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Goldwin Smith Those of the people of the United States who favor what has come to be called a policy of Imperialism appear to assume generally that what Great Britain is doing for India can be done equally well by the United States for Cuba and the Philippines, and also that, after a brief period of political tutelage under the beneficent Imperialism of America, the people of those countries will be qualified for self-government. Dr. Goldwin Smith, in a letter to the New York Sun, shows that in each of these conclusions there is something of a fallacy involved. Professor Smith says: "Those who hold up British administration in India as a model to be followed in American government of dependencies pay England a compliment which an Englishman welcomes with pleasure; but they seem to me not distinctly to understand what the British system of government in India is. They fail to observe that Great Britain has two crowns, one royal and constitutional, the other imperial. The Indian Empire is under the imperial crown. Its government, which is autocratic, is kept separate from the constitutional government of Great Britain, and upon that separation depends, on one hand; the exemption of India from the influence of British party politics, and, on the other hand, the immunity of British politics from the contagion of an autocratic empire. Fear of a reciprocal influence which might be injurious alike to Great Britain and to India led some Liberals to oppose the abolition of the East India Company and the transfer of India to the Crown. But the distinction between the kingdom and the empire has been jealously guarded, and the Queen is positively precluded from ever assuming the title of Empress in Great Britain. You apparently have nothing at present corresponding to the separate crowns, nor any special apparatus for the government of dependencies or safeguard against a reciprocal influence which may be injurious alike to the dependencies and the imperial country. Your only non-political organ of government is West Point. So long as the dependencies are in the hands of the West Pointers there is every reason to believe that the administration will be upright and in its way efficient. But this is military rule; not a step toward the introduction of self-government, but rather a step in the other direction. Self-government, however, can hardly be introduced by a conqueror. It must apparently come, as all other elements of national greatness come, by development from the native stock. British rule in India, with all its ability and benevolence, is not paving the way for self-government. The political future of the Hindoo is a blank. A scientific friend of mine had a poultry yard and undertook to hatch chickens with the incubator. All the eggs were scientifically added. One old hen got away and successfully hatched by herself. Japan has escaped the incubator and has hatched."

The Russian Famine. The reports which reach us in reference to the Russian famine are not definite as to details, but there is enough to indicate that the scarcity is wide-spread and of a very serious character. The people are afflicted not only with famine but with malignant fevers and other diseases, the result of starvation and unwholesome food. The reports of Russian correspondents of English and other newspapers are confirmed, it is said, by Russian papers. The 'Viedomosti,' of St. Petersburg, is instanced by the New York 'Tribune' as an eminently respectable paper, and its editor, Prince Ukhtomsky, is described

as a man of high social rank, a most loyal Russian and the last man who would malign his country. "If his paper, therefore, says the famine is bad, we must believe it is so. And the 'Viedomosti' does say so. It makes the great province of Samara as famine-stricken, and other adjacent regions as similarly suffering. The failure of crops is the most complete ever known. The people are living on roots, weeds, acorns, chopped straw, bran and the like, and are drinking a decoction of raspberry leaves for tea. Now Samara is one of the most populous provinces in the Empire, containing more than 2,600,000 inhabitants. Trustworthy authorities tell that the famine is general also in Perm, Ufa, Vyatka, Kazan, Simbirsk, Saratoff, Voronezh, Tamboff, Riazan and Tula. The total population of the affected provinces is not less than 25,000,000, and their area stretches in a vast belt from Moscow to the Urals." "The Russian Empire, then," says the 'Tribune,' "is face to face with a state of affairs compared with which the great Irish famine was a trifle, and which threatens to be more disastrous than the recent Indian famine and bubonic plague rolled into one. The world does not and will not know as much about it as about those other horrors. It knows little of what is going on in the teeming expanses of the Czar's domain. But the facts that are known are sufficient to command the widest and deepest sympathy. In such a case, international animosities should disappear."

The Lumber War. The action of the Ottawa Legislature in placing an export duty on logs is rather to be classed as a justifiable act of self-preservation than an instance of retaliatory legislation. The United States Government had placed so high an import duty on manufactured lumber as largely to shut out Canadian lumber from American markets. But with the exclusion of Canadian made lumber, it became the more profitable for the millmen of certain States to import logs from Ontario and manufacture them for the American market. The result of this condition of things would be to use up rapidly the forest wealth of Ontario, while the people of the Province were deprived of the profitable business which naturally belonged to them of manufacturing their logs into lumber. Under these circumstances, the Legislature of Ontario has imposed an export duty on its logs. This action is highly offensive to an influential class of United States lumbermen who appear to be employing all means within their power to bring Ontario to terms. Their interests are being cared for by a Mr. Dickinson, an able lawyer and agitator. There was an effort to bring influence to bear through the International Commission to secure the repeal of Ontario's objectionable law, and Mr. Dickinson is now credited with the statement that, because of Ontario's import duty on logs, the United States Government is about to prohibit the importation of Canadian lumber in that country. There seems reason to doubt whether Mr. Dickinson's statement signifies more than an attempt to frighten Canada into submission, but at all events, however much the exclusion of Canadian lumber may be in the immediate interests of Michigan lumbermen, it can hardly be a policy adapted to promote the interests of the United States generally. It will be merely in obedience to the behests of its lumber kings that the United States Government adopts a line of policy so inimical to the commercial interests of a neighboring people. In this connection the 'Montreal Witness' remarks: "Until Canadian Governments have fairly entered upon the policy of preserving forests and reforesting, in which

Ontario alone has, we believe, made a good beginning, it may well be hoped the United States will adopt and maintain the stupid policy of encouraging the rapid destruction of its own forests by prohibiting the importation of Canadian lumber. The United States began the lumber war by its high protective duties and its provisions threatening still higher duties in case Canada prohibited the export of logs. Though the United States counts upon her bigness to secure for her bigger rights than she is willing to allow others, she will, we hope, find that in this lumber business Canada is able to hold her own quite well. We fail to see how the prohibition of the importation of Canadian lumber is going to make the case of Mr. Dickinson's clients any better. On the contrary, their logs will, if Canadian logs are reduced in value, be so much greater a loss to them if they attempt to sell them as logs, and if they put up mills in Canada, as some are beginning to do, according to reports, they will share the loss of other Canadian lumber-cutters, if any loss arises from the embargo."

Prohibition. The question as to what action should be taken in the matter of prohibition was under consideration by the Executive and Legislative Committee of the Dominion Temperance Alliance at Ottawa on Thursday last. The committee was called to receive a report from the sub-committee appointed recently to advise upon the course to be pursued with a view to securing parliamentary action. There were present Mr. F. S. Spence of Toronto, Mr. J. R. Dougall of Montreal, and several other prominent prohibitionists, with the following members of Parliament: Senator Perley, Senator Kerr, Senator Yeo, Senator McKay, and the following, among other members of the House: McClure, Flint, McMullen, Bain, Bell (Prince), Craig, Ganong, Moore, Christie, McCormack, McInnes, Holmes, Stubbs, McLellan, Cargill, Cochrane, Earle, Wilson, Hodgins, Guillet, Roche, Haley, Pellet, Hale, Burnett, Bethune, Bell (Pictou). A majority report of the sub-committee was presented by Mr. Flint, M. P., of Yarmouth. After premising that the plebiscite was to be considered, under all the circumstances, a fair expression of public opinion, the report declared that the hostility of Quebec to prohibition should not operate to deprive the other provinces of the relief they had asked for, and suggested that this should be sought through stringent legislation, which should be in principle an extension of the Canadian Temperance Act. A minority report advised holding to the demand for a general prohibitory law for the Dominion and urging this upon Parliament as fairly demanded in response to the popular vote. Resolutions were presented outlining courses of action along the line of each of these reports. A prolonged and heated discussion ensued and each resolution was defeated by a majority of one. Finally, at a second session of the Committee, Mr. Flint said that Mr. J. R. Dougall had conferred with the members of the sub-committee and a line of action was adopted which it was hoped would meet with the views of the minority. This new report, which was adopted, set forth that total national prohibition was the only effective remedy for the evils of intemperance; that the Scott Act was found to be productive of much good, but it would not meet the present situation; that in view of the Government refusing to give a prohibitory bill, and while still urging for total prohibition, the committee believed that temperance reform would be materially aided by an act totally prohibiting the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes in any province adopting or bringing into force such an act by the duly qualified electors voting for this purpose at the provincial election, such legislation to be unrepealable for a period of time long enough to ensure a fair test of its effectiveness. The following committee was appointed to prepare a bill to be introduced in the Dominion Parliament to carry out the foregoing suggestions: Bell (Prince), McClure, McMillen, Richardson, Flint, members of Parliament; Vidal, Aiken, Senators; F. S. Spence, J. J. McLaren and Major Bond.