

FACTS ABOUT THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

A correspondent of an English paper has compiled the following array of facts to illustrate the vastness of the British Empire:

Half the ships in the world are British.

The best of them can be converted into ships of war in 48 hours.

We have a million of soldiers in India. Some of them have been brought to Malta.

As the sun rises, the British drum beats follows it round the world.

We can travel entirely round the world without leaving the British Empire.

There are 400,000,000 of people in the British Empire.

It is said that our King would have to live another 70 years to enable him to see them all pass before him night and day for all that time.

He is the greatest Mohammedan ruler in the world.

"God Save the King" is sung in 25 languages.

The total value of the United Kingdom is now said to be \$10,000,000,000.

Added to this several thousand millions are invested out of this country.

We own one-fourth of the railways in the United States.

And half of the railways in South America.

We own the largest part of North America, that is, Canada.

The house property in the British Isles is valued at \$2,000,000,000.

The railways at \$2,000,000,000.

Oliver Schreiner, author of an African Farm, says that, if any big misfortune were to happen to England, 60,000,000 of English-speaking people in other countries would leap to their feet.

There are 1,000 miles of tramways in the British Isles.

Neither of the ancient empires, like that of Persia, Greece, nor Rome, were equal in size or wealth to the British Empire of today.

British manufactures are valued at \$800,000,000 a year.

Two thirds of the shipbuilding of the world is done by the British.

As much as \$2,500,000,000 have been lent to other nations by the British.

The annual revenue of the British Government is now \$125,000,000.

One remark of the New Zealand premier the other day is suggestive of the latent strength of British power. He was justifying the sending to England of a Maori contingent, and said that any foreign foe of New Zealand would have not only to reckon with its European settlers, but with the Maoris fighting shoulder to shoulder with them, one of the finest fighting races in the world. That is true, too, of the French Canadians, the fighting natives of India, and scores of diverse people under British rule.

The British have 689 ships of war.

They could fire off 7,630 guns at once.

The British Indian soldiers are equal to any marksmen in the world.

Three-fourths of all the letters which are posted in the world are written in English, and sent to persons who speak the English language.

The trade of Great Britain is worth \$700,000,000 a year.

Half the exports from the United States are brought to England, and for all this food we pay \$35,000,000 yearly.

There are 250 British millionaires.

The British Empire if cut into a strip a mile wide would reach round the world 450 times.

HIS 125TH BIRTHDAY.

Born a British Subject. Before Declaration of Independence was Signed He Fought in United States Navy and Heard Washington Speak at Yorktown.

(New York Herald.)

For more than half a century Noah Raby, born a subject of King George III, in the latter's colony of North Carolina, has been an inmate of the poor farm in Piscataway township, near New Brunswick, N. J., and today he will celebrate the 125th anniversary of his birth.

Raby has lived a simple life since he was five years of age, and is a great lover of tobacco in many forms. He has not drunk ardent spirits in a long time, principally because he could not get them better for the most part of his life.

He is a native of the old Virginia, and his ancestors were in the country when the Declaration of Independence was signed. Last year the celebration was so fatiguing that it was feared the old man would die from the effects of the kindnesses showered upon him by the visitors.

OSSEBARD WORKS SOLD.

As a result of the negotiations of the past two days, papers were made out yesterday respecting the sale of the premises and plant of the Ossebard Steamship Co. subject to the approval of the court, and the Ontario syndicate composed of the Messrs. Mfg. Co. of Toronto, the Messrs. Mfg. Co. of Montreal, and the Messrs. Mfg. Co. of London. Two other tenders were submitted by individual firms, which it is understood, were the record tender for the premises and plant of the Ossebard Steamship Co. The parties concerned in the transaction refused to mention the amount offered in the tender which was accepted.

A 5th tender was submitted by Mr. Kemp, of Toronto, in the intention of the purchase was to close the works up or to reorganize and operate them in their present condition. Mr. Kemp stated that he had been unable to present to give any information as to the matter had not yet been decided. The works as they stood were by no means in a condition to be operated. He and the gentlemen representing the other firm were going to inspect them again thoroughly, and after their return to Toronto a decision would be reached.

Have your firm and the others in the contract formed a combine to buy and close up the works to prevent

competition with your own" asked the reporter.

"My answer," said Mr. Kemp, "There are no combines in our line of business in Canada. There are many other firms in the same line, and competition is so keen that the price of cancelled work in Canada is cheaper than in the United States or in any other country. The firms engaged in this transaction have conducted a few deals together, but do not form a trust."

"Then you did not purchase the Ossebard plant with the pre-arranged purpose of stopping this work in the province?"

"No," we had no such intention. Whether it stops or not depends upon circumstances. We have considered the matter carefully, but have yet come to no decision, and probably will not until after we return to Ontario."

Mr. Kemp also declined to say anything about the price the firms had paid.

From other parties in the deal the Sun learned that the purchasers had been making inquiries concerning the whereabouts of the old employees of the works, with a view to their re-employment, which would seem to show that there is at least a good chance of the re-opening of the factory.

It is sincerely to be hoped that this will be the case, for the permanent closing of so important an industry, employing as it did about 100 hands, would be a serious blow to the community.

Accompanied by P. S. Archibald, the liquidator of the estate, the representatives of the purchasing firms will visit Hampton today for another and thorough inspection of the plant and premises of their new property.

LATE LOCALS.

Red Rose is a pure Indo-Ceylon tea of delicious flavor.

The death occurred yesterday of Edith Phillips, youngest daughter of Capt. Phillips, of Main street. Death was caused by pneumonia.

Some of the Western Union posts on Mill street, which have become shaky through age, are today being replaced by new ones.

P. Nase & Son are moving into their new premises on Bridge street. The property was formerly owned by J. W. Keast.

Several small boats loaded with farm produce came down from Land's End today.

Capt. White is engaged in fitting up the ferryboat Maggie Miller for his season's work between Millidgeville and the Millik.

Owing to the increased cost of manufacturing Messrs. Cutler & Co. have advanced the price of lime ten cents per barrel.

The old Court Block at the foot of Main street is being gradually filled in. Care should be taken that this is not made a dumping ground for all kinds of rubbish and become a menace to the health of the city.

The ladies of the St. John W. C. T. U. were well pleased to learn this morning that the beer clauses of the government license act were dropped this morning.

KING'S DAUGHTERS.

On Thursday, 4th, the regular monthly meeting of the King's Daughters will be held in their guild room at 3.30 p. m. The quarterly meeting will also be held at 8 o'clock.

All members (especially those who will be leaving the city for the summer months) are most earnestly requested to attend, as they will not have the privilege of the mid-summer sessions.

LATEST BY WIRE.

Governor Odell of New York has signed a bill authorizing the Pan-American Exposition company to issue second mortgage bonds to the value of \$500,000.

The United States secretary of the treasury today purchased in New York \$600,000 additional short term bonds at substantially the same rate as paid for the \$5,000,000 bonds purchased yesterday.

As a result of the strikers' strike at Newmarket, England, the trainees announce that 250 American stable boys leave New York today on the Star and Atlantic transport company's steamers.

A heavy snow storm in Farmer county, New York, commenced during the night and still continues. The snow is six inches deep. The mercury is at freezing point. Great damage will probably result from the snow breaking down the fruit trees.

SENATOR PROCTOR TALKS.

He Says Conditions are Greatly Improved in Cuba.

WASHINGTON, April 1.—Senator Proctor of Vermont has just returned from Cuba, where he has been making observation concerning conditions on the island. The senator says he found a disposition among many leading Cubans to accept the terms of the Platt amendment as the most satisfactory solution of the relations between the United States and Cuba. Others, he says, are trying to convince the Cubans that the United States intends to do them great injustice. According to Senator Proctor there are not making very much headway, especially, he says, as the delegates to the convention are now leaving from their constituents the large proportion of whom are anxious for a settlement of all political relations with the United States, and urge the delegates to accept the offers of the government.

Senator Proctor, speaking generally of the conditions in Cuba said that the business situation is much improved. American capital is now being invested, and this has been especially marked during the past three months.

BUSINESS BEFORE PLEASURE.

Daughter of the House (awaiting her lover in the hall)—Well, what did papa say?

Suitor (wino salesman)—There! I knew I had forgotten something! I didn't mention you to him, but I sold him two cases of claret.—Lustige Blätter.

FREDERICTON.

FREDERICTON, April 2.—Judge and Mrs. Landry were here today, and this afternoon left for Montreal, where their son, a student at McGill, is ill with appendicitis.

Captain Moses A. Akervy, for a long time on the Union line steamers, has leased the store on Phoenix square, and is going into the commission real estate and auctioneering business.

The affairs of Black, Bliss & Neale now appear much more favorable and the liabilities considerably less than was at first stated. Mr. Bliss has been at the office for a few hours yesterday and today, and has recently recovered from his recent illness, and is facilitating to the utmost in settling those interested to get at the true state of affairs.

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