

NATIONAL PURPOSES.

It is there are any weak spots in British methods of doing business as a nation there is a testing time at hand which will surely find them out. It is possible for a great trading and manufacturing community to stick to its principles and to proceed on its course utterly regardless of the strokes that are levelled at it from every quarter, we shall soon know it. If Britain triumphs over the enemies who would pull her down her victory will be greater and more notable than any she has ever achieved in the domain of arms, whether on sea or on land. And her sailors and soldiers have created records in their callings which will stand for a long time. What do we behold to-day in South Africa? The nations which were loudest in their revilings and curings and most open in their expressions of hope that the Boers would triumph, either through their own efforts or with the assistance of a greater power, are the first in the field to take advantage of commercial opportunities which would never have come to them but for the throwing open of the territory through the triumph of British arms. Commercial agents from the United States, Germany, France, Austria and Italy were on their way to South Africa before the terms of peace had been arranged, and although Great Britain is almost completely excluded from the markets of any of these, their commercial and manufacturing concerns are already competing with her for business in the territory she has acquired. If any one of these rival nations had been the conqueror, the raising of the flag would have been taken as an intimation that the door was closed and another great national preserve had been created. On a superficial glance one would be inclined to say that is not a common sense way of doing business. Yet Britain flourishes. All under the flag have the advantage of the cheap goods which competition affords. The people of Great Britain are at least as prosperous and probably better fed than those of any other European country. It is clear, therefore, that the system which is so doggedly adhered to in spite of denunciations to swerve to one hand or the other is not to be condemned on a superficial examination as just-handled. If there are eternal principles they cannot be submerged by the deviations of nations.

There is another point at which Great Britain has long been acknowledged to be supreme and upon which she is being most viciously attacked just now. Her ships have plowed every sea. She has been a "common carrier" for every nation. They have all envied her and all have considered ways and means of ousting her. They have not succeeded because she possessed the material for the construction of ships as well as the men who knew how to utilize the material to the best advantage. Her manufacturers learned the secret of economical steel production and of economical generation and application of steam. Their enterprise placed them in the lead and has kept them there. But her rivals have not given up. They have applied their protectionist principles as far as possible to navigation also. British vessels are excluded from participation in the transportation of goods from points under the flag of her rivals. Nor have these rivals been satisfied with that. They have granted immense bounties for the encouragement of shipbuilding. The North German Lloyd Company receives considerations from the government equal to more than 7 per cent. in its total capital. It can afford to run its ships at a loss and still beat out the British. That would seem to be a hardship on the ordinary German taxpayer, but the government is satisfied, and gives no thought to the matter. The shippers in the United States maintain that a great merchant marine can only be created by following the example of Germany. No doubt in time their desires will be granted and British shipping men will be face to face with the American nation, not with only one or two companies. It is claimed the British merchant marine was built up by subsidies. Those who say so know better. Every cent received from the government of Great Britain is earned by the carriage of mails or under obligations imposed by agreement with the admiralty as to construction and possible demands in case of war.

It is indeed a testing time. If all the nations under one flag be not drawn closer together as a result of the developments to which we have alluded and the Colonial conference, then we believe there can be but one result of the struggle for supremacy.

SPORTS AND GAMES.

There was once a very learned man, a professor in a university or in some seat of profundity where nothing in the heavens above or in the earth beneath is "hid from mortal eyes." This scholar undertook to demonstrate that it was an utter impossibility for any man to make a sphere, such as a baseball, curve in the air in its passage from the hands of one man into the hands of another. The scholar maintained that no human being had strength enough to endow a sphere with a sufficiently swift revolving motion to create the friction in its twirlings through the atmosphere which would make it deviate from a straight course. There is a tradition in the baseball fraternity that this doubting Thomas was convinced by some skilled twirler taking him out to a lonely place and "giving him his bumps" with some twisters that deviated at least two feet from a straight

line that had been drawn under the professor's own superintendence. There are nine baseball players on their way home to Everett to-day who are thoroughly convinced that a ball may be induced by a skillful hand to "deviate" a very long way from a straight line. One could tell from their demeanor yesterday before the game began that they were possessed of the greatest confidence in their ability to "line 'em out" at their own sweet will. These Victorians who had observed their prowess with the bat the previous day sat upon anxious seats. We are possessed of a pride in our local team which is denied to other cities on the coast, because they boys are all of us, strictly amateur and home trained. It was well known that the game yesterday was a mere trifle; he of the opposing stalwarts a giant in stature and in girth, who brought with him also a reputation for great feats on the diamond. The multitude on the grounds became anxious as they observed the disparity in size between the man and the boy, and they grew even more anxious when they saw how eagerly the men from Everett snuffed the battle from afar and paved the air with impatience to "knock the kinks out of Jimmy's curves." It only took about two innings to remove the doubts from the minds of the spectators and the faintness from the manner of the Everett champions. The strong batters were moved down at will by the stripping with a quietness, modesty and seamlessness of demeanor that made his victory all the more popular. He demonstrated most thoroughly once more that there are great possibilities in the ball curving business. It is due to the Victoria team to say that their support was admirable; in fact it was excellent at critical times, while they were not at all aided by the reputation of the great Shock. It was an exceedingly creditable victory for them, and they observe all the encouragement the public and newspapers of Victoria can give them in their efforts to provide us with good, wholesome recreation.

It may be urged that this is a very trivial subject for newspapers to take up editorially. We are not so sure about that. The people will have their recreation. It is all important the form that recreation may take. The boys imitate their elders. If they go out on cricket, lacrosse or baseball fields they will build up strong, vigorous constitutions which will prove a most efficient safeguard against vicious habits. There was a very large element of truth in the remark of the Duke of Wellington about the relation of the game of cricket to the people of Britain bore to the battles of Waterloo. We are not even sure that the recreations of the people are not as important as any other feature of the national life.

VANITY OF VANITIES.

Babylon the mighty is gradually being uncovered by the prying picks of inquisitive men of the present day. Her gods of stone and of brass have been dragged forth from the mass of debris which was laid upon them thousands of years ago by the angry elements and curious eyes gaze upon their crudities and wonder that creatures supposed to be so closely allied to gods in many of their attributes should have been so foolish as to do reverence to such mean things. The sacred foundations too have been laid bare, with their waters still running, but no virtue has been found in them by the unbelievers who are working among the ruins of the once great metropolis of the Orient. Donkeys and camels are bearing away the building material of ancient palaces, once the abiding-places of kings and princes, to be used in the construction of huts for the mean successors, insignificant in numbers, of the men who thought they ruled the world and that it should for all time pay tribute to them. No doubt Babylon had its anniversaries as we have. Probably her statesmen vaunted their might and their power at their banquets, as we are doing to-day. Probably they indulged in dreams of greater empire as we have been doing in our modern Babylon of London and in all smaller centres on the outskirts of our vast dominions. Babylon was overthrown and to-day is merely an object of curiosity to creatures whose existence must appear as evanescent as a dream to the great Power which directs the movements of the universe.

Philosophers tell us no great aggregation of people can stand the test of thousands of years unless it be possessed of some special virtue. Of the ancient empires that of China alone remains. Consequently, deeply though we Occidentals despise the individuals of this great Oriental multitude, there must be something in the character of the race worthy of the approbation of the gods which has enabled the nations of this one world long ago have followed its early contemporaries into the mists of oblivion. Occasionally nature expresses her opinion of the doings of the Chinese by carrying a comparative few of them into the great beyond on the bosom of angry waters. There have been no such catastrophes as those which are supposed to have overwhelmed Babylon and laid her in ruins for all time. No doubt the student of ancient history will propose here to say there is no possibility of instituting a comparison between Babylon and an empire of the territorial extent of China. In what manner is our own great empire likely to endure the test under which some thing more than a merely ephemeral career is guaranteed? It may be reasonably contended that we shall be able to defy the competition and the aggressions

of the whole world and emerge in triumph and in strength from the ordeal. But if we prove unworthy of the high estate to which we have been raised the power of empire will as certainly pass from us as it did from Rome. There are other forces than convictions of nature to bring about national disintegration. Greece and Rome were not overthrown by earthquakes nor volcanoes nor buried in ice through a disturbance of the earth's equilibrium. It is possible that in the distant ages a people who know nothing of Great Britain save her history may walk through the banquet halls of London, where the statesmen of the empire and the colonies are now paying each other compliments and expressing their confidence of the great future which is in store for us all, as we are doing in Babylon at the present day, noting with curious eyes the records of doings that are as a tale that is told. There have been tragedies enacted in our ancient halls too, as there were in those of Babylon, and we have relics of what we call ancient days that are curious in our eyes. Possibly a dispatch may some day be sent forth almost as the triumphal march of the one which came from the scene of the excavations not long ago, proving once again that there is absolutely nothing new under the sun. This dispatch says:

"The most important discovery made as yet is that of the royal banquet hall, or throneroom, a vast chamber 120 feet long and 60 broad, and which had once been richly decorated with painted soldiers of described by the prophet Ezekiel. At the end was a raised dais on which was placed the 'king's table,' and in the centre was a recess or alcove, where his throne had stood. The researchers have proved that the place in which Alexander died (B. C. 322), and there is every reason to believe that it was in this room the drunken 'orgie' took place in which his friend was slain and the grief-stricken king lingered to leave his hard-won and widespread conquests to be scrambled among his generals. Other great feasts may be associated with this stately chamber—the triumphal feast of Neuchammar after his victories in Egypt, and his execution of divine wrath upon Jerusalem, and the destruction of the temple (B. C. 586). There is every reason to suppose that it was in this chamber that the fatal last banquet of Belshazzar was held, when the corridors leading up to it echoed to the tread of the advancing cohorts of Goliath, the general of Cyrus and on that night (Ezekiel 16, B. C. 586) the first of the empires fell. 'That night they slew him on his father's throne.' The deed unthought and the hand unknown. Crowds and sceptres, Belshazzar lay, 'A round a form of clay.'"

The following from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer proves that the people of the United States have after all a deep interest in all that pertains to the British Empire. They are keen rivals in business and are anxious to be regarded as at the top of the tree in all lines, as members of our great Anglo-Saxon family they probably think they would not mind us getting a whipping for "auld lang syne," but when a time of real trouble comes upon us, we know where to look for genuine sympathy. "The crowds of people, constantly changing but never diminishing their numbers, about the bulletin board tell the greatest interest felt in this country in the progress toward recovery of King Edward. They are obviously gratified by the appearance of each favorable bulletin; but that long week of daily lightning apprehension last September, with its terrible close, is too recent for them to find as yet the relief of even a reasonable certainty."

It is a pity the subject of an Empire news distributing agency had not been suggested as a subject for discussion by the Colonial conference. The Associated Press is no doubt an admirable institution in the field it was designed for, but it comes far short of meeting the requirements of a Canadian news service. Instead of the news of our own country we receive sensational accounts of negro burnings and seizures of illicit whiskey stills somewhere in the South; instead of accounts of events in Great Britain we are compelled to read fables about J. Pierpont Morgan buying railway and steamship lines, old pictures or older castles, and American jockeys teaching Britons how to ride. If the press of this country wants to inform its readers about any event of interest transpiring in Winnipeg, Toronto or Montreal, it is told it can be had on the payment of so much per word extra. The Associated Press should understand it is time for a change.

The conversation numbers of the Eastern papers are arriving. That of La Patrie, of Montreal, is one of the most borate we have yet seen. The number is large, 56 pages in all, the supplement of 32 pages being upon extra fine paper, with as fine letterpress and as beautiful illustrations as could be produced. Messrs. Tarte, sons of the Minister of Public Works, are the owners of La Patrie. They evidently believe, like their distinguished parent, that nothing is too good for Canada. We should have the best newspapers as well as the fastest ships and the finest railways in the world.

The foreign trade of the Dominion in the first year of its life was a trifle more than \$130,000,000. In 1902 it will reach close to \$400,000,000. Within the last five or six years the rate of increase has grown very fast. For many years, when our progressive friends the Tories were in power, it was almost imperceptible.

All the Rhodes family manifested idiosyncrasies. None of them ever married. The empire builder's sister, Miss Rhodes, is of a very masculine appearance, and took her greatest pleasures riding among the strongholds of the rebellious natives to distribute glass beads and other articles of clothing for the native warriors.

HOW DOMINION DAY WAS CELEBRATED

PICNICS HELD AT SUBURBAN RESORTS

Sunday School Outings to Bazar Bay Park and Goldstream—Excursions to Vancouver and Ladysmith.

The thirty-fifth anniversary of Confederation was celebrated by the people of Victoria yesterday in many different ways. Weather conditions were most auspicious, and the arrangements for the numerous Sunday school and private picnics and excursions were carried off without a single hitch. No accidents occurred, large numbers of children being handled by the E. & N. railway, Victoria Terminal railway, and the B. C. Electric railway in a manner which is deserving of praise and credit. The transportation arrangements to Vancouver and to Ladysmith were also carried out satisfactorily, excursionists not experiencing the slightest inconvenience in travelling to and from these places.

Large numbers went with the children to enjoy a day's picnicking, and those who desired themselves in ball took in the game at Oak Bay. There were many, however, who preferred participating in the celebrations at Vancouver or accompanying the local Aerie of Eagles on a visit to Ladysmith.

The principal school picnics of yesterday were those of the combined Methodist and Presbyterian Sunday schools, held at Bazar Bay park and Goldstream respectively. The Methodist picnic included the schools of the Metropolitan, Central, Spring Ridge and Strawberry Vale. The attendance was the largest of any Methodist picnic yet held. At Bazar Bay park everything necessary for the picnic was provided, and the light of the order which had been served upon him, as the registrar of the court, and handed him, Mr. McLean, a letter from the court, the Chief Justice stating that he was in a position to come to Victoria to hear the case on the present time, and requesting that the matter be postponed until a more convenient date. Mr. McLean also put in evidence a copy of the "Lawyer" of June 14th, containing an article which states that the Attorney-General was about to proceed against the editor for contempt of court, and would probably land him in a dungeon, as there should be no difficulty in making the charge stick because the writer pleaded guilty to as great a contempt for the British Columbia judiciary as any man was capable of feeling without becoming violent. Mr. McLean moved the court for a writ of attachment against Mr. McDonald. The Chief Justice stated that under ordinary circumstances he would be in favor of granting the accused further time in which to employ counsel and make his defence, but as things stood the writ of attachment must be granted. A writ was subsequently issued from the Supreme court registry, under which Mr. McDonald was placed under arrest.

The appeal in Noble Five vs. Last Chance was argued on Monday afternoon, the results being that the trial of the action has been adjourned till October. E. V. Bodwell, K.C., and L. P. Duff, K.C., for defendants, who appeared; Jos. Martin, K.C., and A. P. Luntz for plaintiffs.

Belcher vs. McDonald, an appeal from the Victoria Territorial court, was next taken up. This appeal will probably occupy the greater part of this week. The action was brought by the executors of the late Alexander Calder against Alex. McDonald, the "Klondike King," the claim being for an amount in the neighborhood of \$100,000. The Supreme court made that resort assume a most animated appearance. The schools were the Knox Presbyterian, the St. Paul's church, Victoria West, James Bay Methodist, and the St. Columba. It was the intention of the latter church to hold their affair at Cadboro Bay, taking boats from Oak Bay. This plan was, however, abandoned, resorting to the use of the motor cars, and the game, and the action was brought by the executors of the late Alexander Calder against Alex. McDonald, the "Klondike King," the claim being for an amount in the neighborhood of \$100,000. The Supreme court made that resort assume a most animated appearance. 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