

## The Planet.

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A. STEPHENSON - Proprietor.

## A WISE PAIR OF KINGS.

The world is very curious as to what took place in the cabin of the Polar Star the other night. The conference between the two sovereigns occurred, like the burial of Sir John Moore, darkly at dead of night, and that in itself makes it more portentous. The good guessers offer a new theory every day. The Kaiser counselled peace with Japan and reforms at home. He had an axe of his own to grind—he wants a Hohenzollern prince on the throne of Norway, and he is willing to pay Cousin Nicholas a size of Norwegian territory for his good offices.

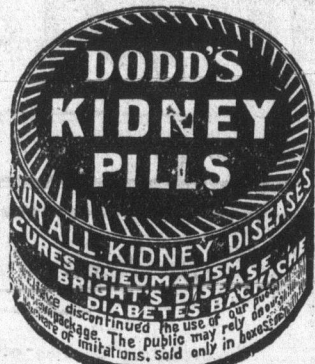
It makes very little difference what was said by him of the Mailed Fist to his brother of the Weak Back, but there is food for laughter in the spectacle of these crowned anachronisms getting together on the sly and shaking their fists at destiny. If anything, the Kaiser looks a little more ridiculous than the Czar, because his assumption is greater. William II. aspires to be a sort of universal mentor. His advice to the Czar was in a way gratuitous. At least it would be characteristic of the German Emperor to let his Russian conferees know that he had wisdom on tap, and that all he had to do was to turn the faucet. As a matter of fact the Kaiser must often feel oppressed by his own sagacity. To such a man it is positive torture to keep quiet. Hence all this solicitude for the Czar. If the Kaiser couldn't get his big thoughts out of his system they would suppurate, and he might end in the insane asylum.

It seems quite probable that the Kaiser advised the Czar to grant reforms which would prevent the spread of Socialism in Russia and Germany. The Kaiser is bright enough to see the danger in front of his nose, but his advice looks very much like looking the stable after the horse is stolen. Socialism is bound to spread in spite of all the monarchs in the world. It is the shape the spirit of liberty takes when it is cribbed and confined by the restraints of arbitrary power. When it has accomplished its constitutional objects it adopts a less positive guise, is known as democracy, and acts as a wholesome check on any encroachments that might threaten responsible government. William and Nicholas can no more stay the spread of Socialism—which is democracy rampant—than they can keep the rain from falling or the wind from blowing. Wherever liberty is in chains there, by the law of compensation, there must be Socialism. When the Kaiser told the Czar to throw sops to the people, and so prevent the downfall of autocracy, he did about as wise a thing as Canute, who bade the flood tide back out of his royal presence. —Toronto Star.

## A GOOD OUTLOOK.

In commenting on the bountiful harvests and the effect that they will have in manufacturing districts, the Buffalo Express furnishes some valuable information and statistical figures which demonstrates the splendid outlook for the Canadian and American farmers. It states that according to trade journals merchants in many agricultural communities are increasing their orders for fall and winter goods. It is expected that in other communities a similar course will be followed within a week or two, or as soon as it can be definitely known that spring wheat is practically out of danger. It will be recalled that about this time last year black rust appeared in the Northwest and this was largely responsible for the decline in the yield of spring wheat. Reports from the Northwest say that some fields are slightly spotted now, but it is not thought that the blight will become serious enough to cut the crop down to last year's figures. There would have been a loss of more than 70,000,000 bushels before those figures could be reached. Winter wheat is virtually out of danger, so if the weather is favorable in the next two weeks, we will have a total wheat crop of about 705,000,000 bushels.

In this connection it is important to note that recent despatches showed that the Russian Government estimates a fair yield of wheat in some sections of the empire, and a very large yield in others. Russia is one of the great exporters of grain. In the last fiscal year it ran far ahead of the United States in spite of the war. We exported only 4,291,061 bushels of wheat, as compared with eleven times that much in the preceding year, and 28 times as much in 1903. One must go back to 1866 to find figures nearly so low as last year, and then the exports



were 5,579,103 bushels. When flour is included the exhibit is somewhat better. Our exports of wheat last year, with that allowance, amounted to 43,797,178 bushels, as compared with 120,241,719 in 1904, and 200,946,962 in 1903. Not since 1872, have the exports of wheat and flour combined fallen below those of the year just ended. In 1872 the total was 37,738,487. With a crop of more than 700,000,000 bushels, we will have about 150,000,000 bushels for export, and in addition some 60,000,000 bushels which are now in store or moving towards the market, and which have come over from the last crop. Attention is also called to the fact that our corn exports in the year just ended amounted to 88,505,867 bushels, as compared with 55,606,354 in the preceding year. This gain of more than 30,000,000 bushels probably was largely due to the shortage in the wheat crop. This year a much larger corn harvest than that of last year is indicated. It will be interesting to observe what effect on prices this abundance of grain will have, particularly if Russian crops turn out as predicted.

## NEEDED REFORM.

One of the weak points in connection with the imperial parliamentary system is brought into prominence by the present situation. In pursuance of his threat, John Redmond, the Irish Nationalist leader, aided and abetted by the Liberals, is obstructing business. One of the results of this is said to be that a number of important bills in the interest of municipalities must go over until next session, causing vexatious delays in the prosecution of public works that have been planned. These are measures that would be better in the care of a legislative body other than the House of Commons, suggests the Hamilton Herald. It should not be required of the men who are elected to manage the affairs of the empire that they devote so much of their time to "parish politics." The reform that seems to be needed is the creation of bodies similar to the Provincial Legislatures in the Dominion, and the transfer to them of supervision over matters of a purely local character in which no imperial interests are involved. There are obstacles to this change, it is true, not the least of which is the conservatism that is so dominant a characteristic of the British nation, but the demand for it is likely to grow more insistent as the manifest defects of the existing system are disclosed more clearly.



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## DEVONSHIRE'S MOTION

Lord Minto Declares It to Be Cold Rebuff to Colonies.

Former Governor General of Canada Takes Up Cudgels in the House of Lords—Motion Disapproving Chamberlain's Proposal Finally Lost by 121 to 57—Fierce Attacks Made Up on Chamberlain and Balfour.

London, July 28.—The dullness of the House of Lords was somewhat relieved when the Duke of Devonshire spoke to his motion calling attention to Mr. Chamberlain's recent utterances and expressing disapproval of any proposal to establish a general penal tariff or to give any colony a preferential tariff based on taxation of food. He asked the Ministers whether they intended to put any proposals before the Colonial conference if it met.

Before the present Government went out of office he was anxious to know whether Mr. Balfour's and Mr. Chamberlain's policies were now merged into one. If so, was it by Mr. Chamberlain relinching or Mr. Balfour advancing. He thought there was a good deal of evidence to show that Mr. Chamberlain had captured Mr. Balfour.

Mr. Chamberlain cared nothing for retaliation. His policy was one of encouragement by his silence. He was not surprised at Mr. Chamberlain's audacious claim that the Prime Minister's policy was practically the same as his own.

Lord Minto, in moving the amendment, said the Duke of Devonshire's resolution could only be taken as a cold rebuff by our kinsmen beyond the seas. The idea of preferential trade with the mother country was one which had most fascinated the politicians of Canada. It represented to them their opinion on the solution of the difficulty. Before he left the Dominion, Chambers of Commerce and other manufacturing bodies were unanimously in favor of it. They could not afford to treat this Imperial question without full acquaintance with the sentiment of the Colonies.

Lord Robertson fiercely attacked both Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Balfour. He urged the Conservative party to make it clear it was not a tool of Mr. Chamberlain, and to put an end to the reign of quackery.

Lord Goschen's View. Lord Goschen found fault with Mr. Balfour's reticence and obscurity. He asked for a frank and unreserved declaration of the views of the Government. He believed the Colonies, before sending representatives, would prefer to know the exact policy advocated by the home Government.

Lord Lansdowne scouted the idea that the Government should pass a sentence of political outlawry on Mr. Chamberlain. They would stand by their supporters as long as their supporters stood loyally by them, even though some might go a little further than the Government did. The Government thought it would not be politic to intimate in advance that it was intended to rule out certain questions as being of a kind the conference should not be allowed to discuss.

The motion was met by moving the previous question and was lost by 121 to 57.

## WAR CORRESPONDENT

Continued from Page 9.

or the necessity of it—invades the brain."

"To come back from the East and those appalling battlefields to this gray London must be a confusing change for you?" I suggested.

"It is curious you should say that," he said: "for I have felt this time in coming back to London that it is like coming home to a people whose life is played out, whose day is only illusion. But the East seems to me to be palpitating with life, filled with vitality, and awaking as it were, to great destiny. Here—it may be merely force of contrast—the people seem to be relapsing into a drugged sleep, sick of all the clamor and action of life. The streets of London, after the color of the East are grimly depressing."

Mr. Maxwell does not regard war with the horror and detestation of Mr. Sted. He admits that fighting is a clumsy way of settling a dispute, but he holds convincingly that only by war is a nation roused out of perilous lethargy. He does not take a pessimistic view of England, but he is sure that London thinks far too much of its pleasures and its comforts, and far too little of its duties and its responsibilities. Outside London is the real England, the real physical and warrior England, but it is in the Colonies, more than in the shires of England, that he sees the strong assurance of an Imperial destiny.

A quiet, slow-speaking, genial-souled man, clean-shaven and high-browed, with shrewd blue eyes behind pince-nez and a mouth that has the humor smiling at the corners. A man below the middle height, with light hair changing early to gray, and a countenance bitten and scarred by all the winds and suns of the round globe. A wise and quiet man, able to keep his own counsel, and able to shape his own destiny, and get his own ends with few words. The friend of princes and ambassadors, one who has played a strong part in recent European diplomacy, a man with infinite moods and endless resource, but with this, and above all else, a gypsy, and so the greatest of specials.

St. Catharines Journal. The Mikado of Japan has been purchasing some Kentucky race horses. This should enable his countrymen to keep in touch with the retreating Russians. Some people seem to keep their affections on ice.

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## DAYS OF AULD LANG SYNE

Continued from Page 9.

and Mr. Merrill, neither of which birds, however, were pure blooded. They fought "gamy" and we are told that John Smith, Mayor of Chatham, backed Mr. Merrill's bird, while Mr. Mason backed his own. The result of this battle was that the Merrill cock came off victorious. Mr. James Higgins, councillor for Chrysler Ward, now brought forth a game bird which was pitted against the winner. Merrill's bird evidently did not relish this move and finally turned tail to the thoroughbred and dropped its pinfeathers. So our informant says the two cockfights—the first mains we believe that ever came off in this vicinity—terminated.

## WAITING FOR THE MESSAGE

A school teacher was instructing a class in the elements of physiology, and told the lads that whenever they moved an arm, finger or leg it was in response to a message from the brain.

Later in the day one of the youngsters violated the rectorum of the school by propelling a soaked sponge into the hair of another lad, and was called to the front.

"Hold out your hand," said the teacher, as she picked up a ruler and prepared to do sundry damage. The boy glanced at the floor, but did not extend his hand.

"Do you hear me, Willie?" cried the teacher, impatiently, "why don't you hold out your hand?"

"I am waiting for the message from the brain," was the serious reply of little Willie. — Philadelphia Telegraph.

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