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Canada's Premier in England. The speeches (delivered in London and elsewhere) of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Canada's Premier and representative at the Queen's Jubilee, have naturally attracted a good deal of attention on both sides the water. Not all Sir Wilfrid's recent utterances have escaped criticism here, but, we suppose, it will be admitted by most Canadians that, generally speaking, he has employed his eloquence with discretion, and that he has very worthily and effectively represented his country in connection with the grand events in which it has been his distinguished privilege to participate. Certainly the Canadian Premier has been treated with marked consideration by the Imperial authorities, and has been enthusiastically received by the people of the motherland. Among the speeches of Sir Wilfrid which have attracted most attention is that delivered at the Colonial Institute banquet, in replying to the toast of the evening, 'The United Empire.' The following sentences are from a report of the speech which has lately appeared in a Canadian newspaper:

"In the history of the world, they had read of great empires that had absorbed extensive territories, and embraced men of diverse places, tribes and nations. All those empires when compared at the present time with the British Empire for the extent of territory, sank into utter insignificance. There was, however, a more radical difference. All those empires were formed by conquest, and were maintained by force and violence. The British Empire had not been formed so much by conquest as it had been founded by colonization and the arts of peace. What made it so strong were freedom and justice—freedom and justice to all the races that now inhabited it. It was to the eternal credit of England that she always respected the religion of her subjects. Might he be allowed to speak freely, and to say that the respect shown for the religion of a new subject had not always been shown for their commerce. But that was in the past, and a new day had dawned. The concession of political rights was now generously and freely made, and nothing could have been more suggestive than what was shown them on the previous day at Aldershot, where they saw men of all the races of the earth wearing the British uniform. (Applause.) It had been said that we had reached a position that was too good to be true. The position was not to good to be true. It was simply the dawn of a better position. (Applause.) Speaking as a British subject, not of English blood, let him say that he claimed that the relations to-day between England and her colonies, satisfactory though they might be, were not the goal to which he looked. If he were permitted to reveal the goal of his aspirations, it was to see a Canadian of French descent sitting in the halls of Westminster. (Applause.) That might be, perhaps, an ambitious dream. Ambitious or not, it was the dream of his heart; and, if he were a young man, he should hope to see it realized. At the present time his ambition was a more limited and humble one, he having learnt the lesson of proceeding slowly. At the present time the only ambition he had—and one he would recommend to members of the Colonial Institute—was to obtain the renunciation of certain treaties which he looked upon as blots on the history of our colonial development. (Applause.) He was glad to see around that board representatives of the best half of the population of England. (Laughter and hear, hear.) If they had the sympathies of the best half of the people of

England he knew what the result would be. There were some colonies in which women voted. In Canada they did not vote, though they ruled all the same. (Laughter). He was quite sure that if they would be so kind as to give them their sympathy, they would reach their goal, because, ce que femme veut, Dieu le veut, [what woman wills, God wills.] (Applause.)"

South African Affairs in Parliament. The presentation of the report of the South African committee in the House of Commons on Monday last was an occasion of very considerable interest, and the galleries were accordingly crowded with visitors. The report met with some sharp criticism from the Radical element in the House. Hon. Phillip James Stanhope, Radical member for Burnby, moved amid loud Radical cheers a resolution to the effect that the House regretted the inconclusive character of the report of the committee, more particularly its failure to recommend that specific steps be taken with regard to the admitted complicity of Mr. Cecil Rhodes, and asking that Mr. Hawkesley, the attorney of Rhodes, be ordered to attend at the Bar of the House, and to produce the telegrams which he refused to show the committee. Mr. Stanhope, who has been described as a revolutionary Aristocrat, supported his resolution in a vigorous speech in which he attacked the Chartered Company, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the Hon. Cecil Rhodes, and expressed a desire that the latter should be deprived of his membership in the Privy Council. Mr. Henry Labouchere in denouncing the conduct of Mr. Rhodes, compared the course he had pursued in South Africa to that of a Secretary of State in the United States, who, without the consent of his president, should organize a raid against Canada. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said the Government would have to consider whether or not Mr. Rhodes should remain in the Privy Council, but in dealing with him the character of his services generally must be considered. Sir William Harcourt, the Liberal leader, defended the committee and said he thought the report conclusive on all important points. He strongly defended Mr. Chamberlain, declared that his action at the time the raid occurred disproved all insinuations of complicity, and denounced the charges that the committee had plotted to suppress certain evidence as worthy only of contempt.

Chamberlain's Defence of Rhodes. The Colonial Secretary, Mr. Chamberlain, who has incurred a good deal of criticism in connection with the Enquiry, embraced the opportunity which the discussion offered to make his defence. Mr. Chamberlain reminded the Opposition that it was due to their insistence that the committee had been appointed, and that he himself had been made a member of it. He had been in a position, he said, in which he felt like judge, witness and defendant, and he thought he deserved the sympathy of the House, from the fact that during the eighteen months of difficult South African negotiations he had been worried by constant irresponsible charges and suspicions, and he was glad he was able to speak at last as a free man. As to the telegrams, he said, he had nothing against their publication. Whatever they contained was no evidence against the Colonial office. He was convinced that while Cecil Rhodes's fault was as great as a politician and statesman could commit, there was nothing that affected his personal character as a man of honor. It was said he had deceived others. So also did Garibaldi, Cavour and other patriots. It was a

military necessity. Mr. Labouchere by bringing outrageous charges against Messrs. Rhodes, Beit and Harris, had abused the privileges of Parliament. The Government was not going to prosecute him nor to deprive him of his privy councillorship which had been conferred upon him for his great services. Mr. Chamberlain said he was glad to be able to state that the position of South Africa was better now than it had been at any time since the raid, and President Kruger was desirous to meet the government in a proper spirit. He believed that the time was not far distant when Rhodesia would have self-government.

It will, we fancy, appear to the ordinary intellect that, if the cabled despatches have reported Mr. Chamberlain fairly, his defence of Mr. Rhodes' personal honor is rather an extraordinary one. It would seem from this doctrine that a man may be guilty of the gravest sins as a statesman or a politician and still retain an immaculate character as a gentleman. He may make war upon a friendly power, without the consent and against the will of the Government to which he is amenable, and may practise all manner of deception that he may consider necessary to the success of his undertaking, but in all this he has done nothing to bring the slightest stain upon his personal character, or to injure his reputation in the esteem of gentlemen! People will naturally ask whether or not this indicates the standard to which Mr. Chamberlain also, as a statesman and a politician, aims to conform. How far the doctrine enunciated by Mr. Chamberlain finds acceptance in the political world we do not know, but perhaps we may now be able to understand how "Honorable Gentlemen" have been able to do a good many things which it seemed impossible that honorable gentlemen could do.

A Balloon Trip to the Pole. So far as is known up to time of writing, the civilized world is without information as to the fate of Prof. Andree, who, on July 11th, set out from Dane's Island on a balloon expedition to the North Pole. Two men accompanied Prof. Andree on his novel and most perilous journey. These were Dr. Fraenkel, a meteorologist, and Mr. Strindberg, a general scientist. If any immensely important results of a scientific character were likely to be achieved, supposing the undertaking of Prof. Andree and his companions to be successful, one would be able to feel more enthusiasm about the matter. But it is hardly to be expected that the world's stock of scientific knowledge would be greatly enlarged if the balloon should be so miraculously fortunate as to sail across the Pole and return with its occupants safe and sound. These men would be able, it may be presumed, to determine the question—whether at the extreme polar region there is or is not an open sea; they would be able doubtless to relate some strange and probably most uncomfortable experiences, and they would have gained a world-wide reputation by achieving that which had hitherto baffled the wit and power of man. But it does not appear that any interest in which mankind is vitally concerned would be greatly served by the success of this expedition for which these three brave men have taken their lives in their hands. It must be regarded as contrary to any reasonable expectation that they will ever return. Mr. Andree put his faith in currents of air moving steadily toward the Pole. It is reported that, when the balloon set out from Dane's Island, it was being carried northward by such a current at a velocity of 22 miles an hour. But, admitting the existence of such air currents in the highest explored latitudes, meteorologists of high authority regard it as a most hazardous inference to conclude that these currents continue so invariably that a balloon might ride on them with safety to the Pole. And then, it is asked, supposing the aerial navigators to have found the conditions such as to admit of their reaching the extreme polar regions in their frail vessel, what reasonable hope can they have that they will find southward moving currents to carry them back again to the confines of the habitable earth.