

usefulness of the Institution and its successful advocacy of the true principles of the Federation of the Empire:

"In presenting their Annual Report on the present occasion, the Council have to deplore the great loss the Institute has sustained by the death of their late Honorary Secretary, Mr. Eddy, who expired very suddenly while attending the Social Science Congress at Glasgow, on the 3rd of October last. By his untiring zeal, indomitable energy, and great ability, combined with a disposition of the utmost kindness and thoughtful consideration for everyone with whom he was brought into contact, he won the confidence and regard of every Fellow of the Institute, and gave an impulse to its progress which was apparent in its rapidly increasing influence and success during the period he held the office he so worthily and honourably filled.

Mr. Frederick Young, who has been long a member of the Council, has, since his death, undertaken the duties of Honorary Secretary in his place.

The Council have the pleasure to report that the favourable progress noticed in the last Report still continues to be made by the Institute. The number of Fellows elected during the past year has been 105, of whom 50 are Resident and 55 Non Resident.

The Hon. Treasurer's statements which will be presented with this Report show that the financial condition of the Institute is satisfactory.

Pursuing the same policy as hitherto, the Council have sought by every means in their power to give to questions of Imperial interest in connection with the Colonies an active and energetic support. Among the most prominent of those which have engaged their serious and particular attention may be mentioned the Fisheries of Newfoundland and the Island of New Guinea.

With regard to the former a Committee has been constituted for the purpose of collecting information and drawing up a report to the Council on this most important subject.

The rights of the two countries to the fisheries of this valuable colony involving questions of such vital interest between England and France, this Committee have felt the necessity of their investigations into them being most carefully pursued; and this work has of necessity consumed a great deal of time. They have not yet completed their labours, but it is hoped, that they will ere long present to the Council a report of much interest, and one which it may be expected will be of considerable value.

With regard to New Guinea, the Council felt the paramount necessity of urging our Government to initiate prompt steps for taking possession, without delay, of the eastern part of this valuable Island. This they were induced to do from the fact of the rapidly increasing British commerce through Torres Straits, and also the further fact that Captain Moresby, of H.M.S. 'Basilisk,' had recently discovered a new passage on the Eastern shores of New Guinea, where he had already planted the British flag. By this passage a saving of 300 miles will be effected between Australia and China, rendering it certain, therefore, to become the tract for the future commerce of the world.

With this view they organized a most influential and representative Deputation, which waited on Lord Carnarvon on the 29th of April last, and presented a memorial to him, setting forth at length the reasons for their desiring the Government to adopt the policy they so strongly recommended. The

result of this interview with the Colonial Minister was, they consider, very satisfactory; and they have reason to hope, from information since received of the desire felt in Australia that this annexation should take place, that it may ere long be effected. Should this be the case, the Royal Colonial Institute will have reason to congratulate itself on having taken so vigorous and timely an initiative in a question of such great and Imperial importance, more especially as affecting so vitally as it does the interests of the Australian portion of the Empire.

The papers read during the Session have been of the greatest interest, and the attendances at many of the ordinary meetings of the Fellows of the Institute and their friends, including a large number of ladies, have been greater than at any time previously.

The papers comprise—

1. What are the best means of drawing together the interests of the United Kingdom and the Colonies, and of strengthening the Bonds of Union. By the late C. W. Eddy, Esq.

2. The Permanent Unity of the Empire. By F. P. Labilliere, Esq.

3. Fiji, Past and Present: By F. W. Chesson, Esq.

4. New Guinea. By A. Michie, Esq., Agent General for Victoria.

5. South Africa. By T. B. Glanville, Esq., late M.L.A. of the Cape of Good Hope.

6. American Protection and Canadian Reciprocity. By R. G. Haliburton, Esq.

7. Forty Years Since, and Now. By H. B. T. Strangways, Esq., late Attorney General of South Australia.

These will be very shortly published and distributed amongst the Fellows.

The Council have to acknowledge, with thanks to the Donors, that valuable Donations of Books, Papers, and Specimens of Colonial Produce continue to be presented to the Institute.

The Second Conversazione given by the Institute was held at the South Kensington Museum, on Friday, the 18th inst.

The anticipations derived from the great and marked success attending the Conversazione held last year have been fully realized, and the Council feel sure that a reunion of this character, while it is very pleasant to the Fellows and their friends, is also most useful in keeping up the sentiment, to which they attach so much importance, of promoting friendly intercourse and good feeling among those who are connected with the various portions of our widely scattered but magnificent Colonial Empire.

In conclusion, the Council assure the Fellows that it is their desire to continue energetically to promote the great principle of the 'Unity of the Empire,' the keystone of the policy which they advocate, as being in their opinion the best bond of its permanent security, and of its power and influence among the other nations of the world.

By Order,

FREDERICK YOUNG,
Hon. Sec.

June, 1875.

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WE republish in another page an article from the *London Times*, of July 7th, on the suppression of "The Court of Queen's Bench"—for its historical value; at the same time we cannot help remarking that the spirit of restless innovation under the specious name of Reform is gradually and surely changing, not for the better, the time honored institutions of Great Britain. It would also appear that those changes are brought about by that class least capable by training, and habits of thought, of discharging the functions of Legislators—the lawyers. The whole history of constitutionalism will not show a single good law prepared by a professional lawyer, and the case before us is no exception to the general rule.

The *Gazette de Lausanne* of June 17 says that the Federal Council has settled the terms of its reply to Russia relative to the Brussels Conference. Switzerland does not refuse to participate eventually in the subsequent deliberations upon the subject of the usages to be observed in warfare, but demands certain modifications by which countries will retain the right of utilising their means of national defence.