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THE INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE

SAYINGS AND DOINGS OF THE DELEGATES.

Canada Highly Spoken of—Promising Outlook for the Empire—Nothing but Good Coming of the Meeting.

Although the actual results of the Intercolonial Conference at Ottawa are not yet made public—though they will be very shortly—it is very easy to see from what has been made public that the delegates settled down to business in real earnest. From the very start an amount of zest pleasing to behold has been shown by all interested in the conference and its attendant possibilities. The municipal and business people of Ottawa celebrated the opening day of the conference with feasts and flags, and a reception was accorded the delegates at the House of Parliament by a large crowd of influential and prominent people.

At the banquet given at the Russell House, which was the most brilliant ever given in the capital, the warm encomiums and earnest speeches were sufficient evidence of the good feeling existing between Great Britain and her Colonies. There were over three hundred guests. The Hon. Mackenzie Bowell, president of the Conference, occupied the chair, and while the toast list was in progress the conviviality of the company was interlarded with such after dinner speeches as are seldom evoked from such magnates and orators as were there assembled.

The Governor-General said he was more impressed than surprised at the loyal way in which Her Majesty's representatives were received. He spoke of the great future that is in store for Canada, and his whole oration was flowing with sincerity and heartiness.

THE EARL OF JERSEY

said he was confident that there was a great future before the colonies and the Empire. As proof of Britain's immense growth and power he remarked that when Queen Victoria ascended the throne, Great Britain's trade was smaller than the present trade of Australia. Every individual has it in his power to forward the interest of the Empire. There was no doubt in Canada as to the feeling which the delegates bear towards it, and he concluded by saying that when they reached their native lands their chorus would be "The Maple Leaf for Ever."

WE DON'T WANT SEPARATION.

Sir John Thompson, in a splendid speech was full of Canada's loyalty too. He said that instead of seeking separation, happy self-governing Canada wished to plight her troth anew. All would rejoice in any steps that would bring the various colonies and the mother land closer together, at which sentiment there was loud applause. And he added that the Canadian loyalty was largely due to the fact that the Empire was, after all,

CANADA'S EMPIRE

as well as Great Britain's. There was much important business to be discussed by the conference, and in due time we should all know the outcome of the debate, in which all taking part were men of unquestionable ability. The only difference, after all, said the Premier, between Canada and Australian colonies was one of time and space.

The Hon. Nicholas Fitzgerald, of Tasmania, said he congratulated Canada for bringing about confederation, and the same spirit animated Tasmania and other countries. He dwelt at length on the benefit resulting from the continuity of the colonial policy. To-day she was opening up a new vista of prosperity.

Sir Henry Wrixon, of Victoria, spoke in cordial terms of the grandeur of Canada's scenery, her vast resources, the character of the people, and, above all, her intense

LOYALTY TO THE MOTHER LAND.

The delegates came to Ottawa for business, he said, and one thing the Australian delegates wanted was the cable. They were going to have the cable and the Conference was going to sit until such time as they get the cable. In conclusion he said that he was filled with admiration for Canada's system of confederation.

Hon. Thos. Playford, (South Australia) warmly denounced Great Britain for admitting the bounty-fed sugar to enter her ports without any duty whatsoever being put upon it.

There were lots of other eloquent words that evening, all breathing the same spirit, showing that the Empire was beyond the shadow of a doubt magnanimous in herself and looked upon both by her sister colonies and England as a great and wonderful country inhabited by loyal and faithful subjects.

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS.

July 10.—The following is the text of a resolution adopted before the adjournment of the Inter-Colonial Conference:

Resolved. That this Conference expresses its cordial approval of the successful efforts put forth by Canada and New South Wales for the establishment of a regular monthly steamship service, between Vancouver and Sydney, and affirm the advisability of the reasonable co-operation of all the colonies interested in securing the improvement and permanence of the same.

That the Conference learns with interest of the steps now being taken by Canada to secure a first class mail and passenger service with all the modern appliances for the storage and carrying of perishable goods across the Atlantic to Great Britain and the great subsidy which she has offered to procure its establishment.

That it regards such an uninterrupted through line of swift and superior communication between Australasia and Great Britain, as is above contemplated, as of paramount importance to the development of intercolonial trade and communication and to the unity and stability of the empire as a whole.

That as the Imperial post office contributes towards the cost of the service between England and Australia, via Brindisi or Naples and Adelaide, £85,000 per annum, while the sea postage amounts to only £3000; and to the mail services between Vancouver and Japan and China £45,000, less £7300 charged against the Admiralty, this Conference deems it but reasonable to respectfully ask that assistance be given by the Imperial Government to the fast Atlantic and Pacific service—more particularly as the British post-office, whilst paying the large subsidy of £104,281 a year to the line from Liverpool to New York, has so far rendered no assistance in the maintenance of a direct postal line between Great Britain and Canada.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

PENITENTIARY INVESTIGATION AND GENERAL ELECTIONS.

Englishmen to the Fore in Philanthropic Works—The Flood and its effects.—Sons of England Notes.

New Westminster, B.C., June 27th—Here in British Columbia we are in the midst of an exciting election. On the 7th of July the votes of the electors will be polled for or against the Davie government.

The action of that government in bringing in a bill to erect new Parliament buildings at Victoria, at a cost to the province of probably a million dollars, at a time when the depression in all branches of trade is widespread and keenly felt, has resulted in raising a strong opposition feeling throughout the country.

The government were pledged to bring in a measure of redistribution of seats, but delayed doing so until the parliament buildings had been passed.

The contest is raging at all points; but especially in Vancouver and New Westminster does the feeling run high. In the Terminal city Mr. Patton has been nominated and will probably be elected, although at present that gentleman is confined to the provincial gaol in New Westminster on a charge of contempt of court for refusing to divulge the names of two gentlemen who were his partners in the News-Advertiser. Mr. Cotton is a sturdy Englishman, who stands on his honor as such and refuses to break his word to those gentlemen. Hence his committal.

The Royal Commission of enquiry into the affairs of the Penitentiary at New Westminster has brought to light some most extraordinary breaches of discipline and mismanagement. Mr. McBride, the ostensible warden, in his evidence before the Commission the other day, stated on his oath that he was merely the nominal head of the institution, and that Inspector Moylan, who made a visit of inspection some months since, told him he must obey the orders of the Deputy Warden, Fitzsimmons. Near the penal establishment is a Roman Catholic Orphanage, and numerous witnesses have testified that government stores of all descriptions have been supplied to the Fathers and Sisters there by order of Fitzsimmons, himself a papist of the most bigoted type. Officers and convicts have been sent to the Orphanage to do work, free of charge. Carpenters and blacksmiths have worked there, pigs, fruit, potatoes and other produce of the penitentiary farm has been supplied, and when the Warden remonstrated he was told by Fitzsimmons they were works of necessity. On one occasion when a notorious prisoner named Honstm made his escape a keeper went to Fitzsimmons, who was at the time employed in planting trees in the Orphanage garden with a couple of convicts, and reported the escape. All the order he received was to "take a look round for him," and the energetic officer went on calmly planting his trees.

It appears he has systematically bowbated the keepers and other officers, at times rebuking them in presence of convicts, which the rules distinctly prohibit. Public opinion is thoroughly aroused by the Com-

mission. These things have gone on for years back, the Warden's mouth being closed by threatened dismissal if he exposed the doings of the Deputy Warden and his clique. Inspector Moylan, being himself a Roman Catholic, made a very favorable report and stated all was going on right, which it certainly was—for the Roman Catholic church.

However, Mr. G. L. Foster is now investigating matters, with Hon. Justice Drake, as a Royal Commission, and with two such high principled men the evil doers will no doubt be brought to justice.

SONS OF ENGLAND.

Lodge matters are progressing well and happily. Under the able administration of President's Lawson and Bayless, and Secretaries Robson and Disney, the two chief lodges of the mainland, Rose of Columbia and Wilberforce, are increasing in their finance and fellowship every day.

Wilberforce held their Church parade on May 27th, and Rose of Columbia the previous Sunday. As the electric tramway company granted cheap rates, brethren were able to attend each others lodge parade. Bro. Rev. H. A. Clinton, chaplain, preached at Vancouver, and Bro. Rev. H. H. Jowen, Chaplain, at St. Barnabas New Westminster. The collection at the Westminster service went towards maintaining the private ward of the lodge at the Royal Columbia Hospital.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

On the 19th inst. Rose of Columbia Lodge celebrated their fifth anniversary by a splendid soiree in the Royal Templars' Hall. Bro. Rev. H. H. Jowen occupied the chair and many of the Sons and Daughters rendered excellent music and songs. Over 100 persons sat down to the fine supper provided by the committee and it is to the credit of Bros. H. Disney, Hardman, Blood, Stinchcombe, Havelock and others that a substantial donation to the contingent fund was the result of their efforts.

Bro. T. H. Robson, Secretary of Wilberforce, has been appointed one of the managers of the "Light" publishing company of Vancouver. Long may he shine.

THE FRASER.

The farmers of the Fraser Valley have lately been visited by one of the most disastrous floods ever known to the oldest settler. Upwards of 800 farmers have lost their fences, crops, fruit trees, barns, and in some cases their houses. A few have lost horses and cattle. Hundreds of fowls were drowned and the distress was general. Happily the government were alive to the gravity of the situation and Colonel Baker, the Provincial Secretary—who by the way is a brother to Baker Pasha of world wide renown—promptly came to the relief of the sufferers, and by chartering numerous river steamers to convey supplies, succeeded in preventing any loss of life by starvation. New seed, such as potatoes, wheat, barley, oats, etc., has been furnished by the colonel to all applicants. For the last two or three weeks he has been working night and day with a large staff of assistants, and has distributed hundreds of tons of supplies.

The greatest sufferers were in Nicomen Island, which was from 5 to 20 ft. under water, its seventy-five families flying to the hills on the mainland.

The beautiful Valley of Chilliwack, where recently a lodge of our order was organized by Bros. Townsend and Bailey, was one vast lake.

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