

Where We Stand.

Evidently the Sons of England will be much amused at the official announcement of our Supreme Grand President Bro. Dr. Chas. A. Hodgetts, in the January issue of the *Record*. It is unnecessary for us to announce the Supreme Grand President is an employee of the Reform Government of the Province of Ontario, and no doubt, working for his bread and butter at "both ends of the stick," and we could not expect anything better to come from a man who is an employee of the Provincial Government of Ontario, and who do not scruple to use every means of keeping their hides whole. But as to the constitutionality of the action of Lodge Middlesex, No 2, of Toronto. No doubt it will be as convenient for our Supreme Grand President to lay aside this cast iron constitution, for once, as it was for the Hon. Israel Tarte to do so, when he finds that 95% of the members of the Sons of England are opposed to him politically and will show him—as the people of Canada showed the *Political Boss* of Canada's Premier—that they do not care for constitutional iron rules, when the integrity to Her Most Gracious Majesty's Empire, and Great Britain is threatened. Evidently our esteemed Supreme President was very badly hit when he read the resolution passed by the members of Lodge Middlesex, No 2, S. O. E. B. S. It reads as follows:

At a meeting of Lodge Middlesex, S. O. E. B. S., No. 2, Toronto, on the 27th December, 1899, it was unanimously resolved:—

"That this lodge regrets that any member of the Government of Canada, in the present crisis of the Empire, should show himself to be so unworthy of the confidence placed in him as to oppose the natural wishes of all British subjects, and declare himself to be French first and Canadian afterwards; and is of opinion that in thus acting he is unworthy and unfit to hold the position of such Minister; and directs the secretary to forward a copy of this resolution to every lodge of the order and to request their endorsement thereof. Also that a copy be forwarded to the Premier of the Dominion, and handed by this Lodge to all the newspapers for publication in the city of Toronto, and by the other Lodges to the papers published near them."

The above resolution was published in the *Regina West*, on January 9th, 1900, by request of the District Deputy of that District.

Kempfenfelt Lodge, Barrie, Ont., passes the same resolution at its meeting on January 12th and ordered the secretary to forward a copy to Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The resolution appeared as a special telegram to the *Montreal Star* of January 13th, 1900.

Is it wrong to sustain our nationalism publically as well as privately. Out of our Lodges as well as in them? The shoe has pinched rather hard on some members of the executive, and they do not know any other way to "choke off" the true loyal sentiment expressed in the resolution of Lodges Middlesex and Kempfenfelt, than to refer to them as unconstitutional. If the said Minister of the Crown had made seditious and treasonable utterances against the CROWN, and which in our opinion he certainly did, when

he said "I am French first and a Canadian afterwards," I presume, the same wiley politician would have calmly said that we could not do anything, it was against the constitution. That was what the Premier Boss said, but the Premier found out that the people of Canada was "BOSS" for once, and maybe there will be others who will find out that Englishmen are the whole composition of the National and Loyal association of the Sons of England. Does the Supreme Executive think that when 95 per cent of the members of the Sons of England are opposed politically to the said Minister of the Crown, that they are going to swallow anything he may choose to say and do and not raise their voice to protest? He and they are mistaken. When treasonable utterances, such as was made by the Hon. Israel Tarte—are made by any Minister of the Crown—the members of the Sons of England should denounce him, and denounce him in such terms that there will be no uncertain meaning taken from it.

We have for some time past been taking steps to ascertain the political standing of all the members of the Sons of England, and from unquestionable sources, the electorate composing our membership is almost entirely "Conservative," there being only 5% of the order on the opposite side of parliament and the 95% will most likely show "the French first and Canadian afterwards," kind of people that when the ministerial benches of the House of Commons and of the Legislature of Ontario are vacated for an election, which will not be long, now, that there will be at least one Supreme Executive officer who will apply for his superannuation so as to escape the "cleaning house" process.

During a performance of "The Geisha" at Buenos Ayres, a patriotic song with the refrain "We All are Sons of England" was received with tremendous applause and £330 was obtained for the Widows and Orphans' Fund.

The figures for the immigration branch of the Interior Department are made up. They show that during the year 44,000 immigrants have settled in Canada. The number from the United States is 11,000, or about 2,000 more than last year.

Gunner John Platt, formerly of Yorkshire, says: "A German officer told me we were sure to get 'chucked out' of South Africa, as the Boers had been training under competent German officers for ten years past. He told me things which I now find to be true. However, there was one thing he did not know about—the English determination to keep fighting after being knocked down, a 'knock down' not being a 'knock out.'"

Says the Hon. Frank H. Hitchcock, of the Washington Bureau of Agriculture:

"The sum paid by Britain for American farm produce during the four years 1894 to 1898 reached as high as \$403,953,854 in a year."

Altogether during these five years Great Britain paid the United States farmer \$1,810,000,000 for grain, flour, meat, and other products.

Our agricultural exports to Great Britain in 1897-8 aggregated but \$68,000,000.

Like exports to the United States aggregated \$5,250,900. From us and from Great Britain the United States, under a hostile tariff, buys relatively nothing, but it has the big end of the free British market.

The discrepancy must be balanced by the adoption of preferential trade.

As Lord Rosebery says, there will have to be a little science in commerce.