and by-laws. We regret exceedingly to be obliged to call the attention of our readers to certain very grave omissions in this publication, which completely ignores what were understood to be the distinctive features of the Canadian Branch. When, on the 4th March last the latter gave up its old name of the Imperial Federation League in Canada it did not give up its old principles, and, as Sir Donald A. Smith pointed out, in adopting a new title "The Canadian Association did not give up anything for which it contended before."

The old League contended for preferential trade betwixt British nations, the abolition of treaty restrictions which prevent this, as well as the establishment of an Imperial Tariff for defence, and adopted, at one time or another, very distinct resolutions in favor of these. But there is no mention of these measures in the Constitution of the British Empire League now published, and we are forced to the conclusion that they have been abandoned and that the programme of the B. E. League in England has been adopted by the authorities of the Canadian Branch without any reservation or modification whatever.

That there may be no mistake on this subject we here place before our readers the resolutions above referred to, taken from the proceedings at various annual meetings of the old Canadian Federation League:—

24th March, 1888. That the Imperial Federation League in Canada make it one of the objects of their organization to advocate a trade policy between Great Britain and her Colonies, by means of which a discrimination in the exchange of natural and manufactured products will be made in favor of one another and against foreign nations.

30th January, 1890. That in view of the termination of the Commercial Treaties between Great Britain and

European states in 1892, and of the fact that certain of those treaties, notably that with Belgium (1862) and that with the states of the Zollverein (1866) exclude the right of Great Britain and her Colonies to discriminate in favor of one another and against foreign nations, the Imperial Federation League in Canada trusts that, in order that no such obstacle may henceforth stand in the way of our adopting such a commercial policy as the interests of our Empire may render needful, all commercial treaties affecting fiscal arrangements shall contain a proviso that no favored nation clause granted to any foreign states shall in future apply to preferential arrangements made between the countries of the Empire.

29th May, 1894. That any scheme of Imperial Federation should embrace a Commercial Union as necessary to its strength and permanence; that such union should be based as nearly as practicable upon freer trade throughout the Empire, and upon the imposition of a small extra duty on foreign imports, with few exceptions, to provide funds for Imperial Defence.

It will be observed that the old League spoke with no uncertain sound regarding these important matters. It is very different with the new constitution, in which the only reference to any of them is in a promise to consider how to modify the objectionable treaties. We refrain at present from further comment on the action of the Executive Committee, in the hope that it will take the earliest opportunity of extricating itself from the unfortunate position which it has assumed. No doubt the mistake has been committed out of deference to the wishes of the leaders of the League in England, but we would remind the Committee that the home federationists have not been found to be the best guides in the past, and that Sir John Lubbock has never spoken out distinctly on inter-British trade relations. Indeed in an article which appeared in a London periodical, regarding the water supply and Sir John Lubbock's letter to the Times on that subject, it is stated that "the late Cardinal Manning once remarked to the writer that Sir John Lubbock always struck a low note upon a public question."

PROHIBITION.

A few months ago the Toronto Globe invited communications from its readers regarding prohibition, the loss of revenue which it would cause, and the best means of making up that loss. Taking both customs and excise into account it is supposed that total and immediate prohibition would occasion a deficiency in revenue to the extent of \$7,000,000, a trifling sum certainly to the temperance man and social reformer, but one of some magnitude to a finance minister, however gritty his character may be.

In response to the Globe's invitation numerous suggestions were made, mostly with reference to economy in expenditure. It was thought that superannuation might be abolished, that some civil servants might be dismissed, and the salaries of the rest reduced, that two-thirds of the Customs officials might be discharged or that the Senate might be done away with. As regards new sources of revenue a land tax and a duty on patent medicines were mentioned. Direct taxation was suggested in a hazy half-hearted way, but it seemed to be tacitly admitted that such a step could scarcely be undertaken by the Dominion Government without seriously interfering with provincial rights.

In its issue of 9th December the Globe has an article on the subsidies to the provinces now amounting to about four, and a quarter million dollars annually, and admits that one of its correspondents has made out a fair case for their discontinuance, independent of any connection with the abolition of the liquor traffic. In this case there cannot be much doubt in the minds of reasonable men as to how in the latter event, the financial difficulty is to be met. Those who advocate prohibition may as well make up their minds at once that that measure will necessitate at the same time the abolition of provincial subsidies.

FAST AND LOOSE.

The Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain has had a severe chill; not physically, but in that higher mental region where enthusiasm is supposed to reside. It is only a few months ago that this element in his character was warm and vigorous, and apparently capable of unlimited expansion. But it would seem as if the modern political doctrine of Limited Liability, according to which a government should assume as little responsibility as possible, had been invoked to repress his aspirations for the

development of the Imperial Estate, and as if his enterprise had been checked in that direction. It may be worth while to attempt a history of his case, and find out if possible why it could have been that

"repressed his noble rage and froze the genial current of the soul."

It was in Nov. 1895, over a year ago, that Mr. Chamberlain began that series of speeches by which he frightened "the isle from her propriety," and set expectation on tiptoe throughout the Empire regarding his designs. He revived the words "Imperial Federation" and spoke of it as a "dream" worthy of realisation. On the occasion of the opening of the Natal Railway he stated that the Mother Country rejoiced greatly at the wider patriotism embracing the whole of Greater Britain, and that the man must be blind who did not see that Imperial Federation had impressed itself on the mind of the English speaking race. In Jan., 1896, at the Leamington banquet, Mr. Chamberlain spoke of the existence of a creative time, of an opportunity which might never again recur for consolidating the peoples of the Empire.

It was however at the Canada Club dinner on the 23rd March, that Mr. Chamberlain gave utterance to his most decided expressions; then it was that he referred to Sir John A. Macdonald as "that most Imperially-minded man" and again brought forward Imperial Federation as a problem to be attacked along the line of least resistance. He characterised the German Zollverein as a great example for our study and imitation, and showed that "starting as it did on a purely commercial basis and for commercial interests, it developed until it became a bond of unity and the foundation of the German Empire."

The subject was to be approached from its commercial side, and four propositions were laid down in the last of which it was conceded that free trade throughout the Empire would involve the imposition of duties against foreign countries. Perhaps the most important statement Mr. Chamberlain made in this speech is the following:—"But the principle which I claim must be accepted if we are to make any, even the slightest, progress is that within the different parts of the Empire protection must disappear, and that the duties must be revenue duties, and not protective duties in the sense of protecting the products of one part of the Empire against those of another part. It seems to me that if that principle were adopted there would be reason for calling a council of the Empire."

It will be seen that at the Canada Club dinner the enthusiasm was at its highest, and the temperature such as to provoke alarm on the part of the economic doctors of the Cobden Club. Whether they were the cause is not evident, but it is certain that from this time refrigeration began, and while the delegates were hastening to the Congress of Chambers of Commerce in June, some of them anticipating the acceptance by it of the new commercial gospel, Mr. Chamberlain was preparing a wet blanket with which he effectually moderated their zeal. The Congress was told that absolute and immediate Inter-Imperial free trade was indispensable, that the colonies must take the initiative and as for the Council of the Empire it did not even receive "honourable mention." The same process of cooling down has since continued as is proved by Mr. Chamberlain's letter to Lord Winchelsea already mentioned in our columns. Later still, on the 13th November before the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce Mr. Chamberlain spoke thus:—"We in our colonial policy, as fast as we acquire new territory and develop it, develop it as trustees of civilisation for the commerce of the world. We offer in all these markets over which our flag floats the same opportunities, the same open field, to foreigners that we offer to our own subjects, and upon the same terms." In this quotation we have the proof that Mr. Chamberlain's patriotic enthusiasm has cooled down to the level of the crudest cosmopolitanism. Here there is also evidence that, even if it were possible for the Colonies to adopt free trade with the mother country forthwith, still the imposition by her of duties against foreign countries would not be forthcoming.

This relation must we think have served to convince our readers that Mr. Chamberlain has "gone back" on himself, and abandoned his principles of twelve months ago. Is this change to be attributed to the influence of his colleagues in the Government? It may be, but it is worth pointing out that the greatest retrogradation took place between the time of the Chambers of Commerce meeting and the date of the letter to Lord Winchelsea, which was written shortly

after Mr. Chamberlain the United States. Is his stay there may have opinions; that his An may have succeeded in to the disadvantage of was the case with 1 when the interests o sacrificed in the set boundary question? this may to some exte case, we still indulge t great Englishman will these and similar m and cease to play "fa the greatest materi highest political as communities of the E

THE MESSAGE.

We observe that M of the Canadian Coll undertaken to rehear work before an Otta the 29th inst. No th appropriate than Ch this performance, and Mr. Birch on his en practical expression thought." We trust no reason to regret bringing the "Messi House, and that it well received there do" not long ago.

We understand th agent ability have occasion, and that several weeks past. up of the musical ar belonging to almo denomination, and pleasing to see and together in unit It is related of h performance of thi fore George II, th mented him saying, us' very much," to retorted, "Your M wish to please, but We hope that the the 29th December the Capital, and th orders, including t ers of Old England merely to be pleas to join in sympathy citizens when they for the Lord God ath!"

A Hundred Years in Upper

At the recent founding of Upper Governor Kirkpat following eloquent

"Let us all ende thing of the early try; and see what have done for th we think of the we ought to feel has come over th ferently we trav those magnificent railways. How d transit had Sim of Parliament w come and give h advice in Niagara and literature h agriculture, com tures have all a this country one ous and content face of the glo all the comfort homes that are menh Province rich fields of w ber herds of cat ture lands, a wealth, we ought pleased. We ar ous and content fearing people.

"Anyone who try sees on every their spires poin ing the people. There are man might refer for this country is Let us think o our ancestors, troubles which this country in us be thankful mains true to man upheld. I and woman an as far as in us to keep this co flag. I feel t be permitted this important vince of Onta the successors I hope that th of office will be further perpet here, and that valuable herit our children's unsmiled."