

The New Atlantic Line.

The first steamer of a new fast line already established between Vancouver, China and Japan, will leave Liverpool on the 15th of this month, and the Canadian Government is in treaty for the establishment of a fast Atlantic service of four 20-knot twin-screw steamers between Great Britain and Canada. These steamers would run from London and Plymouth to Halifax and Quebec and connect with the Canadian Pacific, Grand Trunk and other railway systems. They will, if the scheme is carried out, be supplemented by a Pacific service running between British Columbia and the Australasian colonies, which will consist, to begin with, of three twin-screw steamers of not less than 16 knots. The steamers of this service will perform the passage across the Pacific in from 18 to 20 days, and will be able, if necessary, to reach the nearest Australian port from Vancouver, in 16 days. This brings the two most distinct groups of colonies within little more than a fortnight of each other, and the total length of the journey from London, through Canada, to Australia, by this route, will be 32 days. The ships will carry mails and will be subsidized by the Governments of Great Britain, Canada and Australia. They will also, as is the case with the line running between Vancouver and Japan, form a part of the scheme of Imperial defence, and will be specially designed as fast armed cruisers and transport ships. They will be built under the supervision of the Admiralty, and fully provided with all the necessary gun platforms and fittings. It is also intended that they shall be, as far as possible, manned by crews of the Royal Navy Reserve.—*The Times*, 25th Jan., 1891.

Mr. Plimsoll.

Mr. Plimsoll, the sailors' friend, who is at present in this country in connection with the Atlantic live stock trade, is a man with a history. Many years ago he and his wife were shipwrecked, and narrowly escaped a watery grave. While yet half dead from exposure, he knelt on the wet sands of the seashore and solemnly dedicated the rest of his life to redress the wrongs of the British seamen. His efforts on their behalf and his exposure of the floating coffins in which thousands of British tars went to the bottom every year are now matters of history. Not many years ago, Mr. Plimsoll did what perhaps no other man ever did. He compelled the British Government to pass an act which its Premier had only a day or two before refused to sanction. Mr. Plimsoll had pleaded before the House of Commons for the passage of an act preventing certain vessels going to sea with proper inspection. Mr. Disraeli listened to his harangue and then somewhat petulantly pooh-boohed his statements, and announced that the Government would consider the matter at the next session. Mr. Plimsoll, frenzied with excitement and emotion, rushed in front of the Speaker, and dramatically charged Disraeli with the murder of the hundreds of sailors who would of a certainty be drowned before the opening of next session. The scene created a profound sensation in the House, and although Mr. Plimsoll had rendered himself liable to expulsion, if not arrest, nothing was done in the matter. Next day the whole country rang with his outburst, the people clamored for the passage of the Act, and the press almost without exception thundered against the Government for its folly. Quick to see his mistake, Disraeli passed the measure and the storm blew over.

Smith's Falls.

A Special Meeting of Guelph Lodge No. 124 was held in S. O. E. Hall, at Smith's Falls on Tuesday, Jan. 20th, at 6.30 p.m., for the purpose of installing officers for the ensuing year, and also initiating members in White Rose Degree. District Deputy, Ald. Bro. W. R. Stroud, of Ottawa, occupied the chair, kindly assisted by Bros. F. A. Jackson, V. P., Bowood Lodge; F. Gilliot and Chas. Bott, of that City. There were also present from Suffolk Lodge No. 87, Brockville, the following brethren who participated in the proceedings: Bros. A. C. Bacon, Sec.; H.

Dodd, W. Dodd, C. Steeper, Thomas Guest, A. J. Cooke, F. W. Jackson and G. Telford. Bro. R. C. Townsend, of Nelson Lodge No. 48, Almonte, was also present. Twelve brethren of Guelph Lodge were duly initiated into the mysteries of the W. R. D., after which the ceremony of installing officers for the ensuing year was proceeded with. At the termination of the business of the evening the visiting brethren were entertained in an adjoining room, and partook of roast beef, plum pudding and other refreshments, after which some time was spent in discussing matters of interest and importance to the Order. The proceedings were enlivened by songs and recitations, everyone present being desirous of contributing to the success and enjoyment of the evening. Bro. W. R. Stroud spoke enthusiastically of the progress of the Lodge since its inauguration in October last, and encouraged the brethren to go on as they had commenced, anticipating for them an accession of strength and usefulness in vindicating the rights and privileges, and advancing the best interests of Englishmen and the Noble Order to which we are proud to belong, the Sons of England Society. A most enjoyable evening was brought to a close by singing God Save the Queen.

Visit of D. D. Grand Officer Hobson to Qu'Appelle.

On Friday, the 23rd Jan., 1891, at 1.15 a.m., the Rev. H. P. Hobson, the District Deputy Grand Officer and Delegate to the Grand Lodge, arrived from Vancouver. He was met at the station by Bro. A. H. B. Sperling, the Secretary of Royal Standard Lodge No. 112, who brought the Rev. Brother to the residence of Bro. Gisborne, who had the pleasure of entertaining him during his short stay at Qu'Appelle. The Rev. H. P. Hobson, like a great many persons who have not lived in the Territories, had an erroneous idea that it was a treeless waste, cursed with an arctic climate; but on seeing the park like country, with fine copses of populus alba and nigra, and feeling a temperature so warm that it was not necessary to wear either a great coat or gloves during his stay at Qu'Appelle, he expressed very different ideas about our country before leaving. Unfortunately a letter from Bro. Hobson to our Secretary having gone astray, the members met on Wednesday night, expecting to be visited by the D. D. Grand Officer, and as most of our members live in the country it was impracticable to give notice so that all could attend on Friday evening. The room in which the members met previously being required for other purposes, and our new quarters being in the hands of the carpenters, the brethren who live in the town met at the residence of B. O. H. Gisborne, at 8 p.m., to meet Bro. Hobson. After giving an address to the Red Rose Degree members, Bro. Hobson conferred the White Rose Degree to President Purches, P. Presidents Bell and Gisborne, Vice-President Carthew, Secretary Sperling and Treasurer McKay. On Saturday morning, at 1.15 o'clock, Bros. Sperling, Whiffin and Gisborne saw Bro. Hobson on the train en route for Winnipeg. With such enthusiastic grand officers as Bro. the Rev. Hobson, of Christ Church, Vancouver, the order will certainly increase both in numbers and honour.

Experientia Docet.

THE UNITY OF THE EMPIRE.

The Canadian Branch of the Imperial Federation League Meets at Toronto.

The annual meeting of the Imperial Federation League of Canada was held in Shaftesbury hall on the afternoon of the 30th January, the president, Mr. Dalton McCarthy, Q.C., M.P., in the chair. There were also present: Principal Grant, G. R. R. Cockburn, M.P., W. Hamilton Merritt, John D. Hay, Rev. D. V. Lucas, Jehu Matthews, Nicol Kingsmill, Col. G. T. Denison, Col. F. C. Denison, M.P., John T. Small, J. A. Worrell, J. H. Mason, Commander Law, R.N., T. E. Moberly, Casimir Dixon, George Tyler, H. J. Wickham, Adam Creelman, Q.C., T. H. Holgate, Samuel Whitt, J. C. Hopkins, E. L. Reade, D. R. Wilkie, A. McNeil, M.P.; Sanford Fleming, Thomas Macfarlane, Ottawa, and John White, Woodstock. The secretary, after reading the minutes of the last annual meeting, held at Ottawa, read the annual report of the executive, which appeared in full in the *Empire*. The report of the treasurer, Mr. H. H. Lyman, was adopted. The reports of the Toronto and Barrie branches, which have already appeared in the press, were read and adopted. The Toronto branch report shows a membership of 732, the largest branch in the Dominion. The secretary read a letter from Mr. H. H. Lyman, treasurer of the league,

who tendered his resignation as treasurer, stating that "This step is taken after mature consideration, because the work now requires more time than I can devote to it. The increase in work is due chiefly to the growth of the league and the largely increased circulation of the journal, but partly also to the complicated sliding scale of fees adopted by the league in 1888, and to the tardiness of the officials of some of the branches in the making of returns."

Imperial Tariff of Customs.

The following resolution was proposed by Mr. W. Hamilton Merritt: That the Imperial Federation League in Canada recommends to the careful consideration of the league in England and in the other parts of the empire, as a step in the right direction, the proposition brought before the Colonial Conference of 1887 by Mr. Hofmeyer, of Cape Colony, to promote a closer union between the various parts of the British Empire by means of an imperial tariff of customs to be levied independently of the duties payable under existing tariffs on goods entering the empire from abroad. The revenue derived from such tariff to be devoted to the general defence of the empire and general purposes.

After considerable discussion, the following amendment was proposed by Mr. Hopkins, and seconded by Principal Grant:

That, in the opinion of the league in Canada, it would promote the objects of the league if a council, to be composed of representatives of the self-governing colonies, as well as the mother country, be convened by the British Government for the purpose of considering the practicability of improved trade relations between Great Britain and the different colonies and dependencies of the empire.

The amendment was carried 15 to 6.

No Discrimination Against England.

The members agreed upon the following resolution, to be proposed at the public meeting held in Shaftesbury Hall in the evening:

That this meeting desires to renew its expression of confidence in the movement for the perpetuation of the unity of the empire, and, while rejoicing at the steady trend of events in that direc-

tion, is of opinion that the adoption of preferential fiscal arrangements between the several parts of the empire would greatly promote their material prosperity, and this meeting most emphatically protests against a trade policy which would discriminate against the mother country, or any part of the empire, in favor of a foreign power.

Mr. McCarthy Retires.

The next business was the election of officers for the current year. Mr. McCarthy stated that for obvious reasons he had decided to resign the position of president of the league, and that, with this object in view, he had written to Sir Leonard Tilley, asking him if he would accept the position. He received a reply stating that his health was not good enough to warrant him in accepting the position, but a few days later, having received letters from Principal Grant and others, Sir Leonard wrote stating that he would accept the position if two visits a year to Toronto would be sufficient to perform the duties devolving upon the president.

Messrs. Small, Cockburn, Denison, Hopkins and Wilkie strongly opposed the idea of Mr. McCarthy's retirement, and urged upon that gentleman the propriety of reconsidering his action in the matter. Mr. McCarthy, however, remained firm in his intention to retire.

Election of Officers.

The following officers were then elected for the ensuing year: President—Sir Leonard Tilley. Vice-Presidents—Ontario, D'Alton McCarthy, Q.C., M.P., A. McNeil, M.P.; Quebec, Dr. Casgrain, Sir Donald Smith; New Brunswick, Prof. Weldon, Senator Boyd; Nova Scotia, Archbishop O'Brien, Sir Adams Archibald, Lieut.-Governor Daly; Manitoba, Governor Schultz; British Columbia, Hon. Hugh Wilson.

Representatives to the Council in England—R. R. Dobell, Sanford Fleming, C.E., Sir A. T. Galt, George R. Parkin, Sir Charles Tupper.

Members of Canadian Council—Garret Smith, W. R. Brock, Archbishop Walsh, J. I. Davidson, George Gooderham, Mr. Cowan, of Oshawa.

The executive committee was re-elected. The appointment of the secretary and treasurer was referred to the executive.

The coroner's jury which has been investigating the death of Duke of Bedford has formally rendered a verdict to the effect that the Duke died from a bullet wound through his heart and that he committed suicide while suffering from temporary insanity during an attack of pneumonia. The whole affair is shrouded in mystery. Five days elapsed before the Duke's death was registered, and the newspapers join in censuring the attempts of the various public officials concerned to hush the matter up. The body of Duke was cremated after the inquest, which was conducted in secret. To such an extent was the policy of secrecy followed that even some of the members of the Duke's family were not aware of the real cause of his death until the facts were published in the newspapers.

The Census to be taken in India on the 27th of February, and all marching regiments will have to average for that date as their weekly halt.

Mr. Plimsoll's agitation continues to attract comment in the English press, the general impression being that the abolition of the live stock trade would be prejudicial to the consumer.

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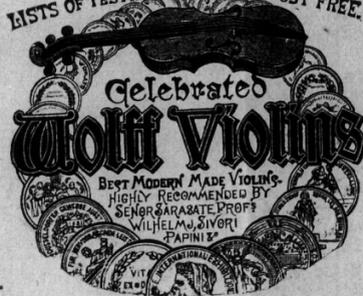
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