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Lord Milner Returns. After several weeks spent in England, partly for rest and recuperation of health, and partly, no doubt, for consultation with the head of the Colonial Office in reference to South African affairs, Lord Milner is now returning to resume his difficult duties as the chief civil representative of the British Government in that greatly disturbed portion of the Empire. With Lord Milner goes General Lyttleton who has a reputation for marked ability in administration. It is generally expected, and seems to be altogether probable, that General Lyttleton is to succeed Lord Kitchener as Commander-in-Chief in South Africa. But whether the change is to take place at once, or only after Lord Kitchener shall have succeeded in reducing the Boers to submission, is a matter of speculation. It is being assumed and eagerly published in certain quarters that Lord Kitchener is virtually to be superseded, and that, because his operations have not given satisfactory results. It is expected that on the return of Lord Milner to South Africa the resumption of mining operations at Johannesburg on a large scale and the widening of the areas where the usual occupations of peace can be safely pursued will be facilitated as rapidly as possible.

Royalty and the Lumbermen. It is stated that their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, will be the guests of the Lumbermen of the Ottawa Valley for one day during their stay in this country, and the representatives of the lumbering industry are laying themselves out to provide suitable entertainment for the Royal party. The programme for the day is given as follows: They will start at a reasonably early hour in the morning, and make the trip in four cribs, each manned by a crew of from fifteen to twenty voyageurs, or rather river men of today, garbed in the style of the voyageurs of old. The cribs will be constructed of pine and will be handsomely finished and decorated. Accompanying the Royal party will be the members of the Dominion Cabinet and their wives. In the afternoon, after the exciting trip down the rapids and slides, a representation of shanty life will be given at Rockcliffe Park. For this purpose a model shanty will be built. A number of shanty-men will exhibit their skill in handling logs, and will sing some of the rollicking songs by means of which their sojourn in the woods is enlivened. The shanty, which is to be built in rustic style, will be left standing in the park as a sort of monument of the Royal visit. This will be entertainment of a kind which doubtless their Royal Highnesses will know how to appreciate.

King Alfred. Some weeks ago in the British Museum, London, Mr. Frederick Harrison, the distinguished man of letters, delivered a lecture on the life and reign of the great Saxon King Alfred, the thousandth anniversary of whose death will be formally commemorated this autumn. Mr. Harrison's estimate of Alfred is a very high one. His image, he says, remains undimmed as that of a man purely heroic, majestic and saintly. None has so survived destructive criticism, for the true Alfred was even greater than the poetic and legendary Alfred. No other historic founder of a nation could compare with this King in beauty of soul and variety of powers. Asser's Life of Alfred, a MS. of which is in the British Museum, Mr. Harrison regards as in the main accurate. Details are doubtful, but the main outlines of the life stand out marvellously clear. The tradition that Alfred founded a school at Oxford, Mr. Harrison said, was mythical. For the story of the burnt cakes, on the other hand, there was MS. authority, and it might

have some basis in truth. Besides Asser's Chronicle and certain MSS. of Alfred's own works, there was the immense body of Anglo-Saxon poems—embodying a tradition of vast importance, and ratifying the conceptions otherwise formed.

"A great statesman who was also a historian had said Alfred was a myth; but like St. Paul, of whom the same had been said, the King had left in unquestioned writings a real picture of himself. It was as certain as anything could be that Alfred reclaimed this land from barbarism, and that he was a great soldier, as was shown by an Oxford historian who had been writing a history of war in the middle ages. The Vikings had immense advantages in training and experience over our people, but Alfred proved more than a match for them. The early days of Alfred were the darkest we had ever known. He was only 22 when the Vikings were carrying all before them, but the battle in the vale of the White Horse and Alfred's victory were certainly historic, and narrated as the work of Alfred by the Chronicle. Then, by importing Danes, he raised and equipped a fleet and met his foes on the sea. The date 878—that of the final settlement of the realm—was a momentous one in our annals. Alfred, too, was the founder not only of the fleet, but of the maritime supremacy of Great Britain. Equally great on land he rebuilt London and fortified many strongholds throughout the country. He also organized the militia of the kingdom, anticipating in rude fashion the feudal system; and with these instruments he consolidated his kingdom.

Alfred built churches, schools and abbeys, reorganized justice, made judges responsible to himself, and framed a system of law which was edited by the German scholar, Dr. Liebermann, and was a model of broad-minded legal reform. The restoration of London was a masterpiece of statecraft, and the same far-sighted policy was discernible in all his work."

The commemoration of the Alfred millennial, which is in the hands of a committee embracing a number of the most eminent Englishmen of the day, will include the erection of a permanent memorial in the ancient city of Winchester which was the capital of Alfred's kingdom, the scene of a great portion of his life and the place where his dust still rests.

Signor Crispi. Signor Crispi, the distinguished Italian statesman, died at Naples on Sunday, the 11th inst. Following is a brief sketch of his career: Signor Francesco Crispi was a native of Rebera, in Sicily, where he was born in 1819. He was educated for the practice of law, and was called to the Neapolitan bar. His early aspirations for the realization of Italian unity prompted him to take an active interest in the revolutionary movement of 1848, when the kingdom of the two Sicilies was overthrown. He inspired the resistance of the Sicilians during the insurrection of Palermo, and was compelled to fly to France. Subsequently, he landed with Garibaldi at Palermo, and distinguished himself by his courage and capacity. In 1861 he was elected to the first Italian Parliament, and was recognized as leader of the constitutional party. On the death of Signor Depretis in 1887 Signor Crispi, who had been Minister of the Interior, became President of the Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs. His Ministry was defeated in January, '91, and he resigned. The next year he announced his intention to quit politics, and gave up the leadership of the Opposition. The voice of his country, however, called him to the head of affairs in 1894, when all was uncertainty. Under his powerful leading the condition of affairs gradually improved, notwithstanding the desperate efforts of his opponents to discredit him by slanderous personal attacks. He fell eventually in '96, through the disasters to Italian arms in Erythrea, the Italian possessions on the Red Sea, inflicted by King Menelik of Abyssinia.

Tuberculosis. The conclusions of the eminent German specialist, Dr. Koch, in respect to bovine and human tuberculosis, presented at the London Congress on Tuberculosis, were by no means unanimously concurred in by members of the Congress. A paper read before the Congress by

Professor MacFadyen in criticism of Dr. Koch's paper, indicated a quite distinct dissent from the latter's conclusions. Professor MacFadyen summed up as follows the grounds on which the Congress had been asked by Professor Koch to discard the long-held opinion that tuberculosis in cattle and in men was the same disease:

(1) The bacilli found in cases of bovine tuberculosis are much more virulent for cattle and other domestic quadrupeds, than in the bacilli found in cases of human tuberculosis.

(2) This difference is so marked and so constant that it may be relied upon as a means of distinguishing the bacilli of bovine tuberculosis from those of the human disease even assuming that the former may occasionally be found as a cause of disease in man.

(3) If bovine bacilli are capable of causing disease in man, there are abundant opportunities for the transference of the bacilli from the one species to the other, and cases of primary intestinal tuberculosis from the consumption of tuberculous milk ought to be of common occurrence. But post-mortem examination of human beings proves that cases of primary intestinal tuberculosis are extremely rare in man, and therefore it must be concluded that the human subject is immune against infection with the bovine bacilli, or is so slightly susceptible that it is not necessary to take any steps to counteract the risk of infection in this way.

Of these premises Professor MacFadyen directed most attention to the third. Of the first two he remarked that although it had been shown that the human tubercle bacillus had only a feebly harmful effect on cattle, yet it did not follow conversely that the bovine tubercle bacillus would have only a feebly harmful effect on man. That might have been held to be probable if it had been shown that bovine bacilli were very virulent only for cattle, but since it was well established that these bacilli were highly dangerous for such diverse species as the rabbit, horse, dog, pig and sheep, and, in short, for almost every quadruped on which they had been tried, it appeared to be highly probable that they were also dangerous to man. The third proposition, it was argued, was the only one really germane to the point at issue, namely that only cases of primary intestinal tuberculosis can possibly have had their origin in infected milk or meat and that "such cases are extremely rare." Dr. Koch had referred to several large series of post-mortem observation that appeared to justify this statement and had said that he could have cited many more. But Professor MacFadyen contended that statistics were not by any means unanimous, and that those which were likely to appeal with greatest force to the people of Great Britain were not at all in accord with those quoted from Germany. "During the last few years," Prof. MacFadyen said, "the evidence obtainable from the post-mortem records of two of the largest hospitals for children in this country have been analysed with great care, in order to see what evidence they afforded as to the relative frequency of the different methods of infection in tuberculosis. In the case of the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond street, this has been done by Dr. George Still, and in the case of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh by Dr. Shennan. The conclusion at which Dr. Still arrived was that in 20.1 per cent. of the cases of tuberculosis in children primary infection appeared to have taken place through the intestine. That is very far from being an insignificant proportion, and it is a striking fact that Dr. Shennan arrived at an almost identical conclusion, and estimated that 28.1 per cent. of the cases of tuberculosis among children in Edinburgh are due to alimentary infection. There does not appear to be any ground for supposing that there is a large margin of error in these statistics, as the number of cases dealt with was considerable (547 in the two series,) and in both series the post-mortem appearances were interpreted in a way to which no exception can be taken. In face of these statistics it is not possible to assent to the statement that cases of primary tuberculosis of the alimentary canal are extremely rare. Precisely the contrary, the Scotch professor held, is the conclusion which must be drawn from these facts. He therefore asked for a suspension of judgment while further investigation should be made, holding that there is strong presumptive evidence that human tuberculosis is a possible source of human tuberculosis.