

A CONSPICUOUS FIGURE.

One occasionally hears a note of dissatisfaction rising in criticism of the course of the Premier of Canada at the sessions of the Colonial Conference now assembled in London. But the note is solitary and discordant. It is confined to one or two newspapers in Great Britain and Canada and rises but feebly from the grand chorus of appreciation which has greeted every word of counsel which has fallen from the lips of Canada's great statesman, the most conspicuous figure in that Imperial assembly. When Sir Wilfrid Laurier was called upon by Lord Aberdeen to form a government, the Canadian Confederation was still a doubtful experiment. There was not in the community, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, that unity and solidarity upon which the foundations of great and abiding nations are laid. There were still men in our Parliament who owe such positions as they have grasped to the success with which they have appealed to racial antagonisms and religious prejudices. But they play a very insignificant part in the public life of the community. "We have our firebrands," it is true, but they have been shorn of their power for evil. In the vital sense of the word, the Premier has made Canada a nation; and she is now, under the leadership of her most distinguished son, playing an important part in making the Empire one, with oneness of aim and singleness of purpose. The first step towards Imperial unity was taken when preferential trade and Imperial penny postage became effective on the initiation of Canada under Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Another step forward was taken when the leader of one of the great political parties in Great Britain, under the influence of the present Imperial Conference, boldly emerged from the forests of doubt and indecision and proclaimed his conversion to the cause of preferential trade within the Empire. The most notable feature in connection with this conversion is not the fact of the conversion itself, but the manner in which it was accomplished. The Premier of Canada has all along been careful and discreet in his treatment of the subject. He has studiously maintained the position that the fiscal policy of any portion of the Empire was a matter which concerned each individual section. He has not pressed the statement of Great Britain or of Australia to follow the example so boldly set by Canada. On the contrary, he has told them frankly that as Canada has done what she believed to be best in her own interests, all other portions of the Empire should follow her example. That which has been accomplished, therefore, has been brought about by moral force and without embroiling this country in the political controversies of either Great Britain or Australia.

As we survey the situation to-day, therefore, we find that the great majority of the newspapers of Great Britain and Canada, irrespective of party, are a unit in according to the leader of the movement for Imperial unity full measure of credit for the great work he has accomplished—a work which they, with one accord, hope he may be spared to see completed. The Toronto World, a leading Conservative paper, speaking on the subject of "Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Imperial Conference," says: "Canada has reason to be satisfied both with the reception accorded Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the motherland and the part he has taken in the deliberations of the Imperial conference. The prime minister of the Dominion is no stranger to the British people. His reputation as the Chrysostom of political orators, the charm of his personality and unfailing courtesy, and the fact that he is at once the representative of the premier among the Outer Britains and of the French portion of its people, have all combined to make him the most picturesque figure at the Imperial conferences. Nor has this special niche in the affectionate regard of the public of the United Kingdom been impaired by the advent upon the Imperial stage of General Bother, the vanguard Boer leader and now the first premier of the youngest of the British states. They are comrades, not rivals, and it is natural that despite their different records and experiences, the parallelism in their political environment should act as a special bond of attraction. It is permissible to believe that the counsel and influence of Sir Wilfrid Laurier will be valuable and acceptable to the statesmen who, in South Africa, are confronting a cognate problem to that solved by the makers of the Dominion of Canada.

"Sir Wilfrid Laurier, The World believes, stands for a sane and sober Imperialism, founded on the conviction that a closer union of the British states is possible on the basis of co-operation and partnership, while preserving to each complete self-government and independence of action. The line he appears to have taken at the conference table is entirely consonant with that view, and the World is convinced his attitude will be heartily approved by the great majority of the Canadian people, and, rightly understood, it ought not to evoke opposition even from those of his own race who seem saturated with the notion that Imperial conferences conceal an attack upon Canadian nationality. Sir Wilfrid Laurier deserves high commendation for the course he has pursued, and the World is agreeably surprised at the dis-

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After you have eaten a meal, the stomach should do two things—pour out a dissolving fluid to digest the food—and churn the food until completely digested and liquified. Sour Stomach, Belching Gas, Indigestion, Dyspepsia, simply mean that the stomach is not doing its work properly.

"Fruit-a-tives" strengthen the stomach and increase the flow of gastric juice

"Fruit-a-tives" make the liver active and regulate the bowels. There will be an end to those Bilious Headaches, too, as soon as you start curing your Dyspepsia and Constipation with Fruit-a-tives.

"Fruit-a-tives" contain the wonderful medicinal properties of fruit—in an active and curative form. 50c. a box—6 for \$2.50. At all dealers.

Fruit-a-tives
ON FRUIT LIVER TABLETS. 17

tance the Dominion premier has gone in furthering the objects of the conference. Immense headway has been made. There can be no doubt that never before have the vital elements of the problem of the Empire been more squarely acknowledged, or has there been more ready acceptance of their necessary corollaries. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is entitled to a full share of credit for the initial success of the conference. The increased prestige accruing to him and to Canada cannot fail to modify profoundly the future course of international affairs, so far as the Dominion is concerned. The closer the British states get in touch one with another, and the more solid their front, the greater their weight in preserving their just rights through diplomatic negotiations. By his presence at the Imperial conference and by supporting closer union he has placed Canada in the best position for maintaining and protecting her just claims."

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

The subject of old age pensions we find to be the leading topic of the day. It is crowding ordinary politics into the background in Great Britain, possibly because the economic conditions there are considered more of a joint than they are in such countries as the United States and Canada, where it is assumed the ordinary person has a better chance to achieve independence against the inevitable rainy day. In Australia, too, although there is a tradition, carried from that salubrious clime by travellers of an impressionable disposition, that poverty has been banished by wise laws giving equal opportunities, as our readers are doubtless aware, a system of old age pensions is in force and the fear of indigence as a companion of declining years no longer haunts the mind of the industrious person.

Germany, which is governed on a paternal system immensely pleasing to the activity of His Majesty the Kaiser, has developed a method of caring for the poor and the afflicted vastly more logical and effective than the British system of poor houses and private benevolence. State, employers and employees co-operate in the task of creating funds for this purpose. The German scheme has been working for more than a generation, and it is greatly to the credit of that great nation that it can be said practically every man and woman of the working classes over seventy years of age live in enjoyment of a pension. They are independent, although it may appear to some that such independence comes a trifle late in life and that there is a measure of injustice in compelling a vast multitude to contribute to the swelling of a fund from which they can never draw a crown. For the German scheme is limited in its scope, is confined strictly to workmen in the limited sense of the word in that country, and hence must exclude a vast number of deserving persons from its benefits.

In the Australian states and New Zealand the work of providing against the debilitating influences of old age is carried out on a more comprehensive scale. As becoming twentieth century democracies, here all men are practically free and equal and the ups and downs of life are more common, all persons who have reached a prescribed period of life and have lived a quarter of a century in the country are entitled to pensions, and without contributing themselves to the funds. The state does it all. But only two of the states of the Commonwealth and New Zealand have adopted this advanced policy, and the people are not satisfied. They demand that the Commonwealth government shall take over the work and the responsibility connected with it, thus giving the people of all the states of the union the benefit of its advantages. The report of the Australian Commission, just issued in this country as a state paper, is peculiarly interesting reading at the present moment. The commission are highly satisfied with the working of the old-age pensions in the three colonies that at present enjoy them—New Zealand,

Victoria and New South Wales. They recommend that the system should be extended by a federal law to the whole Australian Commonwealth. Here is a rough summary of the proposed Federal Pension Law:

"(1) Ten shillings a week over sixty-five.

"(2) To be given to (a) Australians with a qualification of twenty-five years' residence, and (b) possessing an income not exceeding £52 a year.

"(3) £1 to be deducted for every £1 of income over £52.

"(4) The pensions to be controlled by a state commissioner, with deputies in every state and a registrar in every district.

"In cases of illness, a pension can be given between sixty and sixty-five, and magistrates are to act as arbitrators in the case of disputed claims.

The commissioners and their report with one significant sentence: "Your commissioners are of opinion that it should be distinctly laid down in the proposed Commonwealth legislation that old-age pensions are to be granted as a right, and not as a charity."

They also recommended a "system of deferred annuities on a liberal basis" as "an inducement to thrift."

It is one of the peculiar attributes of human nature and cannot be overcome except in very rare instances that the people like to be "fooled." P. T. Barnum found it out in his day and profited by it. It is as characteristic of the people of today as it was of the people of a century ago. Why does the crowd congregated around the itinerant street vendor of worthless articles? Because they cannot help themselves. They are like moths around the street lamp. They are just like the old lady dominated by a strong-minded daughter. "Aurelia," said this intensely human mother, "I don't know as you'll understand this—your father never could, but every once in a while it just seems as though I'd got to get something of an agent or I don't feel right. I guess it's the same thing that used to make me go to all the sideshows, when I was a girl, and the fortune-tellers. I know—way down underneath—that I've got fooled, but it does me good, some way; it sort of tones me up."

It is not astonishing to learn that the Colonist is not satisfied with the present representation of Victoria in the Dominion Parliament. Our captious, disappointed and vindictive contemporary was far from being pleased with the work of Colonel Prior and Mr. Earle when they were the choice of the people of this constituency, and did his best to convince the electors that if they would but entrust their case to someone of special talents and conspicuous endowments, imbued with the spirit of the West and capable of speaking with the Voice of the West, their wants would then be properly attended to. Why the voice of this charmer failed to charm must remain one of the mysteries of our own times.

A Hamilton magistrate has decided that ice cream is a food and can legally be sold on Sunday. The climate of Victoria is not sufficiently torrid to create an imperative demand for this form of food, but we believe that even here there are young and impressionable persons who would be well content to live upon it and eliminate everything else.

Vancouver is unique in the possession of a professional baseball club joined to an equally professional league. The Terminal City "fans," although new to the business, have speedily absorbed into their system the ethics of the game. They are after the umpire and will get him if he doesn't watch out.

WOMAN'S TRIALS.

CAN BE BANISHED BY THE RICH, RED BLOOD DR. WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS ACTUALLY MAKE.

The health and happiness of growing girls and women of mature years depends upon the blood supply. There is a crisis in the life of every woman when there are distressing headaches and backaches; when life seems a burden and when some women seem threatened with even the loss of their reason. It is at this period that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills prove a blessing to women. Every dose increases the richness and the redness of the blood supply, and this new blood strengthens the organs, enables them to throw off disease and banishes the headaches and backaches and dizziness and secret pains that have made life a burden. There are thousands and thousands of growing girls and women in Canada who have their health and happiness to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Mrs. James McDonald, of Sugar Camp, Ont., is one of these. She says: "I was badly run down, felt very weak and had no appetite. I suffered from headaches and backaches and a feeling of weakness. I could scarcely drag myself about and felt that my condition was growing worse. I decided to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I got a dozen boxes, but before they were all used I had fully regained my health, and was able to do my housework without the least fatigue. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have been a great blessing to me."

You can get Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People from any medicine dealer or by mail from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50. If you are weak or ailing give these pills a fair trial—they will not disappoint you.

DISCOUNT RATE.

London, May 2.—The Bank of England's rate of discount remains unchanged to-day at 4 per cent.

DAVID SPENCER, LTD.

THE GREAT EMPORIUM OF THE GREAT WEST.

DAVID SPENCER, LTD.

Preparing for the Twenty-fourth

A Few Selections of the Newest Goods Opened Up Saturday

The Very Latest Styles Are Seen in the LADIES' NEW TAILORED COATS

JUST RECEIVED

Just arrived—The newest and most novel creations of the foremost fashionable men tailors for Women's Garments, showing the latest productions from the clever hand of the tailor. They embody all the graceful designs so popular this season. The descriptions that follow will demonstrate very forcibly the lowness of prices.

LADIES' WHITE LINEN COAT, ¾ length, full bias back, loose front, three shoulder capes, full sleeves with deep cuff, inside collar of black linen; cuffs and shoulder capes, also piped with black, outside pockets. Price \$25.00

LADIES' LINEN COAT in deep cream; full sleeve with deep cuff; three shoulder capes piped with green; collar of fancy braid; full bias back, ¾ length. Price \$25.00

LADIES' THREE-QUARTER LENGTH TWEED COAT in dark grey, box back, double-breasted with fancy buttons; full sleeve with deep cuff; velvet collar; outside pockets. Price \$12.50

LADIES' TWEED COAT in brown and grey, ¾ length, box back, double-breasted with stitched straps over shoulder; full sleeve with cuff; stitched pockets and button trimming. Price..... \$20.00

LADIES' COVERT CLOTH COAT, hip length, tight fitting back, loose front, stitched straps over shoulder, giving the new broad effect; full sleeve with cuff. Price..... \$13.50

LADIES' BOX BACK COAT, 27 inches long, covert cloth, full sleeves with cuff; outside pockets, and trimming of stitched straps. Price \$11.50 and \$9.50

LADIES' COAT in cream linen ¾ length; full bias back, ¾ length sleeve with deep cuff, collar, cuff, front and bottom of coat elaborately trimmed with linen braid. Price..... \$20.00

LADIES' BOX BACK COAT, hip length, double-breasted with fancy buttons; color light grey duck with velvet collar and cuff, outside pockets. Price \$12.50

New Styles Portrayed in Recent Arrivals found in the Dress Goods Department

LATEST ARRIVALS IN SUMMER SUITINGS

Large Assortment of Latest Novelties

In medium and light weight suitings. Prices, per yard, from \$1.75 down to 75c. EXCLUSIVE DRESS PATTERNS in French and English Tweeds, and Silk and Wool Fabric in latest London and Paris Styles. Prices for Dress Patterns, \$17.50 \$15, \$12.50, \$10.50 and \$9.00

CREAM AND COLORED GOODS FOR SUMMER GOWNS AND COSTUMES

Serge, Panama, Poplin, Lustre, Voile, Eolienne, Crepe de Chine, etc., from \$1.75 to 50c. COLORED MOHAIRS—Navy, brown, grey, fawn, etc., per yard, \$1.25, \$1.75 and 50c. SPOT CREPE DE CHINE, in navy, reseda, biscuit, blue, reseda and helio, per yard..... \$1.25 CREPE L'EVE, all wool, in helio, blue, light navy, fawn, reseda, purple and three shades grey, per yard..... \$1.00

Some New and Choice Arrivals TO BE SEEN IN THE SILK DEPARTMENT

FANCY LOUISIANNE SILKS—Grey and white fancy stripes; navy and white fancy stripes. A full assortment of colors, 20-inch, per yard..... \$1.25 FRENCH FANCY TAFFETA SILKS—Narrow and wide fancy stripes and broche; a beautiful assortment, about 25 pieces in all; 21-inch, per yard..... \$1.50 NEW CHECKS AND STRIPES—A full range of colors, both light and dark; 25 pieces in all; 20-inch, per yard..... \$1.50 FANCY LOUISIANNE SILK—White ground with fancy stripe and check; pink ground with fancy stripe and check; reseda ground with fancy stripe and check; grey ground with fancy stripe and check; sky ground with fancy stripe and check; fawn ground with fancy stripe and check; white ground with navy stripe and check; 20-inch. Per yard..... \$1.00 FRENCH TAFFETA SILKS—Narrow pin stripes in all leading colors; 20-inch. Per yard..... \$1.00

MOST MAGNIFICENT DISPLAY OF CHOICE NEW PARASOLS

We have a perfectly rich assortment to select from. Our special purchase enables us to offer uncommonly good values. We append below a few prices. We have a wide range to please the most critical taste and satisfy whatever grade of means.

\$1.75 for Plain silk Parasol, all colors.
\$2.50 for Plain Cream Silk Parasol.
\$2.00 for Plain Pongee Silk Parasol.
\$2.75 for Black and White Plaid Parasol in colors and striped.
\$3.75 for Fancy Plaid Parasol in colors.
\$5.00 for White Linen Parasol, eyelid work.
\$10.00 to \$20.00 for Fancy Silks, trimmed and lined in chiffon, exquisitely embroidered.

BRUSSELS CARPET WEEK an AVOWED SUCCESS

BEST BODY BRUSSELS 98c Regular values \$1.25, selling for \$1.35 and \$1.40

TOMORROW and Wednesday the remainder of an enormous stock of Best Body Brussels assembled from the best manufacturers, WILL BE SOLD AT THIS REMARKABLE FIGURE. THE REASON WHY we are enabled to offer this comprehensive, and in many instances exclusive, assortment at such a price is quite simple. The orders we placed with the manufacturers secured very gratifying discounts, consequently we take pleasure in placing such unprecedented values before our friends and patrons.

OVER THIRTY DESIRABLE PATTERNS TO SELECT FROM

in fawns, greens, blues, reds, and greys in 3-4 bodies and 5-8 borders, regular values \$1.25, \$1.35, \$1.40,

UNTIL WEDNESDAY EVENING NEXT, per Yard, 98 Cents
Special Display on Broad Street.

DAVID SPENCER, LIMITED.

LOCAL

—The deputy has a magnificent in full bloom in has over one in.

—British Columbia Company term dividers, ad December 31st, cent, per annum.

—The Board of committee has a copy of the evidence its recent session the monthly Thursday next.

—The James H. chemical were chimney fire on evening. The sequence, and no ended it putting.

—The action brought by I. Westminster Co. Brown, editor of the same city, by Crown at the s plaintiff.

—The library of April show the issued, the daily with the largest one day was 210 subscribers, to the cards.

—Prince Sadeh the Mikado, who Liverpool June Canada by the sail from here been compelled greatly.

—There left up steamer Camosun D. O. Rainey, of horses and a loss by him in Victoria for the new bridge will be a wide.

—R. M. Marpo assistant of the and C. C. Cartwright by the E. & N. tour of inspect about to make the From Duncan territory about t.

—Mr. H. Morley for British Columbia welcomed General rival at Victoria Mayor Morley, veying to him and Baron's warmest welcome tendered was very much reception given h his visit, the bar.

THE

Is very careful and gives it a sour it may taste In the stomach cesses which are apparent then it is put into it?

The evil of and the foul br of blood and the Pierce's Golden sweet. It does the churn—ab In this way it sores, or open bad blood.

To aid in healing apply Dr. Pierce's to them while taking "Medical Discovery" the blood.

Dr. Pierce's A cleansing and p provide the bad od purging, or burn them. The best healing.

The "All-Healing dressing for all o purging. Sore o open wounds, cu untrapped.

If your medicine the All-Healing 50 cents in postage Pierce, Buffalo, N receive it by retri

In treating all o boils carbuncles a is important that Medical Discovery to purify the blood

the cause of the blood that the gre to be fought. Th are simply the scar with roots running

These roots must disease will break Medical Discovery of all foul and pois pushes out the de and thus purifies t Disease in the fle

it is no longer "Golden Medical cures disease in th cause in the blood

If you have bit in your mouth, breath are wear depressed and d quest headaches, in or distress in or regular bow

ring after eating these symptoms, number of them, sufficing from b lay after with the indigestion, or dysp and derangements.

The best agents science for the cur ous and condition writings of leading rners of all the diseases have been

iciously combin