

THE VERDICT OF THE CHAMBERS

RESULTS OF THE LONDON CONFERENCE SUMMED UP.

Some of the Preplexities of the Situation.

The Policy Favored by the Majority—Canada as a Home for British Settlement.

The influential section of English opinion represented by the London Times is voiced by that newspaper on the relations between the Motherland and the Colonies, as follows: It is a significant fact that most of the time of the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire has been occupied with questions bearing more or less directly on the relations between the mother country and the colonies. Certainly the most important of these questions was that dealing with the trade relations between the various portions of the Empire. It has been repeatedly maintained that Imperial Federation is impossible unless it be based on

COMMERCIAL FEDERATION.

It is not enough, we are told, that the mother country should admit all colonial products free of duty; similar privileges are accorded to the imports of all the rest of the world. If England is really in earnest, it is urged, in keeping the Empire united she must discriminate between colonial and foreign imports, to the advantage of the former; she must place such a tariff on foreign produce as will enable the colonies to send her their commodities at a cheaper rate than they can be bought at in other markets. In return for this the colonies would not adopt free trade so far as England is concerned, but while continuing to level duties on nearly everything she has to export, they would make these duties slightly less than those imposed on foreign goods. It is maintained that if this were the case the great colonies would be so encouraged in the development of their territories that in time the Empire would be entirely independent of all the rest of the world, as her area is so vast and her resources so varied that she could produce all that the immense population of the Empire would require. We have repeatedly maintained that the Dominion lands in Manitoba, the North-West Territories, and British Columbia are capable of

IMMENSE DEVELOPMENT,

and might in time become one of the great granaries of the world. Similar claims were put in for Australia and the Cape as regions which have, so to speak, only been scratched, and which only require a little maternal protection to become equal as producers to countries that have had a thousand years' start of them. The discussion of the whole subject was unfettered and ample; batteries of statistics were brought into play, and sentiment was freely poured out in the meeting. But this representative assembly of men having the greatest interest in the commerce of the Empire left no room for doubt as to its mind. By a majority which must be regarded as crushing the congress decided in favor of free trade as the only basis on which commercial relations can be established between England and the Colonies. On the other side, the colonies are told to

TRY FREE TRADE WITH ENGLAND as against the rest of the world, and the colonies answer "No, follow our example and go in for protection." Neither side is disposed to move; the solution of the difficulty one way or the other seems quite out of sight, and therefore if Imperial Federation is to be accomplished soon it will not be upon commerce as a basis. It may be said that the result aimed at is of such vast moment that the mother country might at least make the experiment in the direction desired by the colonies. But there is hardly room for experiment here. The belief is too widely entertained that the enormous increase of our commerce has been in the main due to the fact that England is a vast free port. If we give up this position, if we tried protection for, say, ten years, we might find out our mistake when it was too late, when our trade had been diverted in other directions in which protective resistance was least. On the other hand, the free-traders urge the colonies to try their plan, and see what would be the result with universal

FREE TRADE THROUGHOUT THE EMPIRE.

If it did not answer, then let the colonies revert to their old policy. They would be none the worse for the experiment. Although one or two representative colonists were in favor of the policy, there is no doubt that colonial feeling is wedded to protectionism. The truth is that, as has been frequently pointed out, the two parties to this

question are in totally different positions; one has reached the top of the mountain, the other is toiling up the lower slopes; the aims and prospects of the two appear to have little in common. The United Empire Trade League, which also met during the past fortnight, is, of course, all for protection: it was not a representative assembly. The only conclusion to be come to is that the bulk of those interested in the commerce of the mother country are perfectly satisfied with the present state of things, and that Imperial Federationists had better for the present abandon all hope of accomplishing their end through commerce. As a matter of fact, Mr. Dibbs pointed out, the relations, sentimental and other, between colonies and the mother country are strong enough of themselves to keep us united. We have many

INTERESTS IN COMMON;

let us cherish these, let us bring them into prominence, and if on the basis of these any outward and visible sign of federation can be devised, by all means let us devise it. Such is the main conclusion forced upon us by the meeting of the Chambers of Commerce, in which, as we have said, Imperial interests were prominent. The spirit of loyalty to the Empire throughout the proceedings, and at the dinner in St. James's hall, was highly gratifying. Such Imperial assemblies, informal though they be, are highly desirable, and it is to be hoped they will be held more frequently in the future than in the past. They may not lead to federation in the precise form desired by "faddists," but they are bound to promote the feeling of unity, and this may naturally develop into a result more tangible. Meantime, there have been movements of importance in the Dominion that have a more or less direct bearing on the great subject discussed in the Congress.

THE WAR OF TARIFFS

is being waged between the Dominion and the States, and unfettered reciprocity seems as far off as ever. Canada is not disposed to allow American vessels to have absolutely free use of her canals, and the President of the States suggests revenge. But the election fever is burning in the veins of all parties in the United States at present, and therefore a certain abatement must be made from the strength of the language used. There is no sentiment there to soften statistics as there is between the colonies and the mother country, and, therefore, whatever arrangement is come to as to reciprocity will be based solely on what each country conceives to be to its own advantage; pure self-interest is the only guiding motive. There is no need to advise Canada not to permit herself to be

BULLIED BY HER NEIGHBOR;

but surely if it pays the latter to send her grain to Europe via Montreal, Canada has a great advantage in this respect over the United States. Why, then, does she not without loss of time proceed to show practically that she is able to render the mother country independent of the United States in the matter of grain? With her vastly improved communications there is surely encouragement enough for her to greatly increase her wheat area without any help in the way of differential duties from the mother country. The deputation sent by the Roman Catholic authorities in the Dominion to report on the Northwestern Territories of Canada has pronounced strongly in favor of the latter as a field for emigration from the Eastern provinces; while the help given to the immigration of crofters from Scotland into British Columbia by the Columbia Loan Bill ought to give an impetus to a much-needed

INCREASE IN THE POPULATION

of the west of the Dominion. If the census of 1901 does not show a vast increase in the population of Canada, as compared with that which took place in the decade 1881-91, and an equally great increase in the area under cultivation, it will hardly be ascribed to any want of encouragement from the mother country. But we firmly believe that, with the immense improvement in communications, the rate of development in Canada is bound to receive a great impulse; Canada has ample room for a prosperous population ten times as large as she sustains at present.

The death is announced of Mr. Myburgh, Q. C., one of the leading practitioners in the Admiralty Court.

The horses attached to a wagonette at Rhyll, took fright and dashed through a group of children, killing one and injuring four others.

A violent waterspout burst over the village of Langtoft, near Driffield. Three cottages were destroyed, farm buildings were damaged, and some cattle were lost.

HON. MR. DIBBS AND AUSTRALIAN FINANCES.

The Premier of New South Wales Submits Some Big Figures—The Money Crisis.

Hon. Mr. Dibbs, premier of New South Wales, has addressed a long letter to the London Times on "English Criticism on Australian Finances." The Times thus comments on it: "As we anticipated, he has simply marshalled in compact array the army of figures already accessible to all who cared to seek for them. He has shown, what no one acquainted with the subject denies, that Australia possesses enormous wealth and vast undeveloped resources. Mr. Dibbs confines himself mainly to New South Wales, his own colony, and does not concern himself much with the affairs of the other colonies. At a moderate estimate he values the public and private wealth of the colony at 500 millions sterling. It is difficult to realize precisely what such estimates really represent; but it is clear enough from his array of figures that New South Wales could meet her liabilities over and over again. And the same might be said of the other Australian colonies. But countries are like individuals; they may be possessed of vast wealth, but that wealth may not always be realizable when wanted, and does not prevent their being occasionally pinched from want of ready money. The monetary crises which have more or less affected all the Australian colonies seem to show that with all their wealth they have not always been able to command ready money. As we have repeatedly stated, no one seriously believes that Australia is not both able and willing to meet all her liabilities; if she has been extravagant she has received a lesson which it is encouraging to see she has taken to heart, and she promises to be more careful in the future.

IMMIGRATION.

One service Mr. Dibbs might do, and that is enlighten the British public as to the present position of immigration in the great Australian colonies. There is a general impression here that immigrants, unless they are capitalists, are not wanted, and that Australia, has ceased to be a field of colonization for mechanics and small farmers. The labour difficulty is so prominent in the colonies, the unemployed seem so numerous, and subsidies more or less direct to the working classes so frequent, that the belief is common that Australia wants no more emigrants; that the natural increase of the population will in the future be quite adequate for the development of the resources of the continent.

Deadlock Between Governor and Cabinet

It is satisfactory to learn from the speech of the Governor, in opening the new session of parliament in New Zealand, a decided improvement is taking place in that colony; the exodus to the other colonies which previously presented such alarming features has now stopped; financially and industrially New Zealand has resumed her former career of prosperity. Unfortunately a deadlock has occurred between the new governor, the Earl of Glasgow, and his cabinet. The latter desired the governor to add 15 new additional members to the Legislative Council, in order to lighten the upper chamber with a more liberal element; but Lord Glasgow would only consent to ten. The governor of a self-governing colony ought to have very serious reasons for declining to assent to the request of his ministers. Probably Lord Glasgow will find he has made a mistake and regret that he did not yield gracefully at first.

Latest Mail Summary From London.

The Gaikwar of Baroda with the Maharane and their sons have visited the Queen at Windsor Castle. The Gaikwar remained to dine with her Majesty.

The King of Roumania and the Prince of Hohenzollern took leave of the Queen on the 8th inst., and on the following Monday they left on their return to Bucharest.

The Prince of Wales has inspected the new cruiser Melampus, to the command of which his son, the Duke of York, has been appointed.

The Duke and the Duchess of Fife, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sir Julian Pauncefote, and Mr. George Strachey have been to Windsor Castle on a visit to the Queen.

The Duke and Duchess of Teck and the Princess Victoria Mary have returned to White Lodge, Richmond Park, from Germany.

The Duchess of Connaught, who has been abroad to recruit her strength, has returned to London in greatly improved health.

The Duke of Cambridge has held a review of the Household Cavalry and the 17th Lancers on Wimbledon-common. The Duchess of Teck and Princess May were present, this being their first public

appearance since their return from Germany. The princesses drove over from their residence in Richmond Park, and were respectfully saluted by the people on the common.

The King and Queen of Denmark gave a dinner party at the Castle of Bernstorff in honor of the birthday of Princess Victoria of Wales.

The coronor's inquest on the body of Captain Dale, the aeronaut, who was killed by the fall of his balloon at the Crystal Palace, resulted in a verdict of accidental death.

It is announced that Mr. Lumley Smith, Q. C., has been appointed County Court Judge at Shoreditch, in place of Mr. Prentiss, Q. C., resigned.

Mr. A. R. Poole has been appointed Recorder of Bristol in place of the late Mr. Pridaux, Q. C.

LORD DUFFERIN'S INSTALLATION.

A Notable Ceremony—The Lord Warden-ship of the Cinque Ports.

The Marquis of Dufferin and Ava has been installed at Dover, as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. The brilliant ceremony of installing a Lord Warden had not been witnessed since 1861, when Lord Palmerston assumed the office. The Court of Shepway, at which the Lord Warden was installed, is an exceedingly ancient institution, dating back to the year 1265, when Prince Edward became Lord Warden. Lord Dufferin is the 150th successor to the office of Lord Warden from the time of Godwin, Earl of Kent, 1053. During the century 1792-1892, there have been seven holders of the office—namely, the Right Hon. William Pitt, the Earl of Liverpool, the Duke of Wellington, the Marquis of Dalhousie, Lord Palmerston, Earl Granville, and the Right Hon. W. H. Smith. The ceremony was favored by excellent weather.

Lord Dufferin wore the numerous orders which he holds, and was attired in the uniform of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports—a frock coat of blue cloth with scarlet facings, and buttons bearing the Cinque Ports arms, an admiral's sword, and cocked hat. After a service in the Castle Church and some preliminary formalities, the members of the Grand Court of Shepway assembled. The Officers of the Court present were Mr. Cohen, Q. C., Judge of the Court of Admiralty, Mr. E. W. Knocker, Seneschal, and Mr. J. Stilwell, Surrogate. The proceedings of the Court were of course of a formal character, but they excited great interest. The proclamations were first read, by the Seneschal, and then the Lord Warden's precept summoning the meeting. The presentation of the returns from the various towns having been made, the Speaker addressed the Lord Warden, formally requesting him to take upon himself the duties of the office. Lord Dufferin having assented, the Court saluted him with a reverence, and a salute of 19 guns was fired from the battery near. The business of the Court terminated with an invitation from the Mayor of Dover, to a banquet in the evening at the Town-hall, at which Lord Dufferin spoke.

RELIGIOUS TEACHING IN BOARD SCHOOLS.

Sharp Discussion at the London School Board—The Children's Conception of the Deity.

At the last weekly meeting of the London School Board, the Rev. S. Headlam called attention to the following extract from a report which he said had been sent out by one of the examiners in Scripture knowledge:—"I have had only one regret in reading these papers, and that was to find many of the children giving great prominence to the idea that the Deity was an avenging one, and that one was to do right because of the fear of eternal punishment. I would venture to submit that children should be taught 'God is Love.'"

Mr. Headlam moved, "That the teachers be instructed to teach the doctrines of the Universal Fatherhood of God." It was far better he said that there should be no religion at all than that a bad religion should be taught. He expressed his surprise that Canon Bristow had given notice to move the previous question. The clergy of the Church of England had grossly neglected their duty towards the children in religious matters. The clergy were willing to spend a great deal of energy and money in getting a few children into Church schools where they could have the management in their own hands; and they had at the same time neglected their duty to the great mass of the children. If they would do their duty in giving religious instruction to all the children there would be no need to instruct them in the board schools.

Canon Bristow moved the previous question. They were not there he declared to say what particular truth the teachers should impart to the children. The School Board was not the proper body to set forth dogma. He should like

to see the Board schools brought up to the level of the Church Schools in the matter of religious education; but he objected to the question being introduced in this side way. Although the religious teaching in the Board schools was not what he desired to see, he was quite content to abide by the compromise which was arrived at years ago.

Mr. Sharp was not satisfied with the religious teaching of the Board. He had seen enough of the destitute children of London to know that the religious teaching in many of their schools was not what it ought to be. The condition of their truant children proved to him that they knew less of religion than of other things. In the 3rd, 4th and 5th standards some of them hardly knew the name of Jesus Christ, even as an historical fact. This class of children appeared to be in the same condition, from a religious point of view, as he found them when working with Lord Shaftesbury 30 years ago in the Field-lane Mission. They were densely ignorant on all subjects, and profoundly ignorant on religious matters. The previous question was carried by 25 to four.

THE

AIMS, OBJECTS AND BENEFITS

OF THE

SONS OF ENGLAND

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Organized in Toronto, December 12th, 1874

To Englishmen and Sons of Englishmen:

The mission of this Society is to bring into organized union all true and worthy Englishmen; to maintain their national institutions and liberties and the integrity of the British Empire; to foster and keep alive the loving memory of Old England, our native and Mother land; to elevate the lives of its members in the practice of mutual aid and true charity—caring for each other in sickness and adversity and following a deceased brother with fraternal care and sympathies, when death comes, to earth's resting place.

Great Financial Benefits, viz.: Sick pay, Doctor's attendance and medicine and Funeral Allowance are accorded. Healthy men between the ages of 18 and 60 years are received into membership. Honorary members are also admitted. Roman Catholic Englishmen are not eligible.

Reverence for and adhesion to the teachings of the Holy Bible is insisted on.

Party politics are not allowed to be discussed in the lodge room.

The Society is secret in its proceedings to enable members to protect each other and prevent imposition—for which purpose an initiation Ritual is provided, imposing obligations of fidelity to the principles of the Society on all who join it.

The Society is making rapid growth and has lodges extending over Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific shores, having a membership upwards of 12,000 at present, the ratio of increase being for greater as the Society's influence and usefulness is better known. Lodges have been started in South Africa and will soon probably be started in England, etc.

The Beneficiary (Insurance) Department is providing insurance to the members for \$1,000 or \$2,000 as desired, at the minimum cost, never passed by any other fraternal Society in Canada, and is conducted on the assessment system. The assessments are graded. A total disability allowance is also covered by the certificates in class "A." There are no disability claims in class "B." No Englishmen need join other organizations when the inducements of this Department are considered.

Englishmen forming and composing new lodges derive exceptional advantages in the initiation fees, and 12 good men can start a lodge.

The Society is governed by a Grand Lodge with subordinate lodges—the officers of which are elected annually.

In our lodge rooms social distinctions are laid aside and we meet on the common level of national brotherhood, in patriotic association for united counsel and effort in maintaining the great principles of our beloved Society. As such we can appeal to the sympathetic support of all true Englishmen—asking them to cast in their lot with us, thereby swelling the grand roll of those bound together in fraternal sympathies and in devotion to England and the grand cause of British freedom.

Any further information will be cheerfully given by the undersigned.

JOHN W. CARTER,
Grand Secretary.

Grand Secretary's Office,
Shaftesbury Hall,
Toronto, April 1st, 1892.