

WHERE THE FLAG FLIES.

NEWS BUDGET FROM AUSTRALASIA AND INDIA.

Lord Jersey on Anglo-Saxon Interests—Leading Events in India, Burmah, and Afghanistan.

Australasia.

At the farewell dinner given to the premier of New South Wales, Mr. Dibbs, prior to his departure for England, the Governor of the colony, Lord Jersey, said he believed that benefit would result from Mr. Dibbs' visit. The two countries should learn from one another. Let England learn that Australia was worthy of trust, and let Australia understand that England was neither effete nor unduly censorious in the way in which she regarded colonial affairs, but that she was still strong in the vigor and power of the Anglo-Saxon race.

Mr. Dibbs is desirous of giving his mission a general Australian character and intends seeking the co-operation of Victoria and South Australia in his attempt to strengthen the credit and status of Australia at large in the eyes of English investors and financiers. Mr. Dibbs before leaving had interviews with the governments of Victoria and South Australia.

The scheme of railway retrenchment formulated by the Victorian minister of railways is expected to save £300,000 per annum. The increased charges for goods and passenger traffic are expected to increase the revenue to the extent of £98,000 and £82,000 respectively.

The corporation of the city of Melbourne, encouraged by the success of the recent Metropolitan board of works loan, have decided to place a four per cent. loan of £250,000 on the local market. They are confident that it will be readily subscribed, and the intention is to devote one half of the money to lighting the streets of Melbourne by electricity.

In view of the disastrous results of the recent strikes, a Bill will be brought in to establish courts of conciliation.

"VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS."

A bill for the establishment of "village settlements" will be introduced at the present session of the Victorian parliament by the government.

For these village settlements the government will utilize state territory and will purchase land in suitable situations from private owners, where the settlers may work as farm laborers when their time is not monopolized by their own land. Houses will be built at the government expense, the preference being given to married men in the selection of settlers. The latter will pay interest on the price of the land and buildings at the rate of 3 per cent. for 30 years.

INTERCOLONIAL TARIFF WALLS.

The Victorian Parliament has met. Sir Graham Berry, as treasurer, reports a deficit of about £1,500,000. It is understood that the imposts on beer, spirits, and tea will be increased, a higher tax will be put on cattle, sheep, and horses imported from adjacent colonies, and recourse will be had to an income-tax, and probably an absentee-tax of some description, while it seems likely that the government will revert to the twopenny rate for inland letter postage. It is calculated that these sources of revenue will bring £580,000 extra into the treasury during the coming year.

India.

Nepalese will convey the Rajah of Sikkim to the Darjeeling frontier, and make him over to the British. It has now been ascertained that the Rajah was accompanied by his wife and a portion of his family in his flight. For some reason, probably to avoid observation, he took a circuitous route round Kimchinjunga and across Eastern Nepal. Troubles began almost immediately, as the coolies refused to carry the baggage across the Sikkim frontier, and he was obliged to abandon it. He met severe weather crossing the passes, and one infant died from the effects of the cold. Then came his arrest by the Nepalese authorities.

A Madras correspondent writes:—"One of the most interesting facts brought out by the recent census in this Presidency shows that the curious hill tribes, the Todas of the Nilghiris, are not dying out, as is generally supposed. They now number nearly 1,000, having increased ten per cent. since the previous census."

Rain has fallen over the greater part of Bengal and more is wanted but the general agricultural prospects have improved. The meteorological depart-

ment considers that the conditions are hopeful for an early monsoon, and it is reported that the first signs of it have already appeared in Ceylon. Meanwhile, the showers will soften the ground and facilitate ploughing and sowing.

The supply of food and grain is plentiful throughout the province; prices although high, are not excessive, while complaints of the scarcity of drinking water are becoming less frequent. Rajpootana is still without rain, and the persons on relief work, according to the latest returns, number over 38,000, with 9,000 on gratuitous relief.

A cyclonic storm has crossed India from the Kathin coast to the Himalayas, giving heavy rains to the distressed area of Bikania. A fair amount of rain has fallen in Ajmere, and will mitigate the distress due to the actual want of drinking water. The latest returns from Bengal shows that last week's rain was fairly general, but more is wanted. The price of rice is very high.

British Burmah.

Sir A. Mackenzie, who is himself in bad health, has been summoned home by the serious illness of Lady Mackenzie, and sailed by the mail of the 14th ult. from Bombay.

The total trade of Burmah for the year ending March 31 is the largest on record, and shows an increase both in imports and exports. The total imports into the province were 1,057 lakhs, against 1,010 last year and 856 in 1889-90. The exports amounted to 1,267 lakhs, against 1,236 last year and 1,016 in 1888-90. The imports of Rangoon were 610 lakhs, and exports 900 lakhs.

Military Operations in Afghanistan.

Afghan troops have occupied Asmar which adjoins the group of independent chiefships usually known as the State of Bajaur, and seem about to advance into Bajaur itself. This is evidently in pursuance of the traditional policy of the rulers of Afghanistan of trying to extend their influence over tribes holding the borderland beyond the British frontier, and is consistent with the efforts which the Ameer is known to have been making for a long time in order to get the Afridis, Waziris, etc., to acknowledge him as Suzerain. It is understood that the Government of India have reminded him that Bajaur has always been declared beyond the sphere of Afghan influence—a fact which he has been frequently told in past years, and has practically admitted to be correct.

The Civil and Military Gazette of Lahore says:—"It is reported in Peshawar that the Ameer's troops stationed at three villages between Herat and Bemain have been severely defeated in a conflict with the populace brought on by outrages committed by the soldiers. The Ameer's commander, Zeberdast Khan, is said to have been severely wounded, while a number of rifles were lost. The report adds that reinforcements have been sent from Herat, Candahar, and Cabul."

The English in Egypt.

The Khedive has opened the new railway bridge over the Nile near Cairo. The line establishes direct communication between Lower and Upper Egypt.

Nubar Pasha has received an address from the natives of Galioubieh province begging him to use his influence to procure a redress of a grievance which they have against the public works department. The department is enforcing an old decree forbidding the erection of water-wheels for irrigation along the canal banks within a certain distance of the water's edge, and is compelling the removal of those now existing. Formerly, a government order met with compliance without any open murmur, but now the native press, which enjoys French protection, is eager to magnify any real or imaginary grievance, and loses no opportunity of publishing inflammatory articles attacking the English regime.

A large discontented party exists whose ideas are freely disseminated, while there is no independent paper to combat their pernicious influence.

The Alliance Francaise is making vigorous efforts to encourage the study of the French language throughout the country.

C. P. R. surveyors with an outfit of ten or twelve men, are busily engaged on the Glenboro, Man., extension. The point from which the road will strike off will be near the bridge at Monteith. The surveyors expect to be engaged on the road three weeks, after which they will be on the line between Methven and Souris.

London has a new morning half-penny newspaper—The Leader.

THE "SPIRIT OF PATRIOTISM,"

By Miss Preston of Ottawa.

[Continued from our last.]

A very artistic and beautiful fabric is this banner of thirty-eight stars and thirteen stripes on a background of blue; let us not speak disparagingly of it. It has floated over many a hard won field, in battling for the right. It shelters nearly sixty-five millions of people beneath its shadow, the majority of whom speak our language. Sometimes it may have seemed to swerve too much to the right or left of honor's track, but is soon carried back. So much for the plaidie. He tells her his farm consists of over 3,000,000 square miles, all cleared and fenced; his income is over \$463,000,000; his servants and retainers consist of about 8,000,000 negroes, 100,000 Chinese to do the washing; 1,000,000 descendants of her own country, who are his engineers and foremen, and occupy other responsible positions; while about 46,000,000 from every nation under the sun form the rank and file. He impresses upon her that her line fence is not very strong. But he

NEGLECTS TO MENTION

that some of his hired men have been trying to carry away rails from this fence, which I understand they intend to use in kindling political fires. He tells her this line fence is unnecessary and had better be destroyed; that she is too young and delicate to manage such a large estate and keep in order so many nationalities and creeds. If she will cast in her lot with him she shall bear his name; he will till her lands, fell her forests, work her mines, catch her salmon, seal and herring, and in fact do all her marketing.

He paints such a glowing picture that at first blush it looks as if, could this union be accomplished, Canada would "repose on flowery beds of ease," and some thoughtless Canadians, while not caring much for the match, rather enjoy the courtship, and fancy that it might not be a bad plan to destroy this fence, or at least lower it a little, as commercial union would benefit us and we could still remain true to our country. From the slight knowledge I have of this scheme, it appears that this so called commercial union is only a sort of

ENGAGEMENT RING.

and, did we accept it, we should eventually find ourselves absorbed, and Canada, with her vast territory, her wealth of mine, field and forest, her splendid future prospects, would forever lose her identity and form a part of the United States, be annexed, tacked on to the skirts of a nation her superior in nothing but age, population and available capital. Might it not be wiser to strengthen the fence with a barbed wire arrangement of some kind which would have a damaging effect on all boodling or thieving animals from either side of it.

When we examine the Constitution of the United States it does not differ materially from our own, as far as the rights and safety of the citizen is concerned. There are some things worthy of our imitation, and one is the earnest endeavor to train

A NATION OF PATRIOTS.

and this, to my mind, in a great measure accounts for their remarkable progress. No man, much less a politician, dare speak sneeringly of their country, or attempt to place any flag above their national standard.

Surely any good measure like this we could adopt without carrying it wrapt in the Stars and Stripes. We have all the freedom they enjoy except certain restrictions which do not touch the good citizen, but have a salutary effect upon the unprincipled and lawless element.

THE GAIN.

What have we to gain by a union with the United States? Just at present it might make it a little easier for certain classes, but would we be the gainer in the end? Would our laws be more conducive to our morality and Sabbath keeping? Would our judges be more upright when holding office during the pleasure of political parties? Would our Civil Service be more free from scandal and irregularities, owing to the frequent changes? Would our educational system be improved? Would our domestic relations be more stable with added facilities for divorce? Would our natural wealth be increased? Would we have a more powerful protector in case of invasion than at present? Would our laws give greater security to the life of the subject? To each of these, I think, must be given a negative answer. Where then would be the gain? We are a young nation, writing on the first white pages of our history. We should not feel discouraged at our old neighbour. Canada is a giant in embryo,

but she requires time and experience to strengthen her limbs and harden her muscles. Numerically we are little larger than the Colonies were when they started out for themselves over a century ago, and we are feeling dissatisfied because we are not so tall among the nations as they are now.

AN ILLUSTRATION.

Undoubtedly there would be some advantage from a union of this kind. Our custom duties would be lighter; the great natural resources of our country might sooner be opened up, and this for a time would appear to be a benefit; but would it in the long run? It seems to me like two men settling on bush farms, one lets loose a gang of lumbermen who, for a mere trifle, soon strip his farm of its valuable timber; and when his children have grown up, the farm of his more cautious neighbour is many times more valuable on account of its timber. The former benefitted in the first instance in a slight degree, the latter in a greater in the end.

(To be continued.)

British Influence in Persia.

A. Vambury, the famous eastern traveller, writes as follows to the London Times, on the efforts of Russia to supplant British influence in Persia:—"In your leading article upon the financial straits of Persia, resulting from the collapse of the Imperial Tobacco corporation, you properly suggest the idea that British capitalists ought to come in aid of the government of the Shah instead of allowing Russia to render such a service of friendship in a time of need. I entirely concur with your idea, and I beg leave to add one important motive which you have left out amongst the consequences inseparable from a Russian interference in this unfortunate matter.

Should the Shah accept the Russian offer, there is no doubt that Russian influence, becoming paramount in Teheran, will carry all its weight against Emin-es-Sultan, the actual Grand Vizier and chief adviser of the King, who is particularly known for his English sympathies, and with the fall of this leading Minister the whole structure of English prestige will crumble to pieces. The case ought to be carefully considered, and every English patriot ought to bear in mind that the safety of India depends greatly upon the position of England in Persia.

BRITISH FIGHTING SHIPS.

Splendid results of tests of the heaviest warship in the world.

The Royal Sovereign, battleship, has completed her engine trials by a run under forced draught. The results were eminently satisfactory and fully verified the prediction of her designer. The ship was driven during three hours at a mean speed of 18 knots. The Royal Sovereign is the largest fighting ship afloat, far exceeding in displacement the heaviest armour clads of France and Italy; and the mere fact that a ship of her magnitude could be driven at a rate of speed which is only excelled by a few cruisers of the latest type is a marvel of marine construction and engineering. The steadiness of the ship, her freedom from vibration, and the all but complete absence of noise were noticeable. The wave thrown up by the bow when the ship was running at her highest speed was inconsiderable in height and volume and was soon quelled. Her gunnery trials have also been satisfactory.

The first-class protected cruiser Gibraltar, one of nine very similar vessels, the building of which was authorized by the Naval Defence Act of 1889, has been launched from the yard of Messrs. R. Napier and Sons, Govan. She is a steel twin-screw cruiser of 7,000 tons and 12,000 indicated horse power, with triple expansion engines. She is 360ft. in length and 60ft. in breadth, and she will, when ready for sea, draw rather over 24ft. of water. Developing 12,000 horse power, with forced draught, she will have a speed of 19½ knots. The armament will include one 9-2in. 22-ton gun, two 6in. 5½-ton quick-firing guns, 12 6-pounder quick-firing, three 3-pounder quick-firing, and eight machine guns. The total estimated cost is just over £340,000.

The Admiralty have given notice that station signalman is to be attached to each of the Coastguard stations, and that these men are to hold the rating of commissioned boatmen. They are to be proficient in signalling in all its branches, and will be required to understand all the postal and telegraphic arrangements of the stations to which they are attached.

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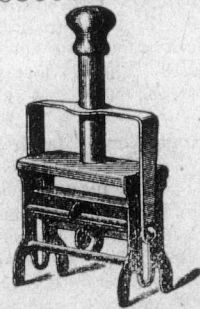
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