

THE EMPIRE.

NEWS BUDGET FROM AUSTRALIA, INDIA AND THE DEPENDENCIES.

Australasia.

The new duties imposed on spirits, wines and tea by the government of Victoria, are estimated to produce and increase a revenue of £200,000 a year.

With regard to the announcement in a London morning paper to the effect that rumors had reached Melbourne that Mr. Dibbs, the Premier of New South Wales, who recently visited England, was prepared to open negotiations for the purpose of inducing England to relinquish her interest in the New Hebrides in return for the cession by France to Great Britain of her settlements in New Caledonia, Mr. Dibbs stated to a representative of Reuter's Agency that the rumors referred to represented very inaccurately the real state of the case, and that the matter had evidently been misunderstood in Australia.

Certain individuals had informally communicated with Mr. Dibbs for the purpose of ascertaining through him the views of the various Australian colonies with reference to the French convict settlements in Noumea, and what means could be taken to remedy the existing state of affairs. He had communicated with his government on the subject, but up to the present had received no reply giving the views of the Australian colonies generally.

Mr. Dibbs had in no way attempted to open negotiations with the French Government. If, however, the colonies could agree to any line of action in this matter, he would during his stay in England be glad to see what could be done in order to bring the question to a satisfactory conclusion.

A cable despatch to London says the members of the New South Wales Government at Sydney ridicule the idea of Great Britain, as reported, accepting the transfer of the French settlements in New Caledonia in lieu of the claims of England on the New Hebrides.

India.

Sir Charles Crosthwaite will succeed Sir A. Colvin as Lieutenant-Governor of the Northwest Provinces, in November next.

The native press continues to comment in gratulatory terms on the election of Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji to the British House of Commons. The Anglo-Indian papers show less enthusiasm, but all admit that his steady perseverance and pluck deserved success, and that it would be difficult to find a native of India better fitted for the position he has won.

South Africa.

The opening of the Natal and Orange Free State Railway was celebrated at Harrismith amid much enthusiasm and general festivities. Competition is now keener than ever between the Natal and Cape lines to secure the Transvaal trade. Reduced rates on the Natal Railway have come into force, and the Cape line will retaliate by a further reduction. The tariff war is becoming mutually ruinous, and great hopes are entertained that the meeting between Messrs. Reitz and Mitchell at Harrismith may result in such a compromise as would enable both undertakings to run at a profit.

British Guiana.

Lieutenant-Governor Sir Charles Bruce forwards to Lord Knutsford a report on this colony in which it is stated that the past year has been one of prosperity, and although there has been a depreciation in value of the staple product, yet the value of the total exports is still above that of 1888. Trade has been good and the chief want of the colony has been labor. A commission which sat in the latter part of the year resulted in the establishment of an immigration agency at Barbados, and the immigrants obtained, although few in number, were good workmen and of the kind most needed on the sugar estates, which had felt the scarcity of labor more than any other industry.

The steady growth of the gold industry has been of undoubted benefit to the colony. There has been no rush to the diggings occasioning a dislocation of everyday life, although in some districts the withdrawal of labor has been felt; and while the revenue contributed by the royalty on gold has carried with it the necessity for a large expenditure in administration, yet there is evidence on all sides that the wealth extracted from the soil is being largely spent in the colony.

In area the newly-organized north-western district of British Guiana exceeds some important colonies, while, for the purposes of agriculture, forestry

and mining, it gives promise of resources inferior, perhaps, to none.

The revenue and expenditure for the year ended the 31st of March, 1892, amounted respectively to £522,767 and £508,108. The imports of 1892 were valued at £1,887,118, showing an increase of £83,342, compared with the imports of 1891. The value of the exports was £2,161,792, being £300,408 more than in 1891, and over £7 per head of the population.

The Straits Settlements.

The Government has resolved to bring the Sultan of Pahang, either to the Pahang Residency or to Singapore, and to administer the State by Englishmen. Mr. Maxwell, the Colonial Secretary, will go to Pahang on Sunday.

Persia.

The Times Persian Correspondent hears that negotiations are going on in Brussels for placing in Russian hands the tramways of Teheran, and the short railway, with right of extending it to adjacent quarries. Representatives of the Russian capitalists are inspecting the line.

Egypt.

Mr. Gorst, Director of the Land Revenue Department, has been appointed Under-Secretary of State for Finance to the Egyptian Government, in succession to Mr. Alfred Milner, who has replaced Lord Idlesleigh as Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue.

Zanzibar.

The German Consul has officially informed Mr. Gerald Portal, the British Consul-General, that the German Government recognizes the right of Great Britain, as the protecting Power, to regulate the sale of liquors in Zanzibar, and has ordered German subjects to submit to the licensing system established. The representatives of other nationalities have also agreed to observe the British regulations.

The French Consul alone persists in demanding the unrestricted sale of spirits by French subjects, on the ground that the French Treaty of 1844 with Muscat overrules the Act of the Brussels Anti-Slavery Conference.

A British, or French, Subject?

Recent legislation has aimed at preventing foreigners from residing in France for generation after generation without becoming citizens, and liable as such to military service. The Bordeaux tribunal has just decided a case of some importance on this subject. In that town lives a British subject, born in France, Mr. Exshaw. His son, Mr. Alfred Exshaw, who was born at Bordeaux in 1871, was placed on the list of conscripts for 1891, and was summoned with the other conscripts to draw lots for a lucky or unlucky number—that is to say, for a shorter or longer term of military service. He immediately protested, claiming to be a British subject, and appealed to the tribunals. He had come of age 12 days after the drawing of lots.

M. Falateuf, an eminent Paris barrister, argued that French law allowed him the option of reaching his majority of choosing British nationality, and that he had exercised that option. The convention between England and France of February, 1882, which was still in force, contained a proviso that "persons in the jurisdiction of each of the two States shall be exempt from all military service in the other." This proviso, argued Mr. Falateuf, could not be set aside by the military law of June 23, 1889, which declares that any person born in France whose parent was also born there is a French citizen. The tribunal, however, ruled that on the passing of this law Mr. Exshaw had not, being still a minor, acquired British nationality, and that the convention of 1882, in determining the persons in the jurisdiction (ressortissants) of England, is necessarily subject to French legislation. Mr. Exshaw was consequently non-suited with costs. The case will no doubt be carried to a higher Court.

Dr. Newman Hall's Retirement.

A large congregation assembled at Christ Church, Westminster-bridge-road, on the occasion of the jubilee of Dr. Newman Hall and of his retirement after 30 years from the pastorate of that church. Letters of sympathy were read from the Dean of Norwich, the Archdeacon of London, and others. The congregation presented Dr. Newman Hall with a service of plate and a cheque for £200, which he devoted to the institutions of the church.

Dr. Newman Hall then announced that the Rev. F. B. Meyer had accepted a unanimous invitation to be his successor. He was a Baptist, but, as the pulpit was open to all who held evangelical truth, this was no hindrance, and he himself would feel great pleasure in providing a baptistry, hoping thus to help in breaking down the middle wall of partition, which had too long separated denominations holding the same doctrines.

PAGES OF BRITISH HISTORY.

Historical Battles—Noteworthy Events in the Story of the Creation of the British Empire.

(Continued from our last.)

CHAPTER IV.

LEWES.

After the events chronicled in previous chapters, France for some years avoided all causes of quarrel with England, and there was peace on the Scottish border, with the exception of intermittent disputes for the possession of Cumberland, Northumberland and Westmoreland, which, nevertheless remained English. The nation, for a short period also enjoyed internal quiet. Difficulties however arose out of the unwise preference shown by King John for the Poitevins and Provençals who came over with and followed his consort, Eleanor. The jealousy of the barons was aroused, and after a series of tempestuous scenes at court, the nobles revolted, under Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, who had married the king's sister, Eleanor; and this, together with the departure of his younger brother, Richard, to win laurels in the fourth Crusade, and win the crown of the Romans, raised the hopes of those who aspired to the overthrow of the throne. In 1258, the barons came to council at Westminster sheathed in full armor; and when they assembled at Oxford, in what was called the "Mad Parliament," they appointed a committee of twenty-four to reform the state, and these passed certain enactments which are matters of general history, and were called the "Provisions of Oxford." But the wished-for reforms were delayed by disunion and jealousies among themselves, and the King of France, on being chosen umpire, gave, perhaps naturally, the decision in favor of Henry III. On this the flames of civil war broke forth. Simon of Leicester held London; and when the great bell of old St. Paul's rang out the alarm, the citizens from Fencurch, Chepe, and Strand, flocked round his standard to pillage the foreign merchants, whom they deemed fair objects of spoil, and to murder the unhappy Jews—then viewed as all men's prey, and as an accursed race. Famine increased the troubles of the land. The year 1234 saw the rival factions nearly equal in number of adherents and in military resources.

The northern counties, conspicuous ever in history for reasoning and unreasoning loyalty, together with those along the Welsh border, declared for the king; while the midland shires, the Cinque Ports, and London, "being the fattest and most attractive bits for the cupidity of foreigners," declared for Leicester. And among those who were reckoned foreigners were Robert Bruce the elder, Earl of Annandale; John Comyn, Lord of Badenoch; and John Balliol, all Scots-Normans, who brought their vassals from beyond the borders, as volunteers to Henry's standard.

On the Leicester side were De Warenne, Gloucester, the De l'Espensers, William Marmion, Robert de Roos, Richard Grey, John Fitz-John, Nicholas Seagrave, and many other nobles of high lineage and large estate; and the politic earl endeavored to impart a sacred character to his cause, for after recounting to them the many alleged perjuries of the king, he assured them that God was on their side, and caused them all to wear white crosses on their surcoats, as if they had been warring in a crusade against heathens, and not Christian Englishmen like themselves. And when the parties drew near each other in order of battle, at Lewes, in Sussex, on the 14th of May, John Arundel, Bishop of Chichester, and formerly a prebend of St. Paul's, went through the insurgents' ranks, giving a general absolution to all, and promising heaven to all who might fall.

By this timed flat-ringed armour had nearly disappeared, and that composed of rings set edgewise was almost generally worn, with much quilted and padded armour, made of silk, cloth, buckram, and leather; and these materials, from the peculiar manner in which they were ornamented, obtained the name of pourpoint and counterpoint. The surcoats were usually elaborately emblazoned with the family arms and honours of the wearer. Small plates of steel were beginning to be worn at the shoulders, elbows, and knees, called, according to their position, *epaulettes* (hence *epaulettes*), *cotes*, and *genouilleres*, and to these were added in turn splint after splint, till the complete mail of future years was reached. The helmets were barrel-formed, and rested on the shoulders, cumbersome, and liable to be

wheeled round by a lance thrust. Iron skull-caps were worn by esquires, archers, and men-at-arms. A knight's shield was straight at the top; and now, in addition to the weapons of the last century, he added a *martel-de-fer*, in fact, a mere pointed hammer, for the purpose of breaking the links of chain-mail and plates, to leave openings for the point of lance or sword; and now, for the first time, the roweled spur had replaced the barbarous goad.

It was on the present race-ground, the down now traditionally known as "Mount Harry," the encounter we are about to narrate took place, near where the ancient town of Lewes, with its walls and the lofty-situated castle built by William de Warrenne, son-in-law of the Conqueror, still stately in ruin, looked down on the grassy vales of Sussex and the Ouse winding to the sea.

The royal army was divided into three bodies. Prince Edward had the right; the King of the Romans the left; Henry III. led the main body, where his standard, a dragon, was displayed.

The army of the barons was formed in five divisions. The first was led by Henry de Montfort and the Earls of Hereford and Essex; the second by the Earl of Gloucester, with Fitz-John and William de Montcausis; the third was led by the Earl of Leicester; the fourth consisting wholly of Londoners, was on the extreme left, under Nicholas Seagrave, mustering 15,000 men, according to Matthew of Westminster.

The battle was begun by the young and fiery Prince Edward, who, at the head of a chosen body of knights and men-at-arms, with lances in the rest, made a terrible charge on the Londoners. Burning to avenge the insults they had heaped upon his mother, whom they had threatened to drown as a witch, he attacked them with such impetuous fury that they were broken in an instant, driven in disorder from the field, trampled under hoof, and slaughtered in heaps; and for four miles he pursued them without giving quarter to a single man. But this victory cost him dear, as he left the royal infantry totally unprotected; so they in turn were borne down under a combined attack from the columns of Leicester and Gloucester. For a time all were mingled together, fighting "with a fury mixed with despair;" and ultimately the king's forces began to retire towards the foot of that high green hill on which the grey old castle of Lewes stands, many of them hoping there to find shelter and make terms. But—alas for them!—town and castle were alike in the hands of the barons, and finding themselves surrounded on all sides, they surrendered at discretion. So there were taken Henry, King of England; his brother, the King of the Romans; Humphry de Behan, Earl of Hereford; William Bardolf, Robert de Tattershall, Henry de Piercy, and the three Scottish auxiliaries, Bruce, Balliol and Comyn.

Young Edward returned from his vengeful pursuit to find the day thus lost, more than 5,000 English corpses covering the ground, and among those of his father's people were De Wilton, the Justiciary, and Fulk Fitz-Warin; and of the barons, three noble knights, one of whom was William Blund, their standard-bearer.

For that night the king and his kinsmen were lodged in the Priory of Lewes some remains of which are still discernible near the town.

In the meantime the Queen, Eleanor, who had fled to the Continent, gathered a numerous force with the aid of different princes, who regarded the cause of Henry as their own; and she was now waiting at Damme, in Flanders, ready to cross the Channel: but Leicester ("Sir Simon the Righteous," as the English called him), with great promptitude, ordered a muster of the barons' troops on Barham Downs to await her landing. He also went on board a fleet to meet her on the sea. This display of resolution, together with the defeat at Lewes, so intimidated the leaders of the Queen that they disbanded their land forces, and their fleet never ventured from port.

To be Continued.

French Honors for Britons.

Mr. Henry Blount, son of Sir Edward Blount, K. C. B., has received the decoration of the Legion of Honor, of France, in recognition of his active services during 20 years in promoting numerous charitable undertakings.

A like honor has been conferred on the Rev. R. W. McAll for his 20 years' efforts in the evangelization of the masses in France.

Further despatches received from Capt. Lizard describing affairs in Uganda, of which we had previously heard only through French sources, give ample proof that the French party were the aggressors from the beginning.

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AIMS, OBJECTS AND BENEFITS

OF THE

SONS OF ENGLAND

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Organized in Toronto, December 13th, 1874

To Englishmen and Sons of Englishmen:

The mission of this Society is to bring into organized union all true and worthy Englishmen; to maintain their national institutions and liberties, and the integrity of the British Empire; to foster and keep alive the loving memory of Old England, our native and Motherland; to elevate the lives of its members in the practice of mutual aid and true charity—caring for each other in sickness and adversity and following a deceased brother with fraternal care and sympathies, when death comes, to earth's resting place.

Great Financial Benefits, viz.: Sick pay, Doctor's attendance and medicine and Funeral Allowance are accorded. Healthy men between the ages of 18 and 60 years are received into membership. Honorary members are also admitted. Roman Catholic Englishmen are not eligible.

Reverence for and adhesion to the teachings of the Holy Bible is insisted on.

Party politics are not allowed to be discussed in the lodge room.

The Society is secret in its proceedings to enable members to protect each other and prevent imposition—for which purpose an initiation Ritual is provided, imposing obligations of fidelity to the principles of the Society on all who join it.

The Society is making rapid growth and has lodges extending over Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific shores, having a membership upwards of 12,000 at present, the ratio of increase being far greater as the Society's influence and usefulness is better known. Lodges have been started in South Africa and will soon probably be started in England, etc.

The Beneficiary (Insurance) Department is providing insurance to the members for \$1,000 or \$2,000 as desired, at the minimum cost, insured by any other fraternal Society in Canada, and is conducted on the assessment system. The assessments are graded. A total disability allowance is also covered by the certificates in class "A." There are no disability claims in class "B." No Englishmen need join other organizations when the inducements of this Department are considered.

Englishmen forming and composing new lodges derive exceptional advantages in the initiation fees, and 12 good men can start a lodge.

The Society is governed by a Grand Lodge with subordinate lodges—the officers of which are elected annually.

In our lodge rooms social distinctions are laid aside and we meet on the common level of national brotherhood, in patriotic association for united counsel and effort in maintaining the great principles of our beloved Society. As such we can appeal to the sympathetic support of all true Englishmen—asking them to cast in their lot with us, thereby swelling the grand roll of those bound together in fraternal sympathies and in devotion to England and the grand cause of British freedom.

Any further information will be cheerfully given by the undersigned.

JOHN W. CARTER,

Grand Secretary.

Grand Secretary's Office, Shaftesbury Hall, Toronto, April 1st, 1892.