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# KING EDWARD AND IRELAND.

The enthusiastic reception which the Irish people have accorded King Edward and Queen Alexandra at Dublin and other communities visited by them has dissipated any alarm that might have been felt that more or less hostility might be shown. It shows that the action of the Dublin municipal corporation in refusing, at the request of professional agitators, to vote him an address of welcome was not responsive to the feeling of the people, and that what the officials of the city refused to accord the citizens have granted of themselves. Personally King Edward, when Prince of Wales, was always popular in Ireland, and he has not lessened it since his elevation to the throne.

He has taken a lively interest in ameliorating the conditions that have pressed upon the island inhabitants and has been earnest in advocating the passage of the land purchase bill through the house of commons and two readings in the house of lords, and there is no doubt that it will soon go into effect. This measure will confer a greater blessing upon the Irish people than any heretofore granted them by England and will undoubtedly operate to restore a better feeling in all parts of the United Kingdom. It will enable the natives of Ireland to become owners of the soil, and is a long step in the direction of a fuller home government.

As Prince of Wales the king proved himself a man of wonderful tact, and as king he has retained that quality and demonstrated further that it is not all fact, but that at bottom he has the quality of statesmanship. His visits to Paris and Rome have done much to create new bonds of friendship between the English and French and Italian people, and he bids fair to perform a still greater service to his country by removing the asperities that have existed between the nearly related people of his island empire.

# MANCHURIAN OPEN PORTS.

Apparently the bear has thought it well to allow the opening of two Manchurian ports under the operation of the American-Chinese treaty. The extension of the same privilege to Britain and Japan necessarily followed. For this result, due credit must be given to Mr. Secretary Hay; through whose firmness, ability and good sense the opening of the ports in that rich territory is now made possible. In rejecting the offer of special privileges for the United States, and in insisting on the "open door," Mr. Hay has shown statesmanship of the highest order; and has undoubtedly laid Europe under a deep debt of obligation. It would perhaps be almost too much to hope that this satisfactory concession will at once put an end to all matters in dispute, in which England, the United States and Japan are interested. The mere fact that China has acted throughout these wearisome negotiations at the dictate of Russia, throws rather a lurid light upon the latter's promise to evacuate Manchuria by October, 1903. It is now reported that the czar's government has informed that of the emperor of China that a further period of six years will be necessary, before she can complete her arrangements for safely withdrawing. Meanwhile Russian banks and Russian railroads are being firmly established; and Russian influence gaining ground steadily. She has already embarked some \$250,000,000 in developing Manchuria, and she will naturally look for a handsome return on her investment. Her position in Manchuria is not unlike that of England in Egypt; the difference being that while hers is a despotic and restrictive power, England's is free and progressive. It is difficult to predict what line of action, under these altered circumstances Japan will wish to adopt. If the substantial effect of Secretary Hay's achievement for the "open door," be what it seems to be, it is plain that unless coerced by some clause of the

Anglo-Japanese treaty England will no longer have sufficient cause for war. Although the concession does not satisfy the five demands made by England and Japan in the joint note presented to the Chinese government last month, still it goes a long way towards meeting them. Japan has, no doubt, still a private grievance of her own, in the virtual suzerainty assumed by Russia over Korea; which she has always regarded as rightfully belonging to her, as her due and lawful spoil on the conclusion of the war with China. It is not, however, unreasonable to hope that the advisers of the mikado may be able to make such terms with Russia that this matter may be satisfactorily arranged; and that the war cloud which now looms so heavily and darkly over the far east may soon be dispersed.

# CANADA'S FLAG.

One of the defects in the national ensign of Canada is indicated in a letter from a valued correspondent in another column, remarks the Hamilton Herald. The seal on the fly represents the country as it was at confederation, containing only the arms of the four provinces which then formed the Dominion. All that portion of Canada west of Ontario, destined in a very short time to become in population as it is in territory the larger and more important part, is ignored. The suggestion has been made that this defect might be remedied by the substitution of a simpler emblem, one that would represent the entire Dominion, and not merely a section. The maple leaf alone, or a design embodying both the maple leaf and the beaver, which are universally recognized now as distinctly Canadian tokens, would be more suitable for the fly of the national flag, and would leave no room for criticism on the part of the people of the provinces and territories that have been added to the Dominion since 1867.

# AN IMPORTANT ISSUE.

Because of their corruption or incompetency, successive governments of British Columbia for the last fifteen years have muddled along with a fiscal policy that has annually shown a gaping deficit and brought the province to the end of its borrowing powers at a reasonable rate of interest.

The most glaring feature about our present financial condition is the fact that rich, dividend-paying corporations like the railways and the coal barons do not begin to pay their fair proportion of the taxes. At the last session of the legislative assembly a return was made which shows that the railways pay but one-tenth of their fair proportion of taxes. It has been still more recently shown beyond all question that the Dunsmuirs, the owners of the E. & N. railway, pay little or no royalties on the millions upon millions of feet of timber cut annually on the lands of the company.

If there were an equitable system of taxation, if the railways and the Dunsmuirs paid as much in proportion as does the ordinary individual, there would be a surplus of cash instead of a shortage in the provincial treasury each year.

These rich corporations should not be so favored. They are in a better position than anybody else to contribute towards the cost of government. They make enormous profits while the struggling metalliferous mining industry, the harassed merchant and dependent toiler wrestle with debt and adversity.

The Miner has taken the trouble to study this vitally important question in all its important phases and is now convinced that there is prosperity for all and certain distinct and definite amelioration in store for the masses and the infant industries if the rich are made to pay their fair proportion of taxes. It is patent that a reduction could be made in the poll and school tax of the masses and the total elimination of the iniquitous 2 per cent tax on ore mined if justice were done in this respect.

Is this not worth making a campaign issue in the forthcoming elections? The corporate influences in both parties will, of course, try desperately to stultify this idea, but this journal will not listen to such sophistry or any equivocation. The principle is sound, the idea is honest and has all the right and might of its solid virtue.

Rossland Conservatives will have an opportunity tonight to declare for this simple, grand principle, and it is to be devoutly hoped that they will rise to the occasion with that sense of justice and patriotism that is and should be the guiding motives of their politics.

# PRESERVING FUR BEARING ANIMALS.

Profiting by the experience of older parts of the Dominion, the people of Northern Alberta are agitating for preventive measures against the destruction of game and fur-bearing animals. The beaver is as helpless as he is industrious, and he soon disappears when the fur hunters invade his haunts. His proverbial cunning may save him for a time, but that is chiefly manifested in his early departure for more secluded regions. We have a sentimental regard for the beaver, as our national emblem, and before our invasion the Indians placed him at the head of the animal world. The absolute prohibition of the trapping of beaver in Ontario for five years, and the forest reservation on Algonquin park, have saved this animal from destruction in that province. But indiscriminate and continuous trapping has been going on in regions far more remote. The Peace river country was at a comparatively recent time the natural haunt of the beaver in Athabasca territory. Now it is almost entirely driven out or killed off, and a few more years of slaughter will complete the work of destruction. In other parts of that territory the same unfortunate results have appeared. The only district where the beaver can now be called plentiful is on the Liard river and its tributaries north and west of Fort de Liard. Here they are virtually surrounded, and in a short time, if indiscriminate trapping is not prevented, they will be killed off.

There is an economic as well as a sentimental aspect to the question of preserving the beaver and other fur-bearing animals. At Edmonton, which is the chief raw fur market of the northern country, there is a large number of poor and immature skins sold every year, showing that the work of destruction is carried on without regard to times or seasons by both Indians and white trappers. The economic loss involved is difficult to estimate. The fur dealers do not want the immature nor the poor skins, but competition is keen, and the trappers sell them by demanding that the bad be purchased with the good. It is stated on good authority that not more than half the fur sold at Edmonton will grade No. 1. The skin of a bear killed in summer is worth about 5 cents, but if the animal is killed in season it is worth \$15. A silver fox skin taken out of season is worth about \$5, but taken in season it is worth three or four hundred dollars. All furs are similarly affected by the changing seasons.

The matter is under Dominion jurisdiction and it might be dangerous to interfere with the hunting and trapping rights of the Indians. White trappers could be prevented from taking furs out of season, or from having such furs in their possession. If it were made an offence to buy or possess such furs the market for them would be closed, and both white men and Indians would cease to trap out of season. To prohibit the export of low grade furs has been suggested as a less sweeping remedy, and as the majority of the buyers at Edmonton represent American or other foreign firms, that embargo might prove sufficient. Some restriction should be placed on the present indiscriminate slaughter.

# SIR WILFRID AND THE JAPS.

According to the New Westminster Columbian, recent incidents on the Fraser river have given the white fishermen and those interested in their welfare fresh cause for complaint against the persistence of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in cultivating the friendship of the Japanese at the expense of the white men of British Columbia. We have had the Japanese brought into direct organized competition with the white fishermen's union, and a victory for the Japs achieved solely by their numerical strength, which is such as to make it impossible for the white fishermen to hold out for what they consider a fair price for their labor. Whatever the Jap can be induced to take the white man, it appeared, must accept also or lose his season's work and let his dependants go in want.

It is no more incumbent on British Columbia to sacrifice her white men to Japanese labor than it is for Natal and Australia and other colonial possessions whose determination to regulate the labor affairs the home authorities would not risk resisting. Neither would Mr. Chamberlain attempt to force the Japanese upon Canada if we had at Ottawa a government bent upon studiously resisting all suggestions of sacrificing our local welfare to imperial interests not asserted in other colonies.

It is time that we carried this labor grievance past Sir Wilfrid, and had audience with Mr. Chamberlain himself. There are more substantial advantages to be secured to the empire by encouraging the movement of white population to British Columbia than can possibly accrue from the satisfaction the Japanese government can derive from forcing emigrants upon a province unwilling to receive them. The Mikado has had it asserted with much dignity that he might be trusted to keep his people from migrating to countries where they were

not welcome; and it seems to us that the government at Ottawa has been remiss in not having it urged upon the Japanese emperor to keep faith in this matter of the obnoxious movement of Japs to British Columbia.

# THE MOST PROFITABLE OF INDUSTRIES.

There is little doubt that among all the industries of this country, mining is the most profitable today. In making this statement, we leave out of reckoning the instances of mismanaged and ill-managed enterprises, wild-cat schemes and forced failures of novices and incompetents. We mean the mining business as it is carried on under intelligent management, with improved modern machinery and in localities which do not offer serious obstacles to transportation, etc. Given an ore body with fair values and of good average width, the profits of a mine's working year can be figured out a great deal more closely than the profits of a grain or fruit ranch, or of any manufacturing enterprise. That there is a certain element of luck and chance in mining must be admitted, but in the main the business is sound and profitable. And the basis of these conditions lies first of all, perhaps, in the fact that we have brains—trained, cultured, versatile brains, at the head of every mining enterprise of any magnitude. The West has some of the best specimens of mine superintendents the world has produced—the man who is at once geologist, engineer and practical miner; who knows his mine just as a manufacturer knows his plant, and is moreover a good business manager. And a second factor is this: That the very best that the laboratory and machine shop have produced in the way of modern improvement are being utilized in the mining industry to eliminate waste and save time. On account of modern scientific methods it is possible to work at a profit low grade and refractory ores, which in decades past were considered utterly worthless. And we presage that future prosperity in the mining field will be due not to the richness of discoveries but to improved methods of treating ores, and in economical methods of handling immense mining plants. There is no industry for which science and mechanics have done more than for mining.

# THE VOTE IN DURHAM.

Last week's bye-election in the Barnard Castle division of Durham county was expected to give some indication of the state of feeling in England in regard to the Chamberlain program, but this issue seems to have been in a large degree mixed up with others. The constituency is solidly Liberal, the Unionist candidate at the last election having received only 3445 votes against 5938 polled for his opponent, leaving him in a minority of 1491. Last week's election was a three-cornered contest. The same Unionist who was defeated in 1900, Major W. L. Vane, whose personal popularity is admitted, came within 47 votes of election, but for all that received 222 less than in the previous contest. The straight Liberal, who is said to have lacked the support of the party machinery, was at the foot of the poll, while a labor nominee who was also a good Liberal as to have held the position of official agent for that party in the constituency was successful. The combined Labor and Liberal vote was 6179, against 3323 cast for the Unionist.

On the face of it these figures are not very reassuring for Chamberlain and his supporters. Major Vane was prepared to endorse the policy of the colonial secretary, while the Liberal, Mr. Beaumont, would only go so far as to approve of an inquiry into fiscal matters, and the Labor man, Mr. Henderson, after starting his campaign with a vigorous attack on the "food tax" propaganda, came around toward the close to admit that investigation might be harmless. It is alleged, however, that this question was by no means the chief issue of the campaign; that dissatisfaction over the education act was a much more potent factor in the result, and nothing of importance has been determined regarding the preferential tariff theories which Mr. Chamberlain promises to make the leading issue at the next general election. If the voting in Barnard Castle were an index of popular sentiment in Britain on his proposals, the outlook for Mr. Chamberlain would not be rosy, but he expects to do better when his campaign of education has had time to work out its intended effect.

A London correspondent comments thus on the result of the contest: "Thus if any deduction can be drawn from the election, it is that the autumn campaign which will follow the rising of parliament in August is to settle whether the country supports the colonial secretary or not. Official assurances are given that the government absolutely does not contemplate an early general election, but there is a general belief that it will come in March, by which time Colonial Secretary Chamberlain will have put forward his scheme and the leaders will have declared themselves

on one side or the other. There is yet a third opinion, which is supported by many, that when the cabinet meets in November at the usual meeting preliminary to the new session it will be found that its members are too divided to carry on the government, and that an appeal to the country will follow. But it is certain that every effort will be made to avoid it, and party discipline will be exerted to the utmost to avoid a general upheaval at the end of the year."

# MCBRIDE AND MARTIN.

Richard McBride is not the greatest man that ever lived, but certain characteristics of his shine with dazzling effulgence when brought into contrast with the traits with which the people have been familiarized in the person of Joseph Martin.

He is honest. He is a Conservative. He has served the people faithfully. He is neither a trickster, a trimmer nor a mountebank. He has, although a very young man, been elected to the legislature twice. He has not grown rich in the service of the railways and the coal barons. He never stood for anything except law, order and equity. He enjoys no popularity in the reeking precincts of anarchy and socialism.

When the well-paid favorite of the big corporations gains a reputation and a record like this his libels will carry farther than they do now.

# O TEMPORA! O MORES!

The cry goes up at home and abroad that British Columbia is a fertile breeding ground for political heresies. This province is rapidly getting an undesirable reputation for labor agitation, socialism and other false doctrines. The reason is not hard to find. Both the old parties seem inclined to shirk responsibilities so far as the masses are concerned. And herein lies the secret of the deep undercurrent of general dissatisfaction on the part of the poorer element of our population. It is the duty of the grand old Conservative party to come to the rescue; to see to it that there shall be no class legislation; no favoritism in the levying of taxes; no discrimination against the humble but ambitious pioneer; no orders-in-council for the particular benefit of charter-mongers and grafters; no reservation of crown lands, or denial of the legal rights of the prospector—in short, a square deal all around. The illiterate and fanatical agitator, the rampant demagogue and conscienceless politician will talk to empty benches if the old line parties only do their simple duty. Cursed and hopelessly involved by the false doctrines of Martinism, the Liberals cannot be expected to relieve the situation; but the untrammelled Conservatives have a grand opportunity to restore the good name of this great province, and so create unprecedented prosperity.

# GOOD PROOF OF LIBERAL INDISCRETION.

When The Miner first drew public attention to the almost criminal folly of the Liberals in postponing the \$500 tax on Chinese until January 1, 1904, there were a number of local Grits who declared that "it was all right." The following, from the Vancouver World, the leading Liberal newspaper in British Columbia and the personal organ of "Joe" Martin, proves conclusively how ill-advised has been the Liberal policy in this respect:

"Come One, Come All—The Celestial race against time is becoming exciting. From the land beyond the sea, Chinamen are pouring into Canada with a fervor suggesting a deep anxiety to escape the approaching season of the \$500 tax. The incoming Empresses bring them in chattering hordes, and those who are not able to make the passage on the queen steamers of the Pacific come otherwise. But they come, nevertheless. Yesterday a suburban train brought over from the Fraser a small party of eighty-five who had crossed to the mainland by the ferry Victorian, having landed from one of the Sound-Oriental liners."

# RESTRICTING CHILD LABOR.

Restriction of child labor is in accord with a wide and deepening sentiment. The absolute wickedness of the systems that depend upon such labor has been shown in the mills of the Southern States and the mills, mines and sweatshops of Eastern America. While it is true that the evil has not yet reached proportions by any means as great in the West, the principle is the same. The time to correct an evil is before it has grown mighty and becomes entrenched. Child labor is not bad alone for the individual victim of it. The boy or girl is prevented from acquiring an adequate education, is stunted mentally and physically and develops into an adult only in years. This certainly is bad enough for the child, but it is to be remembered that this stunted and malformed being enters into the fabric of society. Its chances of becoming a useful member are slender. It is more likely to progress along lines that lead to crime or penury. The child denied the right to grow normally and healthfully, with a share of the sunlight and fresh air, and participation in youthful joys, is

being done a cruel wrong, and this is a wrong that reacts. Certain students of tuberculosis have concluded that the reign of this disease would in time be materially checked through the abolition of child labor. That the child who works in mill or factory toils where the atmosphere is dim and foul is almost a surety. It is in such atmosphere that the tuberculosis germ thrives. Those of robust frame may be able to withstand it, but to the puny urchin it means death. Not only does the human body need air and sunshine, but the dry air of the open day destroys the virility of the germ that under other circumstances is so much to be dreaded. From the economical standpoint there will arise objections to the change. Men will have to be employed to do the tasks now performed by scrawny youngsters. Of course, this will cost more, but it may be the little ones are worth saving even at the price.

# ENGLAND'S TRIBUTE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON.

"Englishmen and Canadians alike," says the Montreal Star, "will agree in commending the action of the authorities of St. Paul's cathedral, which has just been officially announced, in offering a site in that sacred centre of Anglo-Saxon interest, where repose the remains of Nelson and other mighty heroes of the past, for a memorial to America's great soldier and first president, George Washington."

Paradoxical as it may appear, it is nevertheless true, that few, if any, of its illustrious dead, whose monuments are to be seen in St. Paul's, have a stronger claim on the gratitude of Britons than he who, a century and a quarter ago, was regarded as a traitor to his king and his country. But George Washington taught the mother country a lesson, which it has been learning and practicing ever since. In showing her how easy it was to alienate the loyalty of her colonial children he pointed out how it could be retained. It is not too much to say that the loss of the American colonies in 1776 has proved a gain to the whole world. Not once, but by degrees, England came to perceive that if she would retain the affection and loyalty of her colonies, and so found a mighty, world-embracing empire, she must endow them with full independence, and let them govern themselves.

The process of disintegration began and ended with the loss of the American colonies. It was a bitter and expensive lesson, which has never needed to be repeated; but, as subsequent events have shown, a most valuable one. For that boon England owes to George Washington a national recognition; and we welcome the action of the Pilgrims' Club in inaugurating the movement for erecting a statue of the great American statesman in London.

The enthusiasm with which the project has been received in England is an eloquent sign of the times. It is another proof of the strong abiding sense of kinship which connects the two great Anglo-Saxon nations of the Eastern and Western hemispheres. In honoring Washington the English are but honoring one of themselves; a hero, belonging in a sense to both peoples, who now that his character can be viewed in the true perspective time alone can give, can equally admit his genius, integrity and patriotism; and thank God for the noble example he has bequeathed to all succeeding generations of the Anglo-Saxon race.

# THE NEW POPE.

The election of a successor to Pope Leo XIII, has evidently resulted in a compromise, as happens in many political contests. Followers of Cardinals Rampolla and Gotti, the most prominent of the candidates, were expected to remain firm in support of their favorites, and this has been the case. Cardinal Sarto's name was not even mentioned among the probabilities. Nevertheless, from all that is said of him, the new occupant of St. Peter's chair may be expected to discharge his duties well and prove no unworthy successor to the benevolent and saintly Leo. It seems even possible that he will improve the relations between the holy see and some of the national governments. Of course his administration of the internal affairs of the church is of interest only to the church's adherents, but there are many matters under his control which are also of interest to the world at large. In this respect the reign of the late pontiff was of general benefit, and it is well that his successor's past career should give promise of the good work being continued.

The Americans are very anxious for reciprocity with Canada. They are in real earnest about it. They have discovered that the Canadians are rapidly growing out of the stage of suicidal foolishness which profited Uncle Sam and impoverished Canada, and they want to make a bargain before the Canadians get entirely too wise to be gold-bricked. The Minnesota branch of the National Reciprocity League is quite active in the propaganda.

The Miner had occasion to show how the Liberal Chinese poll tax has been checking the tide of immigration to British Columbia. We recited the fact that Okanagan valley was brought to the verge of a great scarcity of labor. It was transpires that harvest workers by various employment coast districts to the last few days. It is that the crops of the after all, be saved.

But at what expense that many residents suddenly determined, fortably established homes in the Fraser Valley to engage suits in South Yale—that beautiful region rose? No; nothing means that the poor salmon fishers, who a few months' work been driven from the pation by the horde Japs that are coming by every incoming ship and are forced to seek Okanagan or elsewhere. Liberals for postponing until January 1st, 1904, fisher folk are compelled to travel hundreds of miles or so to tide them. They have lost a year's destitute and forced to live in order to survive.

By refusing to enforce poll tax without have flooded the coast objectionable lot of resulted in driving their regular occupation destitute. It has also for the almost total em and British immigrants wants to come to B the province is known with Chinese and Japs.

# IMPERTINENCE.

Every now and again articles in American papers to Canada which are owing to their argument ignorance of this people. A recent issue Weekly, a paper the circulation in Canada, torial which is an of impertinence towards the United States that a good under the United States will never be established deals wisely with Br.ica. How considerate us in this Dominion, on good terms with old, the mother country. "wisely." Harper's aware of the fact that England and America terms as they are at tence cordiale is not Great Britain and while never before vbind Canada to Great British Empire so a versally felt by Canada. Judging by us, our pictorial ers that England will towards Canada unties, so that we may can citizens. Such "midsommer madne New York seems to Harper's mental facians regard it as a for an American pap there is the remotest country ever becom with the American nish our liberty here, and political freedom highly, that we shou of Canada entering the utmost repugnan

# THE CITY SO.

The matter of ap pector comes up for night's meeting of the has been considera with regard to this appointing Mr. Abh already entailed a la expense on the part. There has also been ing and back-alley po ing the last few day candidates for the p that there are riva large number of the supposition and exp posterously large sa the man to be selec gal adviser. In m extravagant days B as high as \$100 a r counsel. The gener ment forced the cit the stipend to \$75 was the fee paid to at the time of his