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MR. KIPLING'S SPEECH.

The observations made by Mr. Rudyard Kipling at the Canadian Club luncheon, though brief, were full of interest. His statement that he hoped to be able to give his impressions of Canada in some other form than in a brief speech at the close of a luncheon will be welcome news to Canadians everywhere, and we think to all English-speaking people. Mr. Kipling's pen illuminates every subject which it touches, and it will be a great gain to the Empire to have the opportunity of learning his matured views of Canada's place in the world.

Another feature of his address was his reference to the beauties of Victoria and the attractiveness of British Columbia generally. He spoke, not as a casual observer of things or one who has seen little and had few facilities to learn what the world is like, but as a man of keen powers of observation, who has visited many lands and who knows that what he says will be widely read. These considerations make the expression of his views the more valuable and will give them great weight wherever they are known.

But the most important thing he had to say, what we may really call his message to the people of Canada, was his statement that the time is even now at hand when we must choose whether this is to be a land inhabited by the British race, or one in which peoples, alien to us in language, habits of thought and racial characteristics, will predominate. He stated the case strongly, but, we who are in touch with the trend of events, know that he did so none too strongly. It would be a very unfortunate thing for the Empire, and especially for Canada, if, when there are tens of thousands of people in the British Isles, sprung from the same lineage as ourselves, and inheriting from long lines of ancestry the faculty of self-government and an appreciation of the true significance of the word "law," who would be glad to come to this favored land and aid in the great work of Empire-building, we shall prove unequal to the task of bringing them here, and permit the places that they could so worthily fill, to be occupied by Orientals. The Colonist hopes that Mr. Kipling's words on this subject, and such other utterances as he may find it possible to make upon it, will influence the British, Canadian and provincial governments, and lead to effective action being taken.

THE BOWSER BILL.

The Westminster News lays down the law and the constitution in regard to Mr. McBride's duty in connection with th Bowser bill with all the perfervidness of an amateur. It has evolved the astounding proposition that if Mr. McBride had refused to consent to the bill being reserved for the consideration of the governor-general, it would have been the lieutenant-governor's duty either to have assented to it or to have resigned, after he had gone through the formality of calling on some one else to form a government, which, it says, no one else would have done. May we remind the News, also, that the constitution is not altogther a "hass?" The constitution requires tomfoolery of no man, even though he may be a lieutenant-governor. The same process of reasoning, which would compel the resignation of a lieutenant-governor under such circumstances, would compel the abdication of the king, if he could not find in the legislature a minister who would assume the responsibility of his acts. This is a contingency that is not likely to occur under any conceivable circumstances, but if it did occur, it is absurd to say that the king would have to abdicate. But in the discussion of the Bowser bill we are not forced to consider any analogy between the lieutenant-governor's position and that of the king. The lieutenant-governor owes his official existence to the British North American Act, and that Act expressly provides that he shall be the appointee of the Dominion government and defines his duties. He is absolutely under the control of the Dominion government, which can remove him at its pleasure. This being the case, his duties, so far as they are the result of his relation to the Dominion government, are exercised subject to the paramount control of the Dominion government. Let us test the theory advanced by the News, not by a suppositiious case but by that of the Bowser bill. Let us grant that what the News says ought to have happened did happen, and that Lieutenant-Governor Dunsmuir's action met with the entire approval of the Dominion government, as we have no doubt it did as it was in line with the past action of that government, and let us suppose that his resignation reached the Governor-General. What would he do with it? Would he accept it, and if so would he appoint as Mr. Dunsmuir's successor a man who would go contrary to the policy of the Dominion government? If this is the way the constitution would work out, the provision authorizing a lieutenant-governor to reserve a bill until the pleasure of the governor-general shall be known is absolutely meaningless.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

Upon this page will be found an article published in the London Standard from the pen of Mr. A. J. Dawson, author of "The Message," and the representative of the Standard in the party of British journalists, who were the guests of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, on a recent transcontinental tour. We need hardly ask for its careful perusal, for the name of the talented writer will secure that. The value of such an article, published in a paper of the standing of the Standard, cannot easily be overestimated. Comparisons are proverbially odious, and therefore we shall not say that Mr. Dawson has succeeded in compressing into comparatively small space the most appreciative and complete exposition of the advantages, which British Columbia offers to emigrants from the United Kingdom that has yet seen print; we shall content ourselves with saying that this work has never been better done. It is an inspiring thing to our own people to read what such a competent observer has felt able to say of our province. It is true in all lines of action and thought that familiarity breeds contempt, and although none of us despise our province, to many of us the knowledge of its possibilities is so much a part of our daily life, the presentation of them has become so backneyed, and our ability to appreciate them fully has been so imperfectly developed for lack of opportunity to compare what we have with what other countries possess, that it is necessary for some one like Mr. Dawson to state our case for us in order that we may fully grasp the nature of the obligations which those possibilities carry with them. These have been well expressed by Mr. Dawson in the closing sentence of his article. In view of the future importance of the Pacific Ocean in the affairs of mankind, it has seemed to the Colonist, and we have frequently urged, that it is an Imperial duty, resting upon all in whose hands is the present responsibility for the preservation of the Empire, to see that on this western seaboard of Canada, the greatest Imperial Frontier, a British population is placed in possession of the land.

THE GARDEN OF CANADA.

A. J. Dawson in the London Standard.

Westward of the old settled provinces of Canada "The Coast" has but one meaning in this country. It means the Pacific coast of Canada, the western frontier of the British empire, our one Pacific seaboard. Generally speaking, also, it means Victoria, the capital and seat of British Columbian provincial government, and Vancouver city, the uprising port, which at least one notable student and pioneer of Canadian development has placed with three others—Winnipeg, Fort William and Montreal—as the Dominion's greatest cities of the future.

There are those who affirm with confidence that before long the main transcontinental C. P. R. line will carry its western terminus past Vancouver city to the capital of the province in Vancouver island; the beautiful, homelike city of Victoria, which, while geographically further than any other place in Canada from the mother country, is, perhaps, nearer to the old land in spirit, in climate, in outward seeming and inward feeling, than any other spot in British North America.

This work with the necessary bridges, would involve an outlay of several millions sterling, probably a minimum of five or six millions. But the Canadian Pacific railway is a corporation which more, perhaps, than any other in the world, is accustomed to big undertakings, and its past history as a leading agency in the development of this wonderful country is a sufficient guarantee that when the time is ripe for such a movement the C. P. R. will not be found in the rear of opportunity. In this it should be safe to rely upon the energy and enterprise of a company which today, in its determination to cope, as far as possible, with the bewildering rapid growth and development of Canada's huge wheat belt, is positively turning out from its Angus works in Montreal one complete new freight car every hour, one complete train every day.

And still the golden west clamors for greater transport facilities, even though there are four lesser transcontinental lines in the making; even though C. P. R. spur lines are being thrust out as fast as men can lay the rails in every direction. Still the western output and the western demand need more and more transport. The natural wealth is here in boundless quantity, cries the west. Give us only three things; more men to extract this wealth, to reap this golden harvest; more capital—for which we will gladly pay a higher rate of interest than any old-world people can offer—for the handling of these huge resources; more transportation for the yield of our teeming lands, and for our domestic and industrial supplies. Finely the C.P.R. answers to the call of the west; but great though its work has been, the task is hardly begun yet. Promptly the shrewd farmers of the United States respond to the tempting call of the west for men and money; for the plain business reason that the American never presents a deaf ear to a really sound, money-making proposition.

And, with regard to the attitude of the capitalists and the overcrowded millions of workers in Canada's motherland, their response is better and bigger than it was, but it still falls far short, indeed, of adequate recognition of the marvellous opportunities offered today by the Canadian west. It still leaves a portentously big share of the cream to men of other lands, some of whom sit in city offices under foreign flags, and, by the manipulation of capital, amass great wealth out of Canada; while others, after spying out of the richest sections of this modern El Dorado, settle here with their families, their capital, their stock, and their experience of the similar but inferior lands south of the dividing line, and, recognising promptly the overwhelming advantages of this country, become good naturalised Canadians while making their fortunes here.

And these are reflections which come to the visitor from England, to the full as strongly in this beautiful Pacific province of British Columbia as in the prairie provnces ,Canada's illimitable wheatfeld, her ranching country, or her more closely settled eastern lands. Here one or two plain facts demand mention, if only as reminders.

British Columbia is the largest province of the Dominion; its area approaches 400,000 square miles. It contains more untouched and even unexplored territory than any other province. It is more diversified and richer in scenic beauty than any other province, and its climate is more genially temperate than that of any other part of the continent. On the coast it is the climate of England, improved and made less changeable. In the dry belt it is more like the Rivera climate, but more exhilarating. British Columbia contains the grandest mountains and much of the finest timber in North America; its rivers and lakes—in which it is marvellously rich—are literally teeming with the finest kinds of fish. A single river, the Columbia, flows through no fewer than six hundred miles of the province. As evidence of the variety and kindliness of its climate, British Columbia produces the finest apples, grapes, peaches, nectarines and strawberries in Canada, while its grains, dairy and general farm produce could hold their own in any market in the world. In fish, in lumber, in minerals, and in fruit, British Columbia is probably the richest part of North America, and the least developed. Yet, despite the scarcity of labor—the whole vast province contains no more than a quarter of a million people—and the untouched condition of the great bulk of its resources, the trade of British Columbia is absolutely the largest in the world per head of population. This trade has increased by ten million dollars during the past two years, and still, to all intents and purposes, this beautiful treasure-house is virgin soil.

Eastward of the Rockies lies one of the most progressive, the richest, and most rapidly growing markets in the whole world; the great wheat belt, into which hundreds of thousand of new settlers are pouring each year. No limit can be set upon the demand in that great market for fish, fruit, and lumber, and dairy produce. And yet, so far from competition is British Columbia that at present it producers are not able to cope with the demands of their home markets. For example: mining is one of British Columbia's greatest industries, its mountains being very rich in coal, gold, silver, copper and other valuable minerals. In this happy province the miner, according to the skilled or unskilled nature of his work, is paid wages at the rate of from 13s. to 40s. per day of eight hours. Near the Crow's Neat Pass I spoke with a miner, who, out of his wages alone, had saved $750 in three years, while living on a scale of lavishness unknown to his class in the Old World.

As a class, these miners are great gourmands. They insist on having several kinds of meats, fruits, sweets, vegetables, and the like at every meal. They live in a land which produces these goods to perfection, and that, in many cases, almost within sight of the mines. Yet they eat many of these foods in preserved forms, and imported from outside the province at prices which simply startle one. After once grasping these things, the inquiring visitor is not altogether surprised to meet with men who are positively clearing one hundred, two hundred, and even three hundred pounds sterling per acre from their cultivated lands in British Columbia. I have been shown the actual figures in the accounts of men who are doing this.

Regarded as a field for British emigration, my inquiries convince me that British Columbia has few equals in the world. That she has any superiors I cannot believe; and my inquiries have embraced practically every walk of life known to this country. There are only two types of Britishers to whom one would hesitate to recommend British Columbia; and I am not sure whether these can fairly be advised to emigrate to any country. The idle man has no place here, unless, of course, he has money, in which case I do not think he could find a more delightful place in which to be idle, always assuming that he is of those who like to idle out of doors. The professional man or clerk who is determined to attempt no other kind of work or responsibility than that parlicular kind to which he has been accustomed at home—this gentleman may as well stay at home.

For the rest, British Columbia offers rare inducements to the man with capital, whether that capital be one hundred or one hundred thousand pounds. There are here unbounded opportunities for turning money into more money, both with and without labor. Innumerable resources await only capital; others cry aloud for capital and labor, from the lowest to the highest scale, and promise the richest kind of reward. Again, for the man without money, but with ability and willingness to work, British Columbia offers the highest rate of wages in America, and a wonderfully fine chance of becoming an employer, rather than an employee, within a remarkably short space of time.

The man who works is emphatically the man who rules in British Columbia, and nowhere in the world will the Britisher who is prepared to work at what offers receive a warmer welcome, or a greater surety of prosperity. Workers are badly needed in British Columbia. The country wants capital, and offers a wonderful return for capital. But above all else it wants workers in practically every field; and among workers I have not been able to learn of one solitary instance of a man in British Columbia who wishes to leave it for any other land.

British Columbia exercises its mind greatly over a certain problem—that of the immigration of Chinese and Japanese. It is a big problem for a country which, more than any other I know, is emphatically a white man's land. Even the layman can see one solution for this problem, and I think it is the best. The province must have labor. Its resources are such that it is able to offer labor a remarkably generous remuneration. (Even an unskilled Chinaman can earn $2 a week, "all found," in British Columbia.) It is for white labor in the overcrowded Old World, but more especially, of course, in Britain, to see to it that this demand is supplied. And, as I see it, the obvious duty, not alone of British statesmen and others in authority, but also of private citizens at home who desire to relieve our congested labor market and to help their less fortunate countrymen, is to see to it that those who wish to reach so bright a land of hope as British Columbia should be helped in every way to solve the problem before this particular province, while finding the happiest sort of solution for their own difficulties.

A. J. DAWSON.

THE LABOR PROBLEM

Rev. Dr. E. D. McLaren, General Secretary of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church, was recently on the Pacific Coast, and on his return to Toronto told the Globe of that city about some of his observations in regard to the labor situation here. The conclusion reached by him is that the West greatly needs labor, and he thinks it is the duty of the government to give its attention to some plan whereby men can be secured from Northern Europe. If they cannot be got in that quarter, he thinks we must look to Asia "through the guarded door." He says that he found practically no sentiment in the West in favor of unrestricted immigration of Orientals, and concludes that "the ethnic objection to the absolutely open door holds good." Without expressly saying so Dr. McLaren conveys the impression that he would not be unfavorable to permitting Oriental immigration up to a certain point, but he is not sufficiently clear in the expression of his views to enable anyone to say just where he thinks the line should be drawn in that respect.

Our own view is that Europe, and especially the United Kingdom, is the source to which we ought to look for the supply of labor. There can hardly be any intelligent man in British Columbia, who was resident here before the imposition of the $500 head tax on Chinese, who did not realize that there would be a shortage of unskilled labor, just as soon as the influx of Chinese was stopped. If any did not recognize this fact, it was because they did not give the matter sufficient thought. We had none too many unskilled workmen when Chinese came in by the ship load, and where it was expected we would get a supply, when the bars were put up against the Orient, was a matter upon which so far as we know very few people troubled themselves to express an opinion. Of all the pernicious notions, which fasten themselves upon men's minds, one of the most mischievous is that there is any special virtue in a statute, unless it is backed up by public action. We shut the Chinamen out, because we said that we did not want coolie competition, but as yet we have made no earnest effort to get any other kind of labor in its stead. Until we have done so and failed, it will be premature to talk about admitting Orientals through a "guarded door." We do not mean that Orientals ought not to be admitted at all, because there are certain classes who have and ought to have the free right to come and go as they please. What we do mean is that in our humble judgment, it is not desirable to admit any unskilled workmen from the Orient, until we have diligently endeavored to secure them from Europe. If we fill up the ranks of unskilled labor with Orientals, and this is what those people mean who talk about restricted immigration, or what Dr. McLaren calls "the guarded door," we may as well dismiss all hope of securing any considerable number of unskilled laborers from Europe, and it is false political economy to have at the basis of society a coolie class which cannot ascend into the higher ranks of labor, and into which men, who are unfortunate in other walks of life, will refuse for racial reasons to descend.

Let us endeavor to get the unskilled labor so much needed in this country first of all from the British Isles, where there must be tens of thousands of men, whose services would be valuable to British Columbia. If we cannot get the men we want there, let us see what can be done in the nations of northern Continental Europe. Let us exhaust every other expedient before turning to the Orient, for the day we decide that our industrial fabric shall rest upon Oriental unskilled labor, we will take the first step towards the Orientalizing of British Columbia.

ASIATIC EXCLUSION

The failure of the Nanaimo meeting, called to form an Oriental Exclusion League, and the practical failure of the movement in Victoria mean that the people in the two cities take very little stock in such a method of giving effect to public opinion. They realize that there is more involved in the question than a few extremists think, that it is something affecting all elements of the community, that the occasion is not one that demands any violent action and that the object of the exclusion movement is likely to be defeated if it is allowed to get into the hands of demagogues. The problem is not a local one. It effects every part of the British Dominion except the British Isles, and a few minor points. Australia, New Zealand and South Africa are as much concerned as Canada. Hence it is not a British Columbia question, still less is it a Victoria, Vancouver or Nanaimo question. It must be adjusted between governments, but in its adjustment effect must be given to the opinions of millions of people. Therefore we are glad that citizens are showing an unwillingness to treat it as a matter to be disposed of by a more or less injudicious agitation and the making of inflammatory speeches. The sober sense evidenced by the people of Victoria and Nanaimo will have more effect in bringing about a satisfactory settlement than a lot of ill-advised heroics.

We reprint the following from the Times of this city, and we hope that we are not in error in attributing it to the direct inspiration of the Minister of Inland Revenue. It would certainly be highly desirable that with the reasonable exclusion of Japahese there should be permitted as free commercial intercourse as possible between the two countries. The extract is in line with what the Colonist has persistently urged during all the discussion of Oriental exclusion. We have insisted that it would be worse than folly to be hasty in forcing a decision, that the Japanese government would be the first to recognize that the wishes of the Canadian people are quite as much entitled to respect as those of the Japanese people, and that it is as much to the interest of our ally as to ours that friendly relations between the two nations shall not be interrupted. We hope the Times expresses the views of the government of which its proprietor is a member. We quote:

There has never been any doubt in our mind that Japan is quite as anxious for an amicable adjustment of the matter as Canada or British Columbia. There can be no question that when the representatives of the Dominion and the representatives of Japan meet and discuss the situation in an amicable spirit, a spirit of determination to reach an agreement that will meet with the approval of the people of this province, their efforts will be crowned with success; that as a result of such negotiations the menace to the white labor of the province, which some maintain is merely a sporadic movement engendered by transportation companies, will be permanently eliminated and that Canadian trade with the Orient, one of the important factors in the prosperity of British Columbia, will, with the continuance of the entente cordiale, continue its process of expansion.

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