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GEORGE E. DESBARATS, MANAGING-DIRECTOR,
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GEORGE E. MACRAE, WESTERN AGENT,
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J. H. BROWNLEE, BRANDON,
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Whoever utters a strong and cheery protest against the discouraging wail of the pessimist, who gazes with lacklustre eye on some dire phantom of threatened disaster, the creature of his own morbid imagination, does good service to his country and his kind. Dismal forebodings have a tendency to bring to pass the evils of their own gloomy forecast, while, on the contrary, words of good cheer have, by the moral sway that they exercise, a beneficent and fruitful power. The "sunny wisdom of the Greeks" paid much heed, therefore, to the language in which they spoke of even the woful and the calamitous, and left joyous associations even with scenes of death and sorrow. In the same spirit is written and in the same spirit we hail Mr. Casimir Dickson's message to the motherland as the secretary of the Imperial Federation League in Canada. What the triumphs of the League have been during the past year we need not pause to enumerate. Mr. Dickson finds them satisfactory, and readers of the League's journal, whose name is its profession of faith, will not be in the dark as to their character or extent. One result of its labours in the Dominion we accept as sufficient evidence of its usefulness, apart from any particular scheme, as the avowed ultimate goal of its efforts. This result is the assurance that the sympathies of the people of Canada are all for the maintenance of their proud position in the British Empire, and the firm establishment on the northern half of this continent of a Canadian nation living under free British institutions, and entirely against disruption and disintegration. Mr. Dickson dwells with natural pride on the impulse which, as he believes, the League movement has given to the growth of Canadian national sentiment, in harmonious combination with a strengthened feeling of allegiance to the Empire. For its share in fostering that sentiment we owe the League thanks and wish it prosperity.

In a letter to the *Gazette*, of this city, Sir J. William Dawson says, with regard to the subject of schools of mining, that in McGill University the school of mining engineering and assaying constitutes one of the departments of the faculty of applied science, and though, like other parts of the work, it is imperfectly manned and equipped, it has on the whole been successful and is growing in importance. The special instruction is painstaking and thorough, and the students have the advantage of honour courses in geology, and in the faculty of arts, in addition to the training in the faculty of applied science. The university has sent out a number of good men, many of them finding employment in the United States, where they are highly appreciated, not only for their professional ability, but for their integrity and honesty. Sir William Dawson says he could name a considerable number of such young men who have good positions and larger salaries than their professors. The Principal would be glad to see this mining school better sustained and greatly enlarged. The education

most required is that which tends to enlighten the general public as to trained mining engineers and he hopes that the recommendations of the Ontario Commission report will work in that direction. Honest mining industry (as distinguished from mere speculation in mining properties) is increasing in Canada, and success or failure depends on the employment of trained and competent men, especially natives of the country. There is no class of McGill's graduates, concludes Sir William Dawson, who have done more in the cultivation of original work in science than the graduates in mining engineering.

During the year 1872 Colonel C. S. Czowski, President of the Dominion Rifle Association, proposed that a grant should be made by the Government to send a representative body of Canadian marksmen to Wimbledon, there to compete with the marksmen of the Mother Country. The proposal met with approval, and the Adjutant-General received instructions to organize and despatch such a party as an accredited military corps. Major P. W. Worsley, at that time Brigade-Major of the Grand Trunk Brigade, was appointed to take command of the Team. An interesting account of the trip is contained in the report of the Militia Department for the year 1872. The Team was remarkably successful, winning, among other prizes, the Rajah of Kolapore's cup, as well as good places on the Queen's Prize. Since then the reputation of Canada has been well sustained in each successive year. It looks as if in Bisley our marksmen were to keep up the record obtained at Wimbledon. Four of the Canadian Team secured places in the second stage of the Queen's Prize. These are Staff-Sergeant Ogg, of Guelph; Captain Bishops, of the 63rd Regiment, Halifax; Sergeant Hall, of the 79th Regiment, Quebec, and Lieutenant Smith, of the St. John, N.B., Rifles. In the first stage Lieutenant Hora, of Kingston, Sergeant Manning, of the 62nd Regiment, of St. John, N.B., and Private Hutchison, of the 43rd Regiment, of Ottawa, got two prizes each. Last year only five Canadians obtained places in the Queen's Prize, while this year there are seven. Four got places on the second last year, and an equal number did the same thing this year. Other prizes have since been awarded to members of the Team.

The advisability of appointing a Canadian officer to the command of the militia has of late been the subject of considerable discussion. According to the actual usage, the officer holding that important position must have rank not below that of a colonel in the regular army. The *Militia Gazette* suggests that this requirement may in time be made compatible with the desire that the officer commanding should be a Canadian, as the present steady flow of the most accomplished of Canada's young soldiers into the Imperial service will by and by afford a considerable list of colonels of Canadian birth and training from which to make the selection.

Mr. J. Scott Keltie, librarian of the Royal Geographical Society and editor of the "Statesman's Year-Book," has been giving a series of lectures on a subject which is far too much lost sight of in ordinary education—commercial geography. These lectures deal mainly with the British Empire. It is discussed under two chief heads—the Empire at home, comprising the United Kingdom, and the Empire abroad, embracing India, the colonies, the protectorates and the spheres of influence. The relative importance of the Mother Country, so far as size and population are concerned, compared with the rest of the Empire, is shown by the fact that of 10 million square miles, only 121,000 belong to the United Kingdom. In other words, the Mother Country is only one 82nd part of the whole Empire. Her population to-day is close on 38 millions, or just about one-eighth part of the whole of Her Majesty's subjects. The total trade of the Empire may be valued, imports and exports, at about 1,200 millions sterling, and of this the share of the Mother Country is about

68 per cent., leaving just 32 per cent. to the vast remainder of the Empire. The trade of the Mother Country has, however, been the growth of about a thousand years, while the Colonial Empire only began to take its rise about 250 years ago. Eighteen years ago the total trade, so far as value goes, of the Mother Country was much what it is now, while in the same period the trade of the Colonies and India has increased by 70 per cent., from about 290 millions to 415 millions. Lectures of this kind must deepen the interest of those who hear them in the outlying parts of the Empire. There is no reason why similar courses should not be given in Canada. To manufacturing and commercial circles they would be most instructive, and might be so conducted as to have a really practical value. Such a course would be a welcome addition to the scheme of study at our winter night schools.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

Sir Henry Parkes, in moving, in the New South Wales Assembly, the resolution for the federal union of the whole group of Australian colonies could quote in favour of his scheme a precedent which tended to facilitate his task. When, in the Parliament of United Canada, the late Sir E. P. Taché and the Hon. (now the Right Hon. Sir) John Macdonald had to discharge a similar duty, they could point their hearers to no experience from modern colonial history in justification of the proposed change. For illustrations of the working of the federal system they were, indeed, at no loss, but for such an experiment as the British North American Provinces were then asked to undergo there was as yet no example. The fact that in this Dominion he has an instance of a colonial federation which has passed through the risks of infancy and childhood, and has even celebrated its "coming of age," has materially strengthened the plea of Sir Henry Parkes for Australian union. The circumstances of the two groups of colonies—the Canadian Provinces as they were a quarter of a century ago and those of the South Pacific as they are to-day—present it is true, some salient points of difference. Whereas the United Kingdom has furnished the great bulk of Australia's population, in Canada there were two great sections, marked off from each other by race, by language and by religion. The contiguity, moreover, of a powerful and ambitious republic, conterminous with itself, through its whole extent from east to west, makes the position of Canada very different from that of the Australian Colonies, New Zealand and Tasmania severed by many leagues of ocean from any rival power. It is, doubtless, to this absence of any stronger neighbour, that the tone of some of the political leaders in Australia, with regard to the Mother Country, may be attributed. When Sir Henry Parkes was reproached for not having proposed the name of Mr. Dibbs, the chief of the New South Wales Opposition, as a delegate to the Federal Convention, he urged in excuse that Mr. Dibbs was openly in favour of separation from England. The course of the Premier of Queensland last year indicated the existence of a similar feeling in that colony. Sir Henry Parkes himself has not been always free from the suspicion of separatist aims, though he evidently does not wish to make a schism in the Empire a plank in his federal platform. The Imperial Federationists, on the other hand, are awaiting with eagerness the result of Sir Henry's policy as a probable step towards the attainment of their own ideal. Canada is a precedent for Australian, so both together would be precedents for South African and, perhaps, West Indian federation—the organization of all these groups being the necessary antecedent of a comprehensive plan of Imperial union. The federation of the Empire—which has in some directions been gravely misunderstood and viewed with needless alarm—could only be brought to pass after the lapse of several years and with the full consent of the various communities interested. Meanwhile the League serves the purpose of a bond of union to the constituent