

The Colonist.

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EARL GREY'S SPEECH AT VANCOUVER.

Lord Grey in his speech before the Canadian club, Vancouver, created a most favorable impression, and the members of that institution are most fortunate in opening their doors and windows to the view of the British Empire. His words have the true ring in them throughout. They were the voice of an earnest and strenuous man, who like President Roosevelt got all the way and cuts corners to get there.

Upon the occasion of Lord Grey's visit to Victoria we painted a picture of him, as his personality appeared through his speeches. We stated that Imperialism was not in him cultivated as part of his official duties, but that it was in his blood. We also stated that he viewed every portion of the Empire in reference to its economics, so as to judge how best it would fit into the plan of the Empire, which he has others of his school, has been framing for the future. In view of the speech particularly in question and others which he has delivered we think we did him no injustice. There is nothing formal or cut and dried about his public utterances. They are fresh, breezy and invigorating, and even where they do not convince they at least awaken and animate thought. Robertson, the writer, said about Carlyle that his utterances were "literary cocktails." In a similar sense Lord Grey's speeches may be said to be oratorical cocktails.

From exordium to peroration his address was an inspiration to Imperialism, to patriotism, to industry, to expansion and to great things which make a great nation, and the people of the province will be better for his visit on that account. Its general tenor reminds us very much of the conclusion of President Balfour's address before the meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' association, and one is so apt to think of the other that it will bear reproduction here:

"In conclusion, may I say one word with regard to the great future which awaits us. It seems but yesterday that we were a comparatively unknown people; today the name of Canada is on the lips of every country in the world, and thousands of our countrymen are on the shores to find new homes on our great prairies or in our busy towns and cities. We are gathered today at the gateway of the greatest wheat-producing area in the world. We are waiting for the plough. Of this immense territory only about 4 per cent. is as yet under cultivation. If we cultivate only one-quarter of it our granaries will contain more than the requirements of Great Britain—the world's greatest market."

"Resources of every kind are at our hand. The mines, the forests, the seas, the farms, and factories of Canada, are all beckoning to us and offering us every part of the globe, offering us not only healthy conditions and comfortable homes, but a citizenship which, in the freedom of its thought and institutions, is as broad and free as our great dominions themselves."

"Great as these resources are, they are all enhanced by our splendid position in the Empire and the world of commerce. Nature has destined us to be a great producing country. Let us not forget that we possess the shortest routes to Great Britain on the east and the Orient on the west. We lie between the East and the West. We hold the strategic position in time of war, and we hold the commercial supremacy in time of peace."

"In the great Imperial preferential movement to which we are moving on, and in the commerce of the world, Canada must play an important part, and the life of this great association must be woven into her development from year to year."

"What a great task: what greater opportunities! To develop all our industries hand in hand, to cultivate and maintain a national co-operation between our now scattered provinces, to weld and strengthen the bonds which bind us to the other portions of the Empire, and all the while to keep pure and healthful our moral and political life."

"If we are faithful to the trust imposed in us we need have no fear of the future."

Earl Grey made a strong reference to the formation of a Canadian club. The one in Vancouver is the first in the province. Canadian clubs have been established in the principal cities of Eastern Canada. They are not, as the name would imply, the property of the British, or of St. Patrick's society, or Native Sons. Their object is to advance the interests of Canada, and may include in their membership all nationalities. They are not associated with any particular sect or party. One of their objects is to obtain addresses from prominent men from every part of the world, who can stimulate thought on the subject of Canada or the Empire or the future of the Anglo-Saxon race. As Lord Grey points out, situated as we are at the portals of the Empire, we are in a position to net the very class of men who can shed light on the subject of national problem from various points of view. We have urged the formation of such a club in Victoria. It should not require further urging.

Thursday was a glorious day, and it reacted upon the success of the Exhibition. If anyone continues for the rest of the week, it will make a substantial difference in the financial results. Thursday the attendance was large, a fact to some extent accounted for by the afternoon being declared a public half holiday.

Upon opening day, the attendance was small, and all the exhibits were not in place. On Wednesday it rained, which is not conducive to success. There are still two days during which to pull up. The stock is the best feature of the show, being an unusually large exhibit and very excellent in quality. This is one of the most encouraging symptoms of agricultural development.

The display from the Agassiz Experimental Farm is attractive as usual, while the fruit exhibit, though not as large as upon the last occasion, is creditable. Horticulture is providing a usual, a drawing card. The "Broncho busting" contest is witnessed with great interest and furnishes much entertainment to the spectators. One feature should not be overlooked. A pyramid of flowers grown out of doors in September is shown by Mr. Wallace, who has won the medal for it. It demonstrates in a very marked way the capabilities of the city is unique and valuable.

INDIAN TROUBLES.

Advises received from the North yesterday state that the Babine Indians, for whose arrest warrants were issued, had, upon the advice of the Roman Catholic missionary there surrendered to the authorities. Their trial, in all probability, has already taken place. While it is necessary to vindicate the law, it is to be hoped, in case of their having been found guilty that the magistrates will exercise discretion in dealing with the prisoners. A sound and common sense exposition of the situation and the necessity of obeying the law, which whittles as well as Indians are bound to respect, is probably all that is necessary to end the trouble. A too severe sentence would only tend to antagonize the natives in that part of the country. A native cannot see through our eyes and we must make all allowance for the difference in mental attitude. All the native requires is to be impressed with the bona fides of the white man's administration. The Hudson's Bay Co. succeeded in this by maintaining friendly relations with the Indian tribes, because the officials left the impression in all their dealings with them, that they were the red man's friends. Of course it was necessary at times to impress him with the white man's power as well as his intention to punish wrong-doing. That is to say, the Indian was taught in a rough way which appealed to him, that society and its laws are a compact which requires both parties to it to do the square thing. Right and justice appeal to every man, and it depends largely upon the point of view in which they are presented as to whether the appeal is successful.

THE EAST AND THE WEST.

We said some time ago in discussing the formation of the new provinces, that the time would shortly come when the preponderance of political power would lie this side of the Great Lakes and that the West and not Quebec would dictate the policy of this country. Since the result of the recent census in the Middle West has been published, the newspapers there are predicting that "The West will rule Canada." This has struck the note of alarm in the East, and we find the outlook being seriously discussed in grave editorials on the subject. The question is being asked: How shall the power so long exercised be retained in the future?

The St. John Sun thinks that while the principle of representation in itself is just its application at the present time would be unjust, and it advocates fixing the limit of the representation of the Maritime Provinces so that they cannot be reduced below its present number, and also giving each of the provinces an equal number of Senators. This, it thinks, would "prevent injury to the Maritime Provinces from the domination of the West so far as it might tend to be selfish and sectional." In support of this ground it remarks:

"We of the East made Canada. We made the West over our heads, and we who form the backbone of its strength. It is our wealth that is developing the vast resources out there. Are our services to be rewarded by the deprivation of our influence in the governing of the country for which we have done so much? To those of our own blood we grudge nothing of the power that has come and is coming to them. But these are not all the population upon which we have laid the burden of the West. Much of it, the bulk of it, is composed of outlanders, foreigners, whose children will in time make as good citizens as ours but who themselves have not our patriotism, our wide Canadianism, our knowledge of the country's affairs and our experience in their administration. It is fair, that just because of their numbers, with no consideration of their quality, these newcomers should be allowed to sway the government of Canada and conduct it during the formative years of what, with good management, is bound to develop into one of the greatest nations on this earth."

There is a good old maxim about not jumping a stile before you come to it, and the danger feared is still far enough away not to cause eastern people to lie in wait in regard to it displayed by eastern newspapers is rather interesting. So long as political power lay securely in the East, they were not particularly concerned about the problems of the West, or of the policy of the East. The "selfish" or "sectional" character of British Columbia has gone to show that in political matters it was both. When there is a possibility of a change in the center of political gravity, how quickly they respond to the suggestion for a change in the "constitution" to preserve their rights? Upon what grounds, except surmise do they fear that the West will not do justice to the East? As time goes on we expect to see an agitation in eastern Canada for alterations in the B. N. A. Act in the hopes of forestalling the loss of prestige that western development presages.

IMPROVING THE TARIFF.

At the next session of the Dominion parliament, the principal measure for consideration will be the revision of the tariff. Although there has been no indication of what changes are likely to be made in detail, those who profess to know the mind of the finance minister have announced that the principle of the proposed new bill involves three features. In other words, there will be three schedules—a maximum, a minimum and a preferential, the last named to apply to British goods.

The Canadian Manufacturer in discussing the proposal, hopes that the feature relating to British preference will be cut out, and suggests that:—

"The tariff should be a dual character—a minimum tariff to apply to imports from commercially friendly countries such as Great Britain—and a maximum tariff to apply to imports from commercially unfriendly countries such as Germany."

The duty imposed upon imports should be (a) specific only and always where possible; or (b) compound, i.e., both specific and ad valorem; to be ad valorem only when neither specific nor compound is practicable.

Tariff rates, under all circumstances, should be sufficiently high to afford adequate protection to every Canadian manufacturing and industrial interest.

Every possible safeguard should be thrown around the administration of the tariff to prevent undervaluation and other frauds upon the customs.

There should be no special preferential provisions in the tariff as now exist, as such features would be included in the minimum tariff, and applicable not only to British imports but to imports from any other country which treats Canada with similar commercial favor.

The foregoing views are interesting as, no doubt, reflecting a large section of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. It claims that such an arrangement would be automatic in application, and it would be free to any country to decide under which its products would be admitted into Canada. Specific duties, it contends, would prevent importations of inferior goods of all descriptions, and the use of ad valorem duties would apply to textile fabrics, ready-made clothing, etc., and would prevent or restrict imports of shoddy or inferior goods; and, of course, first class goods, it advocates "adequate protection" to every industry in Canada. "Adequate" is a very elastic term, and, like charity, could cover a multitude of sins.

It is wholly probable, however, that the finance minister has made up his mind definitely as to the principles the government should adopt and will proceed upon the lines already indicated as his policy. There is no probability, and certainly no general feeling in Canada in favor of eliminating preference to Great Britain.

THE CANADIAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION CONVENTION.

The holding of the meeting of the Canadian Forestry Association, which closed its proceedings at the Hotel Vancouver last week, was a notable one in several important respects. It was well attended, the proceedings aroused a great deal of interest, and the papers and addresses contributed were instructive and valuable.

The presence of His Excellency the Governor-General added materially to the interest of the occasion, and his inspiring addresses on two occasions have done much to inspire a stronger public feeling in Vancouver and in the province generally in more than one respect. His presence was a stimulus, perceptibly felt. However, the practical work of the association was done by practical, experienced men. The social functions and other incidental features in connection with it need not be referred to. Vancouver did its utmost to entertain the visitors, and did it well, as usual.

Among the more prominent of the visitors were, besides His Excellency, the Lieutenant-Governor, Premier McGowan, Hon. F. W. Jones, president of the Mountain Lumber Manufacturers' Association of British Columbia. The number of addresses and papers presented and read was more limited than usual, but the quality was not a feature to be deplored, but in interest and practicality they were more than usually valuable. They all seemed to have been prepared with great care and with a view to the importance of the object at which they were aimed. The convention was greatly pleased with the remarks of Mr. Oulton Price, and showed its appreciation by their hearty applause upon the closing day by a special vote of thanks and cheers for the president of the United States.

Hon. R. P. Green read an exhaustive paper, the contents of which were well expressed by the title, "Timber, Conditions of British Columbia With Relation to Extent, Revenue and Legislation." It reviewed the whole course of the timber industry in this country since entering Confederation, dealing particularly with the legislation affecting the lumbering industry and the preservation of timber in the province. The paper was well received, and the incident of the incidental interest it contains, without reference to questions of policy discussed. The Chief Commissioner showed himself and his assistants in the best of spirits, and dealt with conditions in the interior of the province, and largely from the lumberman's point of view. There is a considerable difference between conditions in the interior and on the coast, so much so that they must be dealt with by distinct legislation and regulations. The timber is much smaller, not so heavy to the acre, more liable to the ravages of forest fires, and grades up quite different forest, and, locally, the most interesting paper was read by Mr. R. H. Alexander, the veteran lumberman of Vancouver. He dealt with the evolution of the timber business on the coast of British Columbia, from the earliest beginning to the present time, and no one is more familiar with them than Mr. Alexander.

Undoubtedly, however, the ablest paper from the expert point of view was from the pen of Dr. Judson Clark. Dr. Clark made a special study of forestry in all its phases, commercially and industrially, as well as scientifically. He is recognized as the best authority in Canada on the subject, and has reduced his knowledge, useful and theoretical, to a very practical basis. He dealt mainly with governmental policies with respect to the disposal and regulation of timber with a view to the best financial returns to the government and maintaining the supply permanently. We do not know that Dr. Clark has any special knowledge of conditions in British Columbia, and assume that he has not. Still, his paper was a valuable contribution by Roland D. Craig, inspector of Dominion government reserves in British Columbia, the Middle West and elsewhere.

The subject of a general interest discussed was the prevention of forest fires. Upon the necessity of increased protection there was practically no difference of opinion. The only question at issue was a dual character—methods that might or have been adopted. The task of guarding the vast forest areas of British Columbia was daily appraised as in which fires break out hundreds of miles apart from each other and away from the facilities of prevention. It was recognized to be one properly involving the co-operation of the government, the railway companies, the farmer, the prospector, the lumberman, the tourist and hunter, and that the

danger was greater in the inaccessible interior than upon the coast, where the undergrowth is heavy and green. There are two other aspects of the forestry question, which should appeal to the interest of the same way, the province. One is the same way, the lumbermen. They should be compelled to look carefully after the debris, so that it may not become a menace to the remaining timber, and in every way to conserve the timber as much as possible. Much is destroyed by wastefulness as well as by fire. The other is reforestation. Efforts, systematic and scientific, should be made not only to conserve the timber we already have, but to make other timber trees to grow in the stead of those cut down or destroyed.

These are matters to which the Colonist and other papers have frequently called attention. Hon. Mr. Green pointed out in his paper, it is exceedingly hard to get people in this province, where timber is so plentiful, to wake up to the importance of forestry science or to care for the future of the supply. It is only by constant dining in their ears, and by popular movements such as are created by the Forestry Association, can any success be achieved.

THE QUESTION OF CHURCH UNION.

The holding of the Methodist general conference at Montreal last week has brought to the fore again the question of the union of the evangelical churches. The proposal was passed up from the Methodists to the Presbyterians, and the latter formally approved it in principle. An academic assent to the general proposition is about as far as it reached up to the present time.

The difficulties in the way of a favorable solution of the theory, but in detail, and detail is after all a matter of a great deal of importance. Union involves a long series of compromises, and there are still a large number of skeletons in the denominations among the old-time preachers. It is not alone, however, in the pulpits that the most serious obstacles lie in the way. It is in the pew, and the pew has to be counted with. The chief trouble found in the introduction of the revised translation of the Bible was in the fact that the great body of churchgoers and Bible readers had become used to the King James edition, and they did not wish to change. The old scriptural phrases had become part of their nature and part of their language. An old fashioned and doubtless very prejudiced man recently, in discussing the spelling reform given by President Roosevelt in an official ukase, said the spelling of the Bible was good enough for him. That doesn't sound very advanced, but it represents a very common frame of mind, especially upon religious subjects.

It is not what the outsider feels and thinks about it, or what the advanced and modern clergyman has in view. D. Craig, inspector of Dominion forest reserves, and F. W. Jones, president of the Mountain Lumber Manufacturers' Association of British Columbia, who addressed the conference, said the spelling of the Bible was good enough for him. That doesn't sound very advanced, but it represents a very common frame of mind, especially upon religious subjects.

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OUR COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

Very great disappointment was felt in Canada over the action of the Australian government in not while putting its new tariff into force, placing Canada on the preferential list. This was regarded as a decidedly unfriendly attitude, and one which was not deserved on the part of this country. Canada has been forced to consider a community of interests between the people of the two countries. The position taken by the southern colony was therefore difficult to understand. The matter of agricultural machinery in which a considerable trade has been worked up.

It turns out, however, that a letter was sent from Premier Deakin to Sir Wilfrid Laurier last spring, in which he was offering a reciprocal preference, but was not replied to. A second communication on the same subject was treated apparently in the same way. A recent letter from the Canadian commercial agent at Melbourne intimates that the Commonwealth authorities are not well pleased at the cavalier treatment of their official communications. This explains the places where in an endeavor to place the matter in a more responsible light it belongs.

Henry Morgan, a Canadian literary veteran, is publishing a new edition of "Canadian Men and Women of the Time."

The Superintendent of Immigration at Ottawa has favored the Colonist with a copy of "The Law of Canada respecting Immigration and Immigrants."

Ontario is complaining of a scarcity of teachers, emphasizing the fact that the demand for labor extends to all departments of activity. A few years ago teachers in Ontario were a drug on the market.

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THE PHILOSOPHY OF SPELLING REFORM.

One of the principal objects of the Simplified Spelling committee in its propaganda and of President Roosevelt in attempting to give it effect, is that spelling shall conform to other pronunciation; but we have pointed out that the pronunciation of many words even within the limits of the United States varies considerably, and that local influences tend to create variations that exist. Differences of pronunciation in the South and in the North are quite marked, while in the West a distinct variation is growing up. The English language is a still wider field of variation. To make spelling correspond with the pronunciation in every case, would create a vast variety of spellings. Without any question, therefore, it would be necessary, in order to arrive at uniformity, to first fix upon a standard of pronunciation, a very difficult task, indeed. A uniform system of spelling in which each vowel and combination of letters would have a cer-

tain phonetic value, would, of course, tend to fix pronunciation forever; after the course, the pronunciation had been decided upon, but not before.

Another difficulty arises, and it is by no means a new one. It relates to the pronunciation of the same word, but spelled differently. Greater confusion would arise than exists now, because they would be spelled the same and written the same. The Ottawa Journal has some suggestive and clever comments on the situation that would be created.

By phonetic spelling, for instance, it says, "it" would be the word for right, write or write; "brak" the word for brake and break; "bit" would be the spelling for the present "bite" and "bight," and the present bit and bitt would both have to be spelled "bitt," and so on. Take, it adds, the following verses and spell the same proceeding and see how it looks, and whether you could easily make out the sense of it were all in the phonetic spelling:

With tragic air the love-love her
Once chased the chase Louise;
She quickly pronounced the spell there
To please her with this plea:
Now at her side he kneeling sighed,
His sighs of woeful sighs
"Oh, hear me here, for lo, most low
I rise before your eyes."

"This soul is sole thine own Louise—
"Twill never wean, I ween,
The love that I for thee feel,
Though mean may be my plea."

"You know I cannot tell you no."
The maid made answer true;
"Love you ought, as sure I ought—
To you 'tis due I do!"

"Since you are won, oh, fairest one,
The marriage knot I'll lead you on.
The chapel aisle I'll lead you on
This night," exclaimed the knight.

The advocates of phonetic spelling says the Journal, advance two chief arguments, first, that uniform phonetic spelling would render the education of school children easier and surer, and secondly, render easier the acquisition of English by foreign people, and so tend to the prevalence of English as the chief word language. Now it is quite true that a child of a foreigner may be desperately puzzled by a single word, and that if he is presented with the single written spelling "it" and told that it may be either a religious rite or a shipwright or a right to something, or the act of writing? There is evidently both a Scylla and a Charibdis, in the question of spelling reform, and it is well to go very slow.

"Peripatetic pedlars of a ragtime gospel" was the term applied to traveling evangelists by an American clergyman who addressed the Methodist general conference in Montreal last week, and it didn't raise a storm of protest either.

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