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Special Articles

Results of Baking Tests with Mixtures of Flour
from Certain Cereal Grains with Wheat
Flour.

By R. Harcourt.

Comments on Current Commerce.

By E. S. Bates.

Conditions in the West,

By E. Cora Hind.

Banking and Business Affairs in the U. S.

By Elmer H. Youngman.

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Light on Imperial Federation

ONE good result of the recent Imperial Conference in London has been to supply some light, much needed in certain quarters, on the important question of Imperial Federation. For many years there has been a natural desire in most parts of the British Empire to draw the Mother Country and the overseas Dominions and Colonies into close relation. The object was universally approved, but an important difference arose as to the manner in which such an excellent purpose might be accomplished.

To many of the most careful students of the subject it seemed that the end was not to be reached by great constitutional changes, but rather by the slower process of evolution of our existing institutions, as in the case of the motherland itself.

"Where freedom broadens slowly down,
From precedent to precedent."

Those who held this view found much to satisfy them in the progress already made. Without the enactment of a new law, or the alteration of an old one, the status of the self-governing Dominions in the Empire has distinctly grown to considerable importance. The time is not very far away when Downing Street settled many matters of importance to the Colonies without a thought of what might be the wish of the Colonial authorities or the Colonial people. There are outstanding, in full force to-day, commercial treaties covering the trade relations of the Colonies, which were negotiated and confirmed without the slightest reference to the wishes of any Colonial authority. But no new treaty of the same character would be made to-day without the consent of the Parliaments of the self-governing Colonies. The right of Colonial representatives to be consulted, in relation to matters in which the Dominions are concerned, was long ago recognized. The Conferences held from time to time for consultation between the statesmen of the Mother Country and those of the Dominions have grown in importance and in influence in Imperial affairs. Much satisfaction was derived from this kind of development and much confidence was felt that along the same quiet way there would be obtained whatever further development might be desirable.

Others there were, equally zealous for closer relations between the various parts of the Empire, who were not content with this quiet process of evolution. They persuaded themselves that unless the various parts were bound together by some great constitutional instrument the Empire would speedily go to pieces. Their remedy was Imperial Federation, the representation of every part of the Empire

in one Parliament and in an Executive Government responsible to that Parliament. Imperial Federation Leagues were organized in many parts of Canada. Some of them perhaps exist even yet in name. More recently, where the Leagues were no longer in evidence, a number of prominent gentlemen known as the Round Table group, with headquarters in England and branches in the Dominions, devoted themselves to a propaganda on what may be called Imperial Federation lines. Of the patriotism of the promoters of these movements there was no question. They set up a high ideal of Imperialism, which appealed to many people. But always, when closely studied, the project encountered difficulties which its promoters sometimes were slow to admit. Animated by a high purpose, enthusiastic, impetuous, the chief advocates of Imperial Federation brushed difficulties aside and pressed for the creation of new constitutions for the Empire. In the May number of the British Empire Review, one of these enthusiasts, Mr. Edward Salmon, has a review of a volume of "Reminiscences" by Sir George Reid, a prominent Australian, recently High Commissioner in London for the Commonwealth, and now a member of the British Parliament. Sir George, while writing sympathetically of Imperial movements, had warned his readers that "the goal of final achievement—an Imperial Parliament—will not soon gladden our eyes." Such caution as this is very trying to the nerves of Mr. Salmon, who writes:

"The same old note that has been dinned in our ears for thirty years and more! Always the ideal, always the difficulties, seldom the constructive effort. Out of the fulness of his experience of Australian federation, and encouraged by the success which ultimately crowned the movement in the teeth of all obstacles, one might have hoped that Sir George would have advanced suggestions of possible avenues to the goal rather than indicate the familiar stumbling-blocks. Perhaps, however, he has not yet come to grips with the subject, profoundly interested in it though he be."

If Sir George Reid did not devote himself to the constructive work of creating a new Imperial constitution, others have made the effort, without success, for while several schemes of Federation have been prepared—some in outline, others more detailed—none has been found upon which even the advocates of the principle of Federation could agree.

It was this group of enthusiasts that so persistently called for an Imperial Conference and their agitation was largely the means of bringing about the recent important meeting in London. Probably most of the members of the Conference approached the subject from the same viewpoint. Certainly such Imperialists, as Lord Milner, one of the ablest and most