

India suspicious, South Africa frankly complacent. South Africa very properly feels she owes a debt of gratitude to the Mother Country. Canada is enthusiastically and practically whole-heartedly in favor of a change, for Canada has the American peril close at her elbow. Ultimately the voting resulted in a very large majority for fiscal reform.

AS TO RESULTS.

Aside from the social features of the Congresses of Boards of Trade of the British Empire, the one recently held in London being the sixth, it is difficult to see any substantial good resulting from them. As far as propagating a desire for closer trade relations between the Mother Country and the component parts of the Empire, the recent London congress, at which Mr. Drummond's resolution was carried by a good majority, disclosed the fact that irreconcilable differences of opinion existed with many, while with others, particularly delegates from London bodies, the utmost indifference prevailed. Of course quite a number of admirable resolutions were passed, which, if carried into effect would no doubt result in bringing the different parts of the Empire into closer accord than now exists, but judging from the failure of many similar resolutions passed at previous Congresses, no substantial good is likely to result from them. The London delegates seemed to have sized up the situation. They were good entertainers, and while showing the utmost courtesy to the visiting delegates, took but a very perfunctory interest in their resolutions and speech making. No doubt they represented the general sentiment of the British Government and of a preponderating portion of the people of Great Britain. Outside delegates all had their own axes to grind, but John Bull does not seem at all inclined to turn the grindstone. Illustrating this feeling of indifference, if not of contempt at the transactions of the Congress, we find the following in a London paper of recent date, as follows:—

In the Imperial House of Commons on Monday Mr. Lonsdale asked the Prime Minister whether his attention had been directed to the resolution in favor of a system of Imperial preference which was passed, by a majority of three to one, at the meeting of the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire on Wednesday last, and whether, in the event of this question being brought before the Colonial Conference of next year, the representatives of the Government will be permitted to consider it with an open mind.

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, the Premier, in reply, said:—The views of the Government upon this matter have been frequently stated, are well known, and are not likely to change. Of course, any proposals that may be brought forward by the representatives of the colonies at the Conference will receive respectful consideration.

Certainly the Premier of Great Britain is a queer sort of an Empire builder!

The Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire held sessions in Montreal in 1902, during which a couple of dozen resolutions were discussed and adopted; and we ask our readers to look backward through the intervening years since that time and recall if they can, the subjects of them and the consequent results to the

Empire. Following is a synopsis of the resolutions and what notice the British Government has taken of them:

1. Favoring closer trade relations between the countries of the Empire. Answer.—Great Britain has done nothing.
2. Describing the importance of the food supply to Great Britain from colonial instead of from foreign sources. Answer.—Great Britain has done nothing in the matter.
3. Supporting the idea of a continuous chain of state-owned cables and telegraphic connections to connect all British communities and possessions. Answer.—Great Britain has done nothing in the matter.
4. Urging the freer interchange on more even terms with foreign publications, of the periodicals of British countries. Answer.—Great Britain has done nothing in the matter.
5. Relating to fast steamship and mail service. Answer.—The Canadian Pacific Railway Co. have recently put into service two very fast and most excellent up-to-date steamers, but when expedition is required in business correspondence in this part of Canada at least, letters are marked "via New York."
6. Suggesting legislation throughout the Empire in the encouragement of conciliation boards in connection with labor disputes, etc. Answer.—Nothing has been done.
7. Re assimilation of patent laws. Answer.—Nothing has been done.
8. Protesting against restrictions on importation of Canadian cattle into Great Britain. Answer.—Nothing has been done. The question is hung up indefinitely.
9. Re encouragement of commercial education. Answer.—Nothing done.
10. Approving of colonial participation in the defence of the Empire. Answer.—Great Britain is and always will be willing for Canada to supply men, money, arms, ships and all munitions of war, to be absolutely under the disposal and control of the home government, but, fortunately, Canada does not view it that way. Canada proposes to disburse her own appropriations.
11. Declaring against any future treaty-making which might hamper British countries in arranging their relations to suit themselves. Answer.—Canada clamored for the termination of the old treaty between Great Britain and Germany. That treaty was terminated and a new one made, containing the most favored nation clause; and now Canadian goods pay a much higher rate of duty when entering Germany than that imposed on American goods. A vigorous protest from the British Government would have conserved Canadian interests, but now Canadian trade with Germany has shrunk to insignificant proportions.
12. Objecting to France imposing additional tax on goods from British countries entered through other than ports of the United Kingdom. Answer.—Nothing done.
13. Asking the British Government to take immediate steps to obtain most favored nation treatment for British colonies from countries which grant that treatment