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and their descendants.

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THE UNITED EMPIRE TRADE LEAGUE.

The visit to Canada of Col. Howard Vincent, C.B., M.P., from England, to promote the objects of the above-named League—namely, preferential trading advantages to citizens of the British Empire—is an event of the very first importance to all those who are loyal to the great principle of maintaining the Unity of the Empire.

Some of the Canadian newspapers have misrepresented Col. Vincent's mission as being that of an advocate of "Protection" as opposed to "Free Trade." Those who rightly understand his proposals know, on the contrary, that they can be fully carried out with simply a revenue tariff on foreign imports and all customs' barriers removed between British countries and with absolute free trade existing within the whole British Empire, like as between England and Scotland. The essence of his proposals consists of a full recognition of the fiscal independence of each part of the Empire to regulate its own tariff to suit its own needs—but that, in all cases, whether a policy of levying duties for revenue on imports be adopted or making their admission free, each part of the Empire will give advantages in trade to the other portions over foreign nations. This scheme incidentally, in relation to foreign nations, will involve that their exports to British countries will be taxed (to supply necessary revenue to the government) even where British goods going from one port to another enter free of duty. Preferential trade within the Empire, as the alternative to preferential trade in our markets with foreign nations, is the issue before us. Canada nor Great Britain, in the presence of hostile foreign tariffs against their exports, can afford to be commercially isolated. The British Empire with its vast areas in all latitudes, its almost illimitable resources and its abundant and magnificent supplies for every human need—the productions of each section being the complement to the others—presents to the mind the most dazzling field for carrying out a truly national as distinguished from a cosmopolitan trade policy. The British Empire, owing to its position geographically and its vast and varied resources, is virtually independent of all foreign nations for the necessities of life. We can draw all our supplies from within the Empire, and if we trade with foreigners in our own markets it should only be on the condition of our gaining satisfactory access to theirs—fair barter only. Such valuable markets, as we can offer the world, enable us to dictate just terms on which we will trade with them. This can be effectually done by a national policy for the Empire, in trade matters discriminating by a modest revenue tariff against all foreign nations in favor of British countries, and retaliating on such of them as, impose more than a revenue tariff on British exports, thereby also recognizing the integral unity of the Empire in matters of trade.

Some will ask if we think Great Britain will act in this direction or do anything to imperil its foreign trade? We answer that in trade we think Britain knows a good bargain when she has it offered her, and just so surely as foreign markets of civilized nations are being closed to her trade, just so surely will she realize the reciprocal benefits from this proposition. Again she will imperil nothing by adopting it, as, even now, each year every foreign country is rigidly excluding British produce from their markets wherever it can be kept out by tariffs that are little better than total prohibition.

Every structure has a foundation—and as a permanent basis for the British Empire, it must be founded on the commercial interests and political necessities of those within it. Patriotism may supply a good cement for binding the parts together, but the solid bricks and stones of worldly comfort, prosperity and peace are the only conditions possible for a free people to tolerate. On such a foundation the structure of a political federation of the British Empire can be erected—requiring only skilled workmen to carry out the noble design of a great political architect. Our Empire is a great training ground for statesmen, and we are confident that the man for the hour will be found.

Col. Vincent's work is in the nature of clearing the site for action—removing obstructions and rubbish and excavating to find a solid rock bed for the edifice. We bespeak for his mission the cordial support of all loyal Englishmen, whether "free-traders" or "protectionists," for the most ultra free-traders are hardly prepared to clamour for direct taxation so they cannot denounce a revenue tariff against foreign imports, with a lower duty or free imports from British countries.

Col. Vincent's proposal, so far as any duty to be levied, covers the ground of making the distinction in trade between "British" and "Foreign" by raising our revenue partly or wholly on the foreign imports.

If we only think of Britain's millions who emigrate, filling up her colonial territories—developing the untold wealth of these wild lands; each part of the Empire a blessing in supplying some want to the others; the weakest part enjoying the succour and help of the whole; this vast portion of the earth's surface occupied by a free people, and the "Union Jack" floating over us as one nation—as the symbol of our common national blessings and liberties—the thought is inspiring, enabling and well worthy to lead us on to struggle for its attainment or perish in the attempt.

An United British Empire—with freedom entrenched within its realm—would be a haven of rest to mankind. Wronging no one nor fearing any, she would be a light for God, as a great Evangelical Protestant Nation, in a darkened world.

UNIFORM IMPERIAL POSTAGE.

The question of the adoption of a uniform Imperial Postage rate has recently been brought before the public by Mr. R. J. Beadon, M.A., (a member of the Executive Committee of the Imperial Federation League) in a very ably written pamphlet.

The proposal is stated to mean "nothing less than the extension of the inland rates current in the United Kingdom to the whole British Empire," and is now advanced by its supporters as a counter proposition to the international Postal Union, which it is claimed has the effect of intensifying and prolonging the subordination of Imperial interests to those of foreign nations.

The idea at the base of the proposal is that the Empire is a unit, and that our postal system should embody the fact of national unity.

It is claimed that "the adoption of a stamp common to all Her Majesty's dominions for purposes of intercommunication, would serve to mark, in an emphatic and practical way the Unity of the Empire. Such a stamp could be printed wherever issued, upon a uniform design, changing only the name of the country of origin, and the denomination where, as in Canada, there is a different currency."

It is further pointed out that favorable postal facilities are a great encouragement to trade, and that it is our bounden duty to help swell the volume of trade within the British Empire by placing all British citizens on a more favored footing than their foreign rivals in postal rates within the Empire.

The lion in the path of Postal Reform of any kind has always been the fiscal one. The so-called 'free-trade' policy of Britain has left the Chancellor of the Exchequer so few popular sources of revenue that the postal system, as a state monopoly, has been perverted into a mode of taxation instead of being rigidly confined to act as a self-supported arm of the public service—and as the tax is but little felt, it endangers no votes to the Government. For this reason British postal rates are so much higher when compared with other countries.

It is further pointed out that, *pro rata*, a writer of a letter to the colonies is being taxed far more for value received than the writer of a letter to extreme portions of Britain. Virtually, by the overcharge, he is thus made to relieve the rest of the community of their share of this part of public taxation.

Again the enormous subsidies paid for Ocean Packet Services, which are considered excessive, are not paid wholly or even principally for postal purposes, but for political objects, in which the whole body of the community are equally benefitted—such as the keeping open trade routes in time of war; the development of the mercantile marine as a vehicle of trade, and as a nursery and reserve of the navy; also as a reserve of ships in time of war as armed cruisers, transports and otherwise. These subsidies, a little more than 30 years ago were actually paid by the admiralty to which department they more properly belonged, but were then transferred to the post office to avoid their being recognized as portions of the naval expenditure. By the treaty obligation Britain has entered into at the Postal Union Convention of Paris, it is claimed she has placed herself in an analogous position to that under the Commercial Treaties—whereby she restricts her liberty of action to enter into any preferential inter-Imperial arrangements with her colonies, a point to be yet decided as a result of the recent convention at Vienna.

Apart from the immense advantages, commercially and otherwise which cheap postal rates between Britain and her colonies would afford, we hail with pleasure every effort calculated and tending to consolidate British power, and unity throughout the world; seeking to impart to every citizen of our great empire a lively sense of being a member of one nation with one common aim and purpose—the good of all. A postage stamp for the whole Empire would, in our judgment, be a step in the right direction—promote immense public good and would be attended with no practical difficulty which statesmen cannot surmount, where the will to do it is present.

It is gratifying to note that Canada, through her Boards of Trade, etc., has given no uncertain sound on this question, and we are confident that the requirements of our Empire will soon bring the question to the front rank for solution. It is a question allied to many others affecting the relation—and its permanency—of the mother country to the colonies—questions that at best can only be shelved for awhile, but which return on us for solution with redoubled energy. A miserable parochial treatment of such problems, instead of a true Imperial statesmanship, is the danger facing us. A strictly National Policy for the Empire, to avoid national disintegration—is becoming daily a more pressing and felt want, by the stern law of necessity. We are further in favor of Uniform Imperial Postage on strictly national grounds. We are tired of death with those sickly sentimental cosmopolitans who act as the friend of every nation but their own, and who never fail to make mental gyrations of all sorts at the very sound of the word 'loyalty,' with added inuendo about patriotism being the last refuge of scoundrels, etc. We regard it as no crime in being justly proud of being British citizens, and determined to conserve to our children's children the priceless liberty and blessings of our nation, and therefore we wish every success to the laudable efforts to establish an Uniform Imperial Postage.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE S. O. E. SOCIETY: Our notes of this Society's progress this month is highly gratifying—four more lodges having already been instituted than during the whole of last year. The Juvenile lodges are becoming also very numerous—and new lodges are to be started in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island as pioneer lodges. We believe the lower provinces of the Dominion will be found a ripe harvest field for the society and that many warm true British hearts are there who will gladly enroll themselves under the Old Flag with the watchwords of "United Empire." We wish the officers visiting there all success and strongly advise our readers there to use the opportunity for enrolment and initiation in support of the only organized body of Englishmen in Canada, except the charitable society of St. George. Unity amongst Englishmen—in thought, word and action—was never more a pressing want than now, in Canada and throughout the world, if we wish to cherish our national traditions and make our power felt in maintaining our peculiar liberties and blessings. As a Protestant body, we commend the society to all who realize the stealthy encroachments of Romanism and who wish to defeat our national foe. The more the society grows, so will its power to fulfil its mission, and many influential Englishmen who ignore it to-day will soon be glad to do it homage, for their own sakes if not for the higher and nobler purposes for

which it seeks a patriotic support. We think the Executive of the Society would do well to give its affairs the widest publicity in our columns to matters of public interest; and while we shall applaud the good done, our right to do that much is dependent on our fair criticism of anything we judge to be wrong—any other course would not save us from gaining a reputation for servility and flunkeyism that would disgust even the best friends of the society.

SIR HECTOR LANGEVIN: The resignation of Sir Hector from his post, as Minister of Public Works—apart from the very unpleasant circumstances which have led up to it—is a matter of real satisfaction to us, feeling as we do that in his person he simply represented the French race and the Romish religion. His personal abilities, to our mind, have never been such as to entitle him to a position in the cabinet, and as we object on principle to any man being put into office by political parties because he represented a race or a creed we do not feel sorry at his leaving it. Our only regret is that we fear his position will be filled, in all likelihood, by another of the same brood. Political evils seem to be all hydra-headed. Common fairness however, in so far as his name has been mixed up with the public scandals in the Tarte-McGreedy matter, leads us to sympathize with him in his defence, complaining that the charges were not brought directly against him in Parliament instead of over the head of another—especially as there can be no doubt that he was the prime object of attack.

PRINCE OF WALES: The baccarat scandal, at Tranby Croft brought an unusual amount of attention to the doings, good or bad, of the heir to the throne of our mighty empire. This has been followed by apologies on his behalf, representing the Prince as a man of many abilities and virtues—which are lacking opportunity (owing to official restraint on his actions) to manifest themselves in useful public service—that in fact his faults are an illustration of the old saying of the devil finding use for idle people. Be that as it may, it has often occurred to our mind, when reading of Princes of the Royal family visiting European countries, to ask what is there to prevent even Her Majesty and especially the Royal family making it a part of their life-work to visit often, and spend profitable and prolonged periods in the colonies, so as to be thoroughly familiar with the conditions of colonial life and current thought and feeling? Facilities for doing so now-a-days are easy, and it could not have but the best effect on the millions outside the British Islands, from whom personal loyalty to the ruler of the Empire is expected. The imaginary republicanism of our colonies would appear then at its true measure—besides the morals of princes would be vastly improved by it. Again when royalty passed its time visiting all parts of the Empire, we should have in its train thousands of wealthy fashionables doing so also, and instead of spending their money in continental hotels and gaming houses, they would put it in circulation where it would do far more good.

NATIONALISM: The marvellous growth reported in our columns of the Sons of England Society is cause for a sympathetic pride to Englishmen, and also a source for congratulations to its officers and members who are zealously labouring for its success. National pride, to Englishmen, does not mean a narrow contracted feeling or regard towards our fellow citizens—but it represents the sentiment of devotion to the great principles and institutions which have made Britain glorious throughout the world. We can never make a mutual admiration society out of Englishmen—they will rather, in bull-dog fashion, bite and devour one another when there are no other foes to fight. The flag of Old England has sheltered under its fold refugees from all nations—from all forms of oppression and tyranny—it having been for centuries in the van of the movements for the freedom of mankind; and, in its mighty energy has built up an Empire more glorious than any the world has known. Societies, like the one we refer to, are well calculated to stimulate the most healthy forms of national feeling and character, and to give us a power, in organized formation, to make its impress felt effectively on our local surroundings,—in short to make everything wear a British stamp or character, and that we may indeed realize this is a Briton's home, that we are no strangers in a foreign land, but that the foreigner who comes here may imbibe our spirit and share our blessings.

We hope to see all classes of Englishmen more equally represented in this growing and prosperous society.

WITHIN THE EMPIRE: The readers of the ANGLO-SAXON, who have carefully perused the chapters on Imperial Federation, under the title of "Within the Empire," which have for some months past been appearing in our columns, from the very able pen of Mr. Thos. Macfarlane, F.R.S.C., will be glad to learn that a published reprint thereof, in book form, has appeared. Booksellers have it on sale at 50 cents per copy.

We heartily commend this work to the calm perusal of all Englishmen—to everyone with British sympathies—as the fruit of most careful thought and preparation by the author, and who, by his long and steadfast devotion to the cause of British Unity, is entitled to the most respectful attention in speaking or writing on the subject. A scheme so vast and far reaching in its application, is only felt, in its true magnitude and importance, when, as with the author of this work, one has to study it out in its minute details, so as to evolve a practical working scheme in its essential outlines.

It is no reflection on the high value we place on this work when we say that, in some important particulars we differ from his scheme—notably his proposal to re-construct or re-organize the British House of Lords, so as virtually to change its character from that of a local House, with peculiar class privileges, into a Federal Senate for the Empire. We believe local institutions, whether good or bad, must be left to the tender mercies of the citizens of that locality for whose benefit they are supposed to exist—outside interference would make bad only worse. To touch them, whether in the colonies or Britain, is only stirring up a hornets nest—butting against difficulties instead of avoiding them. When Imperial Federation takes the form of a legislative union, we are confident that the supreme governing body will be a new creation outside all existing local bodies—constitutionally elected periodically so as to truly represent the interests and feelings of each section of the Empire. If will be no patching up of old garments, or putting new wine into old bottles—but it will be a structural edifice, the fruit of ripened legislative experience and statesmanship, political forethought and sagacity which will properly command our intelligent approval and suitably appeal to our national sympathies and ambitions. Mr. Macfarlane's contribution to this subject we regard as invaluable, especially wherein he deals with all the material local interests affected by the scheme.

OFFICIAL CORRUPTION: The newspapers have been filled almost daily with reports of the official corruption and irregularities in the Government departments at Ottawa. The most insatiable appetite for scandals must have been more than satisfied—in fact we imagine the public has been almost over-fed with disgusting details so that a revulsion of feeling is possible, to the advantage of the guilty parties. Those familiar with the modes of securing political support for the party machines in Canada are not at all surprised at these disclosures—they know fully what the "great principles" of either party represent when power and emoluments of office are the prizes. They know further there is an immense amount of hypocrisy over these revelations of political immoralities. The average elector readily holds his hand up for a \$10 bribe at election times resulting in corrupt men sitting in Parliament, and corrupt men in Parliament will corrupt and spoil any honest attempt at purity in public affairs.

When the country was being robbed of \$400,000 by Mr. Mercier to buy up the ecclesiastical Jesuit influence—where was the morality of political parties then? As Mr. Dalton MacCarthy said we might as well have applied the money to importing rattlesnakes into the country, but for fear of offending Rome, both parties hushed the matter up and acquiesced in one of the greatest robberies of the public purse known for a long time—and cried "fanatic" at anyone who indignantly protested against it.

Again what right have members of Parliament to affect to be moralists when they deliberately accept free railway passes all the year round, from the railway companies—at the same time they charge the public mileage rates, for travelling to and from Ottawa in attending Parliament? The humble offending clerk in being guilty of receiving payment in some irregular form for work actually done is not to be