

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL.

In view of the unsettled condition in Europe, the demand of Lord Randolph Churchill for retrenchment in the British expenditure for the support of the naval and military services was, to say the least, untimely. True, the rapid increase in this expenditure during late years is a matter deserving of the greatest consideration, but with Russia, Germany, Austria, Italy and France armed to the teeth, and with an empire scattered throughout every clime and every zone, it would have been suicidal upon the part of a British ministry to cut down the estimate by thirty million dollars, as first proposed by Lord Randolph Churchill. In his speech explaining his reasons for having resigned his position in the cabinet, the ex-chancellor of the exchequer stated that the maintenance of the naval and military services of Great Britain now made necessary an expenditure of \$154,000,000 per annum, showing an increase of \$30,000,000 per annum over the expenditure of ten or twelve years ago. Had Lord Randolph adhered to his first demand, that the expenditure be reduced to \$124,000,000 per annum, his friends and foes alike would have given him credit for consistency, but as he has himself admitted, that he would have been satisfied had the government agreed to reduce the estimates by \$3,500,000, it leaves him without any adequate excuse for the grave, we might say rash, step he took in severing his connection with the ministry at such a critical juncture. Lord Randolph Churchill is unquestionably a man of ability, but his precipitate action in this matter has not tended to make this young Radical Tory popular with the great mass of British electors, who believe in stable government and who have no confidence in a politician who, for the sake of cheap notoriety, can jeopardize, without consideration, the existence of a government, at a time when stability is most required.

THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

The proposal to form a permanent Imperial Institute at London, in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee, is beginning to take a definite shape. The committee appointed to consider the scheme have sent in their report to the Prince of Wales. The object which this committee has kept in view is, "to combine in a harmonious form, and with a view to some practical and useful purpose, a representation of the Colonies and India on the one hand, and of the United Kingdom on the other." It will thus be seen that the plan suggested by the Prince of Wales has been enlarged so as to admit the United Kingdom as well as the Colonies and India.

Its value to the mother country itself might be termed educational. The purpose of the old country section will be to exhibit the growth and present condition of the natural and manufactured products of Britain, and by the spread of knowledge to further stimulate the industries of the country. A library for industrial, commercial and economic study, is to be a feature of this section; and it is hoped that one effect of the Institute will be the establishment of high-schools of commerce, such as now exist in the leading commercial towns of the continent. Space is also to be provided for occasional exhibitions devoted to special industries, as, for example, iron manufactures, textile fabrics, etc.

The objects of the Indian and Colonial section will be more directly to stimulate commerce and emigration by illustrating the great resources of these portions of the empire, and by spreading a knowledge of their progress and social condition. With this end in view, provision is to be made for:—1st. The display of the products of the Colonies and India in the building of the Institute, and by means of typical collections in the principal towns of the United Kingdom. 2nd. The discussion of Colonial and Indian subjects in a suitable hall. 3rd. Libraries, reading-rooms and intelligence offices. 4th. The incorporation into the proposed Institute of the Royal Colonial Institute and the Royal Asiatic Society. 5th. Occasional exhibitions of Colonial and Indian products.

The colossal proportions of the plan, the importance and variety of the interests involved, the seeming efficacy of the various measures proposed, to stimulate the growth and centralize the efforts and sympathies of this scattered empire, render the undertaking a most desirable one. If Imperial Confederation be ever accomplished, it will be largely owing to such establishments as the Institute; if that patriotic dream be never realized, it will be because the British race will have been so drawn together as to render close legislative union unnecessary to the integrity of the empire.

Owing to the imposition of an octroi duty, levied on all descriptions of food entering Paris, the returns of the quantities consumed by the city are very reliable. The prefect's annual report, giving the amount consumed last year, has recently been published. Meat figures at 149,495,306 kilogrammes (146,825 tons), which is an increase of 445,952 kilogrammes on 1884. There has been a diminution in the consumption of pork to the extent of 147,389 kilogrammes, but there has been a great augmentation in the consumption of horseflesh, which is rising every year. The total quantity of this delicate viand eaten last year was 3,831,206 kilogrammes, and the increase on the year was 337,926 kilogrammes. The figures for the amount which was palmed off for something else are not available. The average price was 60 centimes per kilogramme for the horse and 70 centimes for asses and mules, which is about 3d. and 4d. a pound respectively. The total of poultry and game was 25,044,149 kilogrammes, a diminution of 365,849 kilogrammes. Of fish, 25,631,404 kilogrammes were eaten, which was an increase, especially in oysters. The consumption of butter and eggs has fallen by 160,337 kilogrammes. Butter has been to a great extent replaced by fats and margarines.—Iron.

AUSTRALASIA.

Taking all things into consideration the Australias are, perhaps, the greatest success in British colonization. Canada is marred by the geographical feature of the Maine boundary, and the neighborhood of the Great Republic militates more or less against her progress. Patriotism too, which might overcome greater obstacles than exist, is wanting, and in its stead we see divided counsels prompted by a sordid policy, or by the mere party lust of power and dollars.

The great Island Continent, Tasmania and New Zealand, stand free from any of the complications incident to the neighborhood of a strong foreign power. Their position might, indeed, have been still more commanding in the Southern Hemisphere, could Great Britain have for once cast aside the dilatoriness and irresolution, which seem to cling to her like the skirt of Nessus whenever a necessity for sharp action arises. Had she backed up Queensland at the right time with decision and energy, we should not even hear of the impudent idea of planting the German flag on the Continent of Australia. Probably, however, Germany will have quite enough to do to manage her European business. The domination of the South by Australia is inevitable, by simple strength of population. Added to that element, however, is the equally important one of patriotic spirit.

The progress of Australia and New Zealand is the most remarkable the world has seen.

In 1851 the population of Victoria was 77,000. That of South Australia, 75,000, (Melbourne, 19,000). The progress of South Australia has been slower, but gold propelled Victoria in 5 years from that date, to 270,000, the City of Melbourne to 90,000. New South Wales in 1851 had, of course, a larger population.

The following are the statistics furnished by Whitaker, (1887). Taking into consideration the dates at which the populations of some of the Colonies were estimated, that of the Continent and Tasmania may now be fairly stated at three millions.

The dates of settlement prefixed to the several Colonies indicate the extraordinary rate of progress.

Settled.	Colonies.	Percent Pop.	Towns.	Pop. in Thousands
1788,	New South Wales,	1,003,867, June, 1886,	Sydney, 300; Newcastle, 15,	
			Paramatta, 8; Bathurst, Goulburn and Maitland, 7 each,	
1803,	Tasmania,	133,791, Dec. 1885,	Hobart, 30; Lunenburg, 18,	
1829,	W. Australia,	35,000, " " "	Fremantle, 5; Albany and Geraldton, 1 each; York, Bunbury and Guildford, 6 to 8 hundred each,	
1836,	S. Australia,	313,423, Dec., 1885,	Adelaide, 50,	
1838,	Victoria,	1,009,753, June, 1886,	Melbourne, 365; Ballarat, 41; Sandhurst, 36; Geelong, 21,	
	Queensland,	309,913,	1884. Brisbane, 50; Rockhampton, 12; Maryboro', 11; Townsville, 10; Ipswich, 8; Toowoomba, 6,	
	Total,	2,805,747		

The towns are given as showing the more equable distribution of populations in Queensland and West Australia, than in New South Wales and Victoria. In Queensland the towns mostly extend up the coast, and the natural features of the coast line are such as to militate against the excessive concentration in large cities which distinguish the two greater Colonies.

This tendency is a very fortunate one, as it distributes population toward the North. South Australia, having her telegraph lines extending straight across the continent, also affords an additional obstacle to the settlement of any foreign power. In this respect, however, any attempt of a foreign country to plant its flag in the Continent of Australia, ought to be a "casus belli." In another twenty-five years Australia will probably be able to defend herself.

West Australia has now taken a decided start; and Tasmania, which boasts one of the most beautiful climates in the world, will rapidly increase in strength and importance.

New Zealand, settled in 1839, had last year by census, 578,482 inhabitants, exclusive of 41,432 Maories.

Centres of population are well distributed. Her towns stand thus:—Auckland, 57; Dunedin, 45; Christchurch, 44; Wellington, 28; Nelson, 7; Invercargill, 7; Oamaru, 6; Napier, 7 Thousand. Total in towns, 200,000.

The total number of stars of which some knowledge may be obtained to the optical appliances now available, according to Prof. Lockyer, is from 40,000,000 to 50,000,000. Of these only about 6,000 are visible to the naked eye, equally divided between the two hemispheres.

The *Cracow Oas* describes how the Czar of Russia travels. It announces the Emperor's recent call at Wysoko-Litewak, and adds: "The preceding evening an individual, probably a Nihilist, was in all quietness hanged in the Warsaw citadel. Along the entire length of railway passed by the Czar, soldiers were placed at regular intervals, just as with every journey of the Czar. As the train passes, the soldiers turn from it, with guns ready for firing, and they are strictly enjoined to shoot anyone who approaches the railway embankment after having been challenged three times. The imperial train really consists of three trains—one being for the Czar, one for his baggage, and the third for laborers, who would repair any damage done by an eventual accident. No one knows in which train the Czar travels. It is said, indeed, that he dismounts and changes one train for another during a journey. It is strictly ordered that the windows of all stations passed by the imperial train must be closed and the blinds be drawn down."