

Established 1887.

# The Anglo-Saxon,

OTTAWA, CAN.

*A monthly journal devoted to matters of use and interest relating to the Colonies of Great Britain.*

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MAY, 1899.

## EDITORIAL COMMENT.

Owing to no mention being made of the change under taken in the ANGLO-SAXON, it may occasion some surprise. We have no doubt that it will be of an agreeable character and that the change in the form and style will receive the welcome accorded its first appearance in 1887—twelve years ago. Since that date, until recently, we have worked in a particular field, for the most part among the members of the Sons of England Society and have received many and varied marks of appreciation from Englishmen, in the old country, Canada and the United States.

A want, however, is felt in this country for a representative English paper, one upon whose sentiments the British population could rely. On different occasions we have been approached by persons of eminent position, regarding this matter, who have urged us to abandon the narrow ground held by us and widen our scope. This we have accomplished in an unostentatious way, slowly but steadily, and with the assurances of continued support we have come forth costumed anew and have entered a field comparatively fresh and as yet unused, except in a general way, by our contemporaries. Our paper enters every Province of the Dominion from Nova Scotia to British Columbia and is known as the ANGLO-SAXON of the Dominion of Canada rather than the ANGLO-SAXON of Ottawa, Ontario.

After twelve years of hard fought but wholesome experience we stand forth the champions of the British cause and the acknowledged authority on all British questions.

**THE PLAINS OF ABRAHAM.**—Referring to the desecration of the Plains of Abraham, the *Broad Arrow* of London, England, says:

"The jerry-builder has traveled as far as Canada, where he threatens to lay sacrilegious hands on the Heights of Abraham. This famous battlefield, where the fate of an Empire was decided, with the highest dramatic effects, lies in the rear of one of the strongest positions in the world. Indeed, Quebec is often described as the 'Gibraltar of the Western Hemisphere,' and unlike most New World comparisons of the same kind, it is true. Around it cluster the memories of three stirring centuries. The fame of Cartier, Frontenac, Champlain, Montcalm and a hundred other heroic figures of the ancient regime, is associated with the old fortress, and the fragrance of a dead-and-gone chivalry lingers about its old houses and streets as it lingers in no other American town. But these being connected with French rule have merely a sentimental interest for the English Canadian. He however can feel his pulses thrill to the pride of race as he remembers Wolfe, and the splendid gallantry

which saved Canada for the Empire. That this historic spot should be covered by the villas of sleek citizens is arousing the greatest indignation in Canada. We know something of the sort over here, but have not yet learned how to deal with it. Somehow, in the Anglo-Saxon world, when sentiment and the practical come into collision, almost invariably it is sentiment which goes to the wall."

This is a question which has risen much sentiment and which to all prospects is likely to rise more, the possibility of turning the Plains of Abraham into building lots.

The property is at present owned by the Ursuline nuns, purchased by them from Abraham Martin from whom the land takes its name. They bought it in the year 1667 and about 97 years ago leased it to the British government for \$200 a year, for a period of 99 years. During that time the lease has changed hands and the property is now controlled by the corporation of Quebec city, who use it as a parade and drilling ground for the troops. When the lease expires the property reverts to the nuns, who no doubt, will deal with it in a manner most advantageous to themselves, showing but little concern for the scene of Wolfe's imperishable achievement. The time to act has come and it behooves every true Britisher, particularly in Canada, to lend a hand. It may be given as a reason for the apathy shown that the danger is not thought as imminent as represented by the press. It is indeed imminent and we have now the opportunity of saving or losing the ground which gave birth to British laws and British prosperity in this country.

Sentiment on the question has awakened in the old country and surprise is recorded at the lethargy into which the British-Canadian public have fallen. It is highly probable that should there be no patriot or body of patriots in Canada, who would be willing to come forward and buy the historical site, and should the Dominion or Provincial government fail to do so, we feel, that to our own ignominy it will be purchased by the British public. We prefer this to having it hacked into building lots, but we would much rather prefer the Dominion government to purchase it and keep it as a great national relic fraught by many memories dear to every Canadian.

The trend of public opinion seems to thrust the responsibility of the preservation or desecration of the Plains of Abraham upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and it is he upon whom the wrath of the people on one hand and the gratitude of rising generations on the other will doubtless fall. He not only represents the constituency, in which the lands are located, but is also at the head of the government. He thoroughly understands that the Canadian people do not begrudge the price, and in future years if censure is passed upon any one, there is no doubt that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, will be the man.

**THEY CAN'T COERCE CANADA.**—If there is any idea in the minds of American public men that they can coerce this country whenever they choose by some act of commercial hostility, the sooner they try their plan the better. If it can succeed we are not fit to exist as a nation, and the sooner we know it the better. Our desire to exist on the best of terms with the people of the United States is sincere, but we can scarcely be blamed for objecting to conduct that the smallest European States would resent from the biggest of its neighbors. We hope it is not necessary to establish the fact that we are not living by the leave or on the sufferance of any other country; but if it is, no better time than now could be chosen for amply demonstrating what an egregious error they make who delude themselves by such a notion.—*Globe, Toronto.*