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Ottawa, Sept. 26.—All the details of the contracts for the erection of the new parliament buildings were agreed upon at a meeting today between the parliamentary building committee and the representatives of Peter Lyall and Sons, the contracting company. The formal document will be signed in a day or two.

The only changes in the original tentative agreement are that the company will supply the manufacturing plant for the cutting of the stone, etc., the government to keep it in repair and the decision to locate the power plant outside the main building.

Unity of The Empire Is Greater Than Ever Before

British Colonies All Over the Globe Are Doing Their Bit to Help Motherland in Her Hour of Need

A Convincing Answer to German Prediction that "Far Flung Empire" Would be Dismembered — Unity of Purpose Sole Aim of the Dominions.

(By Phillip H. Patchin.)

London, Sept. 24.—It has often been said that one of the things Germany counted on in the Great War was the defection in the British Empire. The Irish situation was to have embarrassed Britain, as was revolt in South Africa and in India. None did. After a year and a half of war there was an Irish rebellion, but its greatest effect has been internal political turmoil, while the war goes right along without interference. There was a revolt in South Africa, but South Africa took care of that herself, and England went on sending troops to France, as many really as she was then capable of training and equipping. India has proved loyal. As a whole India is strongly loyal and Indian troops fight for the King-Emperor on three continents.

Britain's "far-flung Empire" did not topple apart as was predicted by Germany. Instead, it surprised itself almost by its unity of purpose. The result is going to be a closer-knit Empire than ever, a federation, in fact, of colonies and Mother Country, an amalgamation of four and a half hundred millions of most diversified people, all with their say as to their government and their destinies.

Anxious to Fight Common Enemy.

The sun never stops shining on British soil somewhere or other, and since August, 1914, it has never ceased to shine upon restless Britishers and restless natives in every quarter of the globe who were making their way here or there to don khaki and fight the common enemy. It is one of the wonderful things about this war—this rush to the colors in all quarters of the globe, from Wel-hat-Wel to the Falklands, from South Africa to Vancouver, from the Seychelles, Zanzibar, India, Uganda, Saskatchewan, the Gold Coast, St. Helena and the Bahamas, in an endless stream, all ready to fight.

There is doubtless not a city of size in all the world, except enemy cities, that hasn't furnished an exiled Englishman, while no end have come from all sorts of out-of-the-way places. And every last one of the colonies, dependencies and protectorates has furnished its quota. It isn't quite so remarkable that the Englishmen have been stirred to strife as that the native population of British colonies have been inspired to khaki, or, when other fighting dress is furnished them.

In the Strand any day there may be seen the Canadian and Australian, the Maori, the South African, sauntering about seeing the sights, either back from France on leave, or perhaps just in from over the world and about to go across the Channel. Now and then there is an ebony face under the cap of the King's uniform—a soldier from the West Indies, while often there are Indians.

Not only in men have the colonies done great things—they have furnished some of the finest fighters of the war—but they have contributed much in money and in provisions, thus lightening the heavy burden of Great Britain.

Canada and Australia, of course, being the largest, have done the most. Canada's forces will ultimately number half a million men. Australia has already furnished three hundred thousand. South Africa has done nobly. At the commencement of the war she undertook her own defence, and thus released for European service the Imperial regiments stationed there. South Africa suppressed the German-fomented rebellion, conquered German Southwest Africa, later sent men to German East Africa, where General Smuts is now using them in a successful little war for Germany's last colony, and has sent many more than 10,000 men to Europe, where this month some of them did wondrous work in Delville Wood during the Big Push. South Africa sent, too, a hundred men to the Royal Navy.

India Has Done Its Share.

India's contributions in men and

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supplies have been great. It is impossible to tell how many Indian troops are engaged. There are still some in Europe, many in Mesopotamia, others in East Africa, and in North China, Hong Kong, the Malay States and elsewhere, still others are doing garrison duty and thus releasing the white regiments. India's treasure chests have been opened and money furnished for the prosecution of the war while the gifts of Indian Princes and potentates to the Red Cross and to other things have been characterized by true Oriental magnificence.

Colonies and protectorates of Great Britain have been discovered since the war was begun which probably had been forgotten by many Englishmen. They have all participated to the fullest extent possible. The contingent from the West Indies must now number about 12,000. Some of these fighters are in Europe, others in Egypt. The men came from Jamaica, Barbados, British Guiana, the Windward and Leeward Islands, the Bahamas, British Honduras and Trinidad.

Then, too, merchants living there have subscribed to raise and send home bodies of men for enlistment in British regiments. Bermuda sent ninety Europeans who have been attached to the Lincolnshire Regiment and there is a force of 250 more to join the Royal Field Artillery. The far-off Falkland Islands, which are almost south of South America, have done their bit, furnishing a volunteer force of 140 volunteers which did effective work in a scheme of defence against the squadron of von Spee. Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, the Malay States, all have sent every available man.

Malay States Sent Battle Cruiser.

The Malay States contributed a first-class battle cruiser and sent nearly 700 Europeans home. From Hong Kong, Shanghai, Tientsin, Chefoo and Wel-hat-Wel many men have been sent home, usually at the expense of British merchants.

British Africa has likewise done well. The war at once reached the Gold Coast, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Gambia on the West Coast. The West African Frontier Force jumped to 6200 men while a regiment of 800 called the West African Regiment was raised, 7000 men altogether, besides the thousands of carriers. The East Africa Protectorate Uganda and Nyasaland have always a force known as the King's African Rifles which numbered 2000. Now it is 5000 or more. These are natives. The European residents have been formed into volunteer forces, and most of them are now fighting. Rhodesia, too, has raised large forces which are now at work in German East Africa. The little island of Malta in the Mediterranean raised the King's Own Malta Regiment of Militia and also sent a Labor Battalion to the Dardanelles. Far-off Fiji raised two contingents of sixty each and sent them to fight in Europe.

In munitions and supplies the colonies and dominions have done magnificently. In munitions Canada and Australia naturally lead. In Canada it is estimated that there were 200,000 men engaged in munition works. Also, the Dominion of Wales supplied the equipment of their own troops. An official report says:

"But perhaps even more important than the output of munitions is the assistance which the Dominions and Colonies have rendered in enabling His Majesty's Government to control in a large degree the world's supply of some of the most important commodities, e.g., wool, meat, wheat and a number of metals, so as to secure supplies for Great Britain and her allies and to divert them from channels through which they might reach the enemy."

Colonies Bear the Whole Cost.

Canada, Australia and New Zealand are not draining the Imperial Treasury for the upkeep of their troops. They bear the whole cost—pay, equipment, transport, hospital arrangements, etc. Newfoundland, which has sent a couple of battalions of infantry, and 1500 men to the navy, pays her contingent and bears the cost of transport to England. South Africa bore the whole cost of the German Southwest Africa campaign and paid for the suppressing of the rebellion. The various colonies of the West Indies have done well. They pay for the transport of the men and arrange for separation allowances and pensions. Jamaica has committed the equivalent of \$300,000 a year for 40 years, while Trinidad is giving \$60,000. British Guiana \$50,000 and Barbados \$10,000 a year. In the East Indies the story is the same, all colonies and protectorates doing their utmost.

Gifts in kind and in money have flowed in upon England. Gifts of every variety came from all sides, from governments and individuals.

Canada sent wheat, oats, flour, cheese, potatoes, salmon, hay and coal. The Canadian Government sent one gift of a million bags of flour, New Zealand furnished meat, wine, butter, cheese; South Africa corn, fruit and tobacco; the West Indies sent sugar and cocoa. Ceylon made a present of £1,000,000, or \$5,000,000, to be paid in installments covering 10 years. The Straits Settlements have given £1,000,000 and promised another £1,000,000 if the finances of the colony permit. They have also waived a debt of £160,000 owed them by the Imperial Government. The island of Mauritius sent £20,000 and a million pounds of sugar for the navy and another million for the army. Nigeria has offered to pay the charges for interest and sinking fund of one per cent. on a share of the Imperial War Debt amounting to £5,000,000.

There is no precise way of estimating but it is known that the contributions to relief funds—Belgian, Red Cross, etc.—are well over a million and a half pounds. Through an organization known as the Overseas Club the colonies were some months ago set to contributing aeroplanes. More than 50 have been provided. The Malay Peninsula contributed more than £25,000 for this purpose, furnishing 16 machines, while the Sultan of Johore sent along more than £31,000 in addition to other great contributions.

Canada has made a loan of £10,000,000 to the Imperial Government and the Malay States have raised another of \$15,000,000. Many of the colonies have subscribed heavily in war loans. Besides government subscriptions there have been many from individuals and bodies throughout the Empire.

PRESBYTERIAN NOTES.

Next week is "Synod week." First Presbyterian church, Truro, N. S., will be the scene of a series of meetings from all parts of the provinces by the eastern sea. Tuesday evening the opening will be held, and then the serious business of the church will engage the earnest consideration of "fathers and brethren" until probably noon on Friday. Several committee meetings will be held before the opening session, while relays will be sandwiched in between sessions, making it all an intensely arduous task for a great many of those who attend. The town of Truro has always been well peopled with Presbyterians. Their history goes back a full century and a half and does honor to the finest traditions of the church. The retiring moderator of the Synod is Rev. H. R. Grant, whose message to the churches within the bounds will be delivered at the opening sederunt. The church within whose walls will be combined worship and counsel during these days is a new one, having recently arisen from the ashes of the building that stood for nearly a century on one of the most beautiful church grounds in the maritime provinces. Rev. W. P. Grant is minister.

The "thank-offering" set for the Sunday preceding Thanksgiving day, affords the people of the Presbyterian church throughout Canada to share in a most commendable effort. We are in debt and we must pay our debts. The debt comes from a worthy endeavor to do all as a church that we could to establish the Kingdom of God in the world. The doors opened and the needs pressed in Canada and in the "regions beyond." Our leaders, careful, sane, and progressive, called for advance, and loyalty we followed, glad to be "doing our bit" in the Master's name. Then came the war, and with it the extra strain and stress. The call for retrenchment was sounded. But even that took time.

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for the long lines stretched out on every front could not all be shortened in a day. And then, some lines could not be shortened at all, save at the cost of complete surrender. In it all, the cause has suffered. Now after two years or more, readjustment has been fairly well accomplished, but the accumulated arrears of these years have totalled \$170,000, a large sum, but not so large when we consider that the missionary effort of our church at home and abroad has touched the million dollar mark annually. The war must be carried on to a finish and the patriot will not slacken his effort until the end has come. But the work of the church at home and overseas is also patriotism, the highest patriotism, and the task we touch is a task which calls for the doing every day and every year, in peace and in war, "till each man find his own in all men's good, and all men work in noble brotherhood." Let the deficit that hampers be removed. "Roll ye away the stone."

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will sometimes go wrong; oddly enough, that fact booms our business. For we've long made it a policy to get next the complainant by settling the matter in his way—making him the only judge of the merits of his claim. As a result, every old customer knows that if he ever gets stuck on anything he buys here, it's his own fault, because he hasn't let us set it right.
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