

# Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,  
VOLUME LXIV.

Vol. XVIII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1902.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR  
VOLUME LIII.

No. 25.

## Britain's Financial Strength.

Lord Goschen, a former Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking in the House of Lords the other day in connection with the second reading of the loan bill, called attention to the fact that, taking the price of consols as a criterion, the financial condition of the country was far from unsatisfactory. In 1888, when consols were paying three per cent. they stood at 101. In the year named consols were converted into two and a half per cents., which would be equivalent to reducing their value to 84. But consols now stand at 97, so that the stock is really 13 points higher than in 1888. Considering that the nation has just passed through an exceedingly costly war, involving the necessity of borrowing £150,000,000, Lord Goschen thought that the country might well congratulate itself on the economic situation.

## Irrigation in Alberta.

On the slopes of the Rockies in some parts of the United States irrigation has played a considerable part in developing the agricultural resources of the country, and on the Canadian side of the border, in the Territory of Alberta, there are said to be great opportunities for irrigation, which also are now beginning to be utilized. In the southern part of the Territory there stretches eastward from the foothills of the Rockies for some two hundred miles a tract of land of great fertility, but, owing to the scanty and uncertain rainfall, it is but poorly adapted to agricultural purposes. The streams which flow from the mountains, however, contain abundance of water to supply the lack of moisture, and now, by means of artificial channels, it is being brought long distances for purposes of irrigation, with the result that land which had been of very uncertain value except for stock raising, is converted into the most productive in the country. There now flows, we are told, through the main street of the town of Lethbridge, water which has been conveyed, partly through artificial channels and partly through natural ravines and water courses, for the distance of a hundred miles. The result is that with water thus obtained large sections of land in the vicinity of Lethbridge are being covered with homesteads, the country is filling up with an agricultural population, and the irrigation system thus introduced is said to be capable of indefinite extension. The Mormons, it seems, have found the country attractive and are coming from Utah in large numbers—a people who no doubt are in many respects good citizens, but whose religious peculiarities must prevent their being considered a very desirable class of immigrants. They have started the town of Raymond, named after the son of their leader—a Mr. Knight. The town is laid out on a magnificent scale and Mr. Knight, it is said, hopes to see it rival Salt Lake City in importance. The agricultural development in the vicinity of Lethbridge will promote the material interests of that town which is already a thriving place of some 2,600 inhabitants.

## The Northward Movement in the West.

Reference has already been made in these columns to the growing immigration from the United States into the Canadian North-west. The more fully the facts are ascertained the clearer becomes the importance of this movement of population. According to official estimates the number of persons coming into the Northwest this year from the United States will be about 36,000, which will probably amount to two-thirds of the whole number of settlers coming from abroad and from other parts of Canada. A certain percentage of the people who are crossing the national boundary probably bring little with them, and are moving northward because they have found the condi-

tions to the south unfavorable. But in many, and perhaps the majority of instances, these immigrants are actuated by the expectation of bettering conditions which were already good. They have prospered and accumulated property, and now they are selling their improved farms in Minnesota or Dakota at good prices in order to take up free homesteads and to purchase at cheap rates C. P. R. lands in Canada, where indeed for a few years they may have to contend with some disadvantages, but where the conditions for successful farming are better than in the country they are leaving, and where they will soon become influential factors in prosperous communities. This northward movement of population is therefore influenced by sound business considerations and there seems to be every reason to expect that it will continue and increase in volume from year to year. The new-comers from the States are bringing in with them no little wealth in live stock and other effects. In respect to this the Toronto Globe says: "One of the settlers attracted to the Canadian west this year purchased 2,000 acres of land. He brought with him two car-loads of pedigree Hereford cattle, 22 horses, and six car-loads of implements, furniture, etc. The value of his property would be about \$30,000 to \$40,000. We have mentioned an extreme case, but the fact is that almost all the heads of families from the other side of the line are men of means, averaging perhaps from \$5,000 to \$8,000, and are in a position to engage in farming on a large scale as soon as they have reached their locations. It is this which makes their arrival so momentous a matter from various points of view. These men will begin making enormous additions to the agricultural products of the country even as early as the next harvest, and in the harvest of 1903 every man of them will be a factor. They have little or nothing to learn; they come in with implements, stock and money; they take up a more than ordinary large acreage. The old countrymen and Canadians usually content themselves with the 160 acres that the Dominion Government grants as a free homestead. The American settler almost invariably buys from the railway company the 160 acres adjoining the free homestead which he takes up. Homesteading on the part of the American settler is a cheerful indication that he intends to become a Canadian citizen, for it is necessary before he receives his patent at the end of three years that he should become naturalized. As homesteading is very largely availed of, it is performing a useful part in inducing the new population to throw in their lot wholly in the communities in which many of them will undoubtedly become leading personages."

## The Coronation.

The minds of the people in many parts of the Empire and especially the people of London are now much occupied with the approaching Coronation. Canada will have a considerable representation, official and otherwise, present at the ceremonies in London, and in the cities and towns of the Dominion the event will be celebrated by religious services and other demonstrations such as may be considered by the people of the various communities appropriate to the occasion. It is supposed that the pageantry of the Coronation ceremonies and the demonstrations connected therewith will be almost unparalleled in splendor and magnificence. But for those who are among the prominent actors in it, it is evident that it will not be altogether a dream of delight. "The Coronation," says Mr. I. N. Ford, "is a drama with all the great dignitaries of the kingdom and all the representatives of quality cast for subordinate parts in the procession or ceremonials. Hundreds of these minor actors are discontented either with the parts assigned to them or with the stage properties and accessories allowed. There is heartburning everywhere. When the presence of one page is granted for carrying a coronet or a train, two are considered indispensable, especially if other dignitaries in the procession are favored with a second attendant. If one carriage is assigned to a prominent official, two

are demanded as essential to the dignity of his office. Jealousies and sensitiveness are revealed at every turn." The King himself, we are told, is not exempt from annoyance, for appeals are constantly made to him over the heads of obdurate and exasperated functionaries. Fortunately his majesty has a talent for detail, and in settling difficulties his tact is as helpful as his authority. From the correspondent quoted above it is learned that: "The official programme of the procession from the entrance of the Abbey to the theatre shows that the general order of Queen Victoria's Coronation has been followed, but that it has been greatly enriched in picturesque details; and that the ceremonial of the crowning of George IV. will be surpassed in magnificence. The official announcement has not yet been made respecting the procession from the palace to the Abbey, but it will include many historical features of the ancient Coronation. All the holders of mediæval offices will be present in their robes of office. Among them will be the King's Champion, carrying the standard; the Captain General of the Royal Archers of Scotland, the Lord High Constable, the Lord Privy Seal, the Lord Chancellor, the Lord President of the Council and the King's Bargemen and Watermen. The brilliant uniforms will be a reminiscence of the royal pageants on the Thames, and the Yeomen of the Guard will be in full array. This procession will probably be preceded by a line of royal carriages, with the special ambassadors, who will be conducted to the choir stalls of the Abbey."

## Trade and Defence.

The Conference which is shortly to take place in London between the British Government and the Premiers of the self-governing colonies, is anticipated with considerable interest. Among the questions which it is expected will be discussed are those of the trade relations of the different parts of the Empire and of Imperial defence. It seems to be supposed in certain quarters that Great Britain is ready now to abandon the principle of free trade in the interest of closer commercial and political relations with the colonies. But it does not appear to us in the least probable that the British Government will either propose or accept any system of protection that would be acceptable to the colonies or at any rate to Canada. It is more than doubtful if the people of the British Islands are ready to depart on any conditions from the principle of free trade, upon which, as they are in general firmly convinced, the great industrial and commercial prosperity of the nation for the past half century has mainly depended, and it is preposterous to suppose that they will submit to a tax on their food supply in the interests of the people of the colonies, unless the latter in turn are ready to render a substantial equivalent by giving British manufacturers a really valuable preference in the colonial markets. If the colonies were ready to agree to free trade within the Empire, it is quite possible that the British Government would be ready to consider the proposition of a protective tariff against the rest of the world, although it is by no means certain that the people of the United Kingdom would be ready to endorse such a proposition. But it is, we suppose, quite certain that not even under a liberal Government now—although in the past the party has been supposed to stand for free trade—would Canada be prepared to admit British manufacture duty free. Even now, with the comparatively slight preference which the Canadian tariff gives to British goods, our manufacturers are complaining of the competition it involves, and a preference which the people of the mother country would regard as an equivalent for any considerable tax upon their food imports would meet with so strong opposition that our Government would not venture to grant it. There are other influences too which would militate against a customs union within the Empire. It is the interest of Great Britain to cultivate intimate trade relations and friendly political relations with other nations, especially with the United States, and a departure from the practice of free trade would obviously have important bearings in this respect. Objections of much the same nature lie against the scheme of an import tax in all parts of the Empire to provide a fund for Imperial defence. The British tax-payer, when he understands the matter, is hardly likely to take kindly to the proposal to tax his food supply in order to encourage the Canadian tax-payer to contribute his own proper share to the defence of the Empire.