

The Colonist.

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SIR HENRI JOLY DE LOTBINIERE.

News of the death of Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere will be read with regret all over Canada, and nowhere more so than in this city, where he lived and dispensed a graceful and courtly hospitality during the term in which he filled the office of Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia. His health has not been of the best for a long time, and advice received from his home in Quebec only a few days ago indicated that the end of his long and useful career was not far away.

To those who only knew Sir Henri in his later years, he scarcely appeared to be a man of vigorous fighting qualities, but the story of his premiership of Quebec shows him to have been a man of splendid character and abundant resourcefulness. Although born in France, he was a Canadian in every other sense of the word, and although his education was received in the European land, he was an apt pupil in the principles of Responsible Government. Discussing his possible action in an anticipated emergency, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said: "You may rely upon Sir Henri's doing what is strictly constitutional under all circumstances."

He combined in a rare degree suavity in his manner with firmness in his character. He was always gentle, but on occasion he could be firmness itself. His advanced age combined with his failing health made it impossible for him to participate any longer in the public life of Canada, which he so greatly adorned, nevertheless the country is distinctly the poorer by reason of his death. The influence of a man of his loftiness of purpose, uprightness of life and broad, kindly sympathies is always great. Its circle in one sense may grow narrow as advancing years lessens the capacity for action, but it is ever present and ever tends to the uplifting of our idea of citizenship. When the public life of Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere is recalled it will always be remembered as that of one, who in the turmoil of party politics always kept his honor bright and his name unsullied.

Apart from his association with political affairs, Sir Henri's chief interest centered in forestry. To him a tree was more than a growing piece of wood, to be cut down for timber or fuel, when needed, or allowed to remain for ornamental purposes. It was an example of creative work, that which nothing is more useful for the proper development of humanity. He saw in a tree a "hiding of power." He spoke to him of infinite possibilities. He realized far more fully than most men how completely the welfare of mankind and that of trees are interwoven. He began a labor of love in this connection, when resident at Government House. We understand that the majority of the young trees planted by him are yet in the ground. He is at the disposal of the city. We venture to suggest that a certain number of them should be utilized to form an avenue, part of the city, say in the North Park, and that the name of Lotbiniere should be given to it thereby preserving the kindly recollections which the citizens of Victoria have of him and commemorating his praiseworthy effort to instill into the minds of the people of the province a love for trees and an appreciation of their great importance.

To the bereaved relatives the Colonist extends on behalf of the people of Victoria an expression of deep sympathy. Not the least of his services to his adopted country was to raise family who in all the qualities, which go to make good Canadians and good members of the community, keep alive the ideals of their father.

BRITISH COLUMBIANS

The result of the Dominion elections in this province has a lesson which ought not to be allowed to pass unnoticed. It is that the people of British Columbia are nothing if not exceedingly independent in their political views. In Victoria, a cabinet minister went down to defeat and in the two constituencies in which the elections were deferred, Conservatives were elected. In the latter case the fact that the Liberals had been confirmed in power for another parliamentary term. We are not going to say anything about the issues involved in the contests in any of the constituencies, because they are not material to the point which we wish to make, and that is, that the electors were not controlled by considerations which are ordinarily supposed to have great influence. The lesson of this seems to be that the result in such a case in this province cannot be estimated in advance as in some other parts of the country. Our voters have more individual independence. They have elected five Conservatives to the House of Commons, but if the course which the Conservative party shall pursue between now and the next election is not such as to commend itself to a majority of the people of this province, the verdict in such a case cannot be determined in advance by reason of anything that has happened this year. The Liberals had the province solidly in their hands four years ago. It may be assumed that the result of the elections of the confirmed party men are not greatly different in 1908 from what they were in 1904. Yet there was an overturn which was almost complete. We think that the degree of independence on the part of the electors, which augurs well for the future of the province. Right or wrong, it is not necessary to discuss that point now—a sufficient number of the independent electors, that is of the people who are not tied to either party, thought that the Dominion government ought to be condemned and they condemned it. It is true that they did so chiefly on grounds that are largely local to British Columbia; but that only makes the lesson the more valuable. It shows that British Columbia must be reckoned upon as a factor in Canadian politics to a far greater degree than has hitherto been supposed.

CHIEF TELEGRAPHIC RATES.

The London Morning Post thinks that "preferential trade arrangements and improved steamship and telegraphic communication" constitute the Canadian view of Imperial union. Like most general statements this one must be received with some qualification, but in the main it is correct. The people of Canada do not concern themselves

greatly with the political reorganization of the Empire, but they do think much about improved methods of communication and potential commercial advantages. At this time the question of a cheaper telegraphic service is occupying a very prominent place in public attention, and it may be said that nothing of an Imperial nature has more strongly commended itself to Canadian opinion. It is announced that Mr. Lemieux during his recent visit to London will confer with the British government with reference to the construction of a telegraphic cable between the Mother Country and the Dominion, the cost to be borne by the governments of the two countries. This is estimated at \$1,800,000, which is certainly not so large a sum as to present a formidable obstacle to the success of the plan. A London despatch says that the Globe of that city declares the proposal to be well worthy of consideration and support.

Last week the first sessions of the conference, which is considering the practicability of establishing cheaper cable rates between points within the Empire, were held. The principle object of the conference seems to be the inauguration of a 2-cent rate on transatlantic cablegrams. Mr. J. H. Heaton is at the head of the movement, and he is confident of ultimate success, although he does not minimize the strength of the opposition to the proposal. He proposes the purchase of all the Atlantic cables by the British and United States governments at a fair valuation. Such a step he says, "is feasible and possible in the interests of millions in both countries; it is absolutely necessary." He looks upon the proposed cable as a step which will prove remunerative, because if the rates were reduced to two cents a word the cables would be worked to their full capacity. "You may note," he says, "that the volume of the volume of business, whereas the reduction of rates would only be 8.65 per cent. In other words the cables would now earn 24 cents, and the cost of operating would only be slightly increased."

In this connection it may be mentioned that Sir Sandford Fleming, a few years ago published a pamphlet in which he sought to show that telegrams might be profitably carried between all points in Canada at the present minimum rate charged for commercial business, or say, 25 cents for the first 10 words and a cent a word thereafter. He also suggested that a cable should be laid from London to London for 45 cents. At present such a message would cost \$3.75. If such a reduction is within the range of profitable telegraphy, any effort in reason is worth making to secure it. The increase in personal, social and commercial telegraphy would be enormous. It is difficult to limit, and the resulting benefit to the public in a variety of ways is too great to be measured. Let it be said in addition that a press service of 2 cents a word could be provided. It would then be easy enough to arrange for a first class British newspaper service by the provincial dailies combining to form a local Associated Press with a correspondent in London.

Heaton says, everybody but the shareholders in the Cable Trust, is in favor of the proposed reduction. He also says that the Trust is alarmed at the prospect of a public demand for cheap cablegrams that a certain section of the metropolitan press is vigorously combating the suggestion. He also says that the Trust is alarmed at the prospect of a public demand for cheap cablegrams that a certain section of the metropolitan press is vigorously combating the suggestion.

THE GERMAN CRISIS

It is no exaggeration to describe the recent incident in Germany, in which the course taken by the Kaiser was adversely criticized by the Reichstag, as a crisis, for there can be no doubt that the turning point had come in the history of that country. Conservatives may minimize it as they will, but an issue had squarely arisen between the Kaiser and the people of Germany. The question involved was fundamental. The views of the Kaiser as to his powers were medieval. He was rapidly becoming the incarnation of absolutism, and all observers saw that sooner or later there would be a collision between him and his liberty-loving people. Let it not be forgotten that the German people have been nurtured in principles of democracy for many generations. Democracy has not found expression in that country as it did in the United States, as it has in America, for the feudal idea has survived, nevertheless the German ideal of government is not autocratic but popular. The Kaiser's rule in this respect has been an anachronism.

We do not place too high a value upon the outcome of the incident when we say that it marks the beginning of the end of personal government in Germany. In a matter of this kind there can be no step backward. The German people will never surrender to any man, no matter how eminent he may be, the right to dictate the foreign policy of the empire and to express his views except through ministers responsible to representatives of the people. In other words, the principle of responsible government has been recognized, and it will not be abandoned. Any change is likely to be in the direction of lessening the power of the Kaiser. In his handling of an exceedingly difficult situation, Prince Buelow has displayed a tact and firmness worthy of the best traditions of German statesmanship, and we need not hesitate to say that he has done his duty. In seeing that there was only one way out of the position in which he had placed himself through his impetuosity, he has done his duty. In other words, he has gained greatly in another, for he has taken a course which merits and will command the confidence of the German people.

NO RACE CRY

We regret to learn that in certain quarters in Ontario there has been proposed to introduce into Canadian politics a "race and religion" issue, the object being to unite the Protestants of the Dominion into one political party. The suggestion does not seem to meet with any favor from the leaders of the Conservative party, and we think it may be assumed to be only the product of chagrin on the part of some people, who had built up high hopes in the anticipation of success at the late elections. Nothing more unjustifiable than such an attempt could be easily proposed. It would be the worst kind of politics, for it would mean lasting defeat to the party which

relied upon it. The people of Canada know of no reason why they should divide politically upon race and religion; they would refuse to respond to such a demand, and very truly it would be that the Roman Catholics, who now do not belong to one party more than another, would be forced to oppose the "race and religion" issue. His chief enough was done at the late election by the circulation of the Orange Sentinel article. But we put the case upon no such low plane. The election returns since Confederation show that while the Province of Quebec usually elects a very large majority of government supporters, the popular vote is pretty well divided. We have not the full returns of the recent elections at hand, but those of the election of 1904 show the majorities of the Liberals in many of the constituencies to be small. The suggested issue would drive all Quebec into one political camp. But our point is that public opinion in the Dominion is not so easily swayed as it is in other provinces. Mr. Fielding was able to go to Ottawa in 1904 with a solid phalanx in support of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and the British Columbia Conservatives have not been able to do so since. No one ascribed this to the fact that Sir Wilfrid was a Frenchman and a Roman Catholic; why then should he be given as a reason why he secured a large majority in the vote from Quebec. There was a time when the greater part of Sir John Macdonald's majority came from Quebec.

There is no group of public men in the Dominion who advent to office so desirably that the country should be rent in twain and the bitterest of all animosities should be precipitated in order to bring it about. Let us take defeat like men. The people under the present administration refused to respond to the appeals made to them by the Conservatives. If there is to be a change of government four years from now, let it be because the Conservatives have shown themselves deserving of public confidence, and not because it has been possible to set race against race and religion against religion.

AUSTRALASIAN TRADE

The last report of Mr. J. S. Larke on Australasian trade with Canada is not very satisfactory. Notwithstanding the advantage enjoyed by them under the preferential tariff, Canadian manufacturers do not seem to be able to hold their own in competition in that market with their rivals in the United States. There are many satisfactory reasons for this, but they do not appear on the face of the trade returns. In one particular the fault lies clearly with the Canadians. Mr. Larke draws attention to the importation of books and stoves into New Zealand, and mentions that the Canadian factories will not make an effort to supply the kind of goods which the market demands, and that the finest of their products are very far below the output of the United States factories. In regard to adapting the goods to the requirements of possible customers, Great Britain is far ahead of all competitors. Canada supplies all the canned salmon used in Australasia, but their fish trade with the Southern Dominions stops. Great quantities of preserved fish are imported from Great Britain, although the fish grounds on the western coast of Canada are far nearer than the Mother Country. Here seems to be a line of trade which Canada is neglecting. The Canadian trade is growing, but as our furniture has the advantage of the preferential tariff there seems to be no valid reason why the Canadian States should supply the market as extensively as it has been doing. The same is also true of many other goods. The United States ships more of these than Canada, although the latter pay a duty of 2 shillings a hundredweight, while the former pay none. The specific items mentioned above, while to the imports of New Zealand only, but the general observation that Canada is neglecting a line of trade which might have been looked for applies to the whole of Australasia.

FERTILE VALLEYS

We have a very interesting description of three valleys in the Coast Division of Central British Columbia, which we print this morning. We may say to our esteemed contributor that we have struck out one sentence or two, which we think "comparisons are odious." The information contained in the article is of great general interest and is fully in line with what has appeared in this paper on former occasions. A very interesting thing in connection with the opening of British Columbia is that the more extensive is the fund of knowledge acquired from exploration the more valuable the province appears. British Columbia has been somewhat singular in one respect. In regard to most undeveloped lands the unknown is generally taken as valuable; but the reverse has been the case with this province, and what was not known to be good has been set down as bad or at least doubtful. Our frowning mountains have proved too much for the imagination of superficial observers. There has been the case ever since any attention was paid to the Northwest Coast. Congressmen Benton, speaking in the United States House of Representatives about thirty years ago, said: "We know of the Straits of Juan de Fuca all in darkness and desolation," and he voiced the opinion of every one, except possibly the officials of the Hudson's Bay Company and a few pioneers. British Columbia has had to live down a reputation which was given to it in ignorance. In Mr. Blake's "seed of motion" there are thriving cities and towns and great areas of beautiful orchards. To most people the central part of the province has appeared to be of utility, only because of potential mineral development, the standing timber and cattle ranges. The few who were able to penetrate the interior were looked upon as amiable though mistaken enthusiasts. We are all learning something about our country, and it is all to its advantage. The better British Columbia is known the more highly it is appreciated.

The facts set forth by our correspondent, while not wholly new, are wholly interesting and very timely. Everything bearing upon the capabilities of the Grand Trunk Pacific is important just now. It is important to the company which is constructing the line, because it shows the traffic-producing capabilities of a region from which there were no exports. We venture to say that in the various estimates made by Mr. Hays and his associates as to the business that would be developed in British Columbia, the probability of fruit shipments from the land along the line to the prairie region was not taken into account. Neither is it likely to have been considered that there were the areas, which as soon as they were made accessible, would be cut up into comparatively small farms, thereby ensuring a somewhat dense population. These sources of future enterprise like "something found," they must certainly be something that could not very well have been anticipated. It is important to the province, for it shows what scope there is for the expansion of the settled area. Whatever doubts may have existed on the subject in times past, there is no longer any as to the development along the line of the new railway of a settled district, whose people will be occupied with a diversified agriculture, and farming will play an exceedingly important part.

Dame Rumor has for the present repressed into silence in regard to political changes at Ottawa. The story about Mr. Borden's retirement to accept a solicitorship from the Canadian Pacific is authoritatively denied, although it is not denied that the Conservative leader is not particularly anxious for a longer political career.

The Local Council of Women have decided to send the Canadian Club to add to its roll an honorary membership for women, "whereby they may be admitted to all instructive and intellectual entertainments, and to take part on special social occasions." The request is one which, we fancy, will be readily acceded to. In several of the cities of Eastern Canada women are admitted to membership in the Canadian clubs on the basis mentioned, and the arrangement has been found to work admirably.

In an address to the students of the Episcopal high school of Virginia on Saturday, President Roosevelt gave the clearest advice he could give. He believed in sports and urged the boys to play hard when they played, but also to work hard when they worked. "Do not be guilty of any poor practice in your sports," said the president. "Do your level best to win, but do it in a fair way." This advice of the President in the matter of being timely and it can be taken to heart with advantage by many prominent athletes in the United States.

Those most competent to judge of the situation are of the opinion that the change in the rulership at Peking is not likely to have any large disturbing effect for the present at least on conditions in China and her relations with other powers. Great bodies move slowly, and there is such a tremendous mass of population in the Celestial Kingdom that a considerable period of time will necessarily have to elapse before the hundreds of millions of inhabitants will be the subject of any change in the situation at the seat of government.

The seed sown by the masterful exponents in England of the cause of woman's rights seems to have taken root at the most distant outpost of Empire, if one may judge from the tenor of the proceedings at Tuesday evening's session of the Anglican Synod. The ladies were not lacking in measure of their claims for a greater measure of liberty in those matters now specially reserved for the deliberations of men, and although the particular point in the case of the women's rights seems to have taken root at the most distant outpost of Empire, if one may judge from the tenor of the proceedings at Tuesday evening's session of the Anglican Synod. 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