

The Colonist.

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1896.

AN IMPERIAL SCHEME.

We have received from the editor of the London Daily Graphic five numbers of that paper containing a series of letters, entitled, "One Queen, One Flag, One Fleet," and signed "Splendid Isolation," treating of the relations between Great Britain and her colonies, together with Lord Wolsley's opinion of those letters. The letters are most suggestive, and we are not surprised to learn that they have attracted much attention in England. As a scheme for the defence of the Empire to the maintenance of which the colonies are assumed to contribute their fair share is discussed in them, they ought to excite as much interest in the colonies as they did in the mother country. The day has come when intelligent British subjects, wherever they live, see that if the British Empire is to continue and to be respected it must be more closely united than it is at present. The connection between its parts at present is so loose that it can hardly be said to be organized at all.

"Splendid Isolation" in his first letter draws attention to the extent of the Empire and to the very large proportion of the human race under its sway. He says:

"Roughly speaking, the British race as far as it is subject to Her Majesty consists of three great divisions. There are 40,000,000 of us here at home. There are 10,000,000 of us in the self-governing colonies; and there are a couple of millions of us in the colonies which are not self-governing and in India. Outside of and governed by these 52,000,000 of our kith and kin are 350,000,000 of people who, although not of our own race, own allegiance to the Queen as her subjects or feudatories. Thus there are in all 420,000,000 souls whose welfare is bound up with that of the Flag. This is more than one-third of the entire population of the world!"

This is the most magnificent Empire that the world has yet seen. It is governed in the midst way and kept together by the smallest possible exercise of physical force. Is it likely to last? Does it contain the elements of stability? Is it worth while to try to strengthen it and to make it as powerful as it can be made? If this vast Empire were properly organized it would have nothing to fear from isolation.

The writer in the Graphic is not sentimental. He sees that the British Empire contains the elements of great strength, and his object is to devise a scheme by which its immense possibilities can be utilized. He leaves what are considered the politics of the Empire to be handled by others. He concerns himself wholly with a project of general defence. He would have one fleet for the whole Empire, to the support of which colony and mother country would contribute. He would not have the fleet sectional. "But that fleet," he says, "should not be as it is at present, manned and officered almost exclusively from the population of the United Kingdom." Colonists from all parts of the Empire should be as eligible for positions and honors as the natives of the Three Kingdoms.

He advocates the formation of a Colonial Army Corps, the whole strength of which would not be much over 25,000 officers and men. "I should like to see it," he says, "ready to go anywhere and to do anything with our own First Army Corps at its side, and to see it stand first for service in the Colonies and British possessions in all parts of the world." Further on he says: "My suggestion is confined to this: That the colonies be severally invited to furnish one or more battalions, squadrons, companies, &c., so as to make up an army corps of the peace strength of our existing First Army Corps, to be at the service of the Empire at large for Imperial purposes, and subject to conditions to be arranged."

"Splendid Isolation" discusses the cost of these contributions of the colonies to the general defence. "It is calculated," he says, "that if in addition to the sums already dispensed by the colonies for defensive objects an amount of a little exceeding £2,000,000 (\$10,000,000) a year were available, the cost of the proposed measures would be covered." He shows how this two millions of pounds sterling can be raised without increasing the burdens of the colonies. He would have Great Britain take over all the debts of all the colonies, which bear an average rate of 3 1/2 per cent., and agree to pay her 3 per cent. The difference of interest on £470,000,000 would amount to the £10,000,000 required to maintain the colonial contingents to the Imperial army and navy. The scheme is ingenious, but we fear that "Splendid Isolation" is not exactly correct in his figures.

It says much for this patriotic scheme that it is respectfully entertained by the British public. A few years ago we question very much if any English paper would have the courage to publish "Splendid Isolation's" proposals. They would be denounced as absurd and the writer of the letters would be laughed at as a dreamer of absurd dreams. But the British and the colonial public have both during the last few years travelled far in the direction of Imperial Federation. The closer union of all British communities is looked upon now as the

of the possibilities which it is commendable for statesmen both in the mother country and the colonies to aspire to, and "Splendid Isolation" has, even if his scheme is not adopted, done much to advance the cause of the most beneficent kind of Imperialism ever advocated.

SHARP CRITICISM.

The dishonesty and the shuffling of the United States Senate in the matter of compensating the British sealers for the injury done them by the piratical acts of United States cruisers has exhausted the patience of the Montreal Witness. It is exceedingly indignant and condemns the dishonest senators with great severity. This is part of what it says:

After a great deal of discussion and delay and a great deal of irritation toward Great Britain, the Senate has refused to ratify the convention agreed to between the United States Government and the British Government for a commission without an amendment providing for the inclusion of the claims of United States citizens as well as of British ones. The claims of United States citizens can only be against their own Government, not against the British Government, and therefore their insertion in an international agreement for the satisfaction of foreign claims is altogether without pertinence, and constitutes a proceeding before unheard of. The United States citizens have recourse in ordinary law against their own government, or congress can protect them, if it wishes to do so, by direct legislation on their behalf.

By amending the convention between the United States Government and the British Government for the compensation of British sealers by inserting these claims, it became necessary, however, to submit the convention again to the British Government. As the treaty of arbitration did not provide for the satisfaction of claims of United States citizens against their own government, of course their insertion is irregular and of doubtful legality. Therefore Great Britain will hardly know how to proceed. Anyway, the settlement is by these means delayed and the irritation prolonged, and these are the purposes of the Senate, led by that drunken rascal, United States Senator Morgan, who proposed the amendment and whose animosity towards Great Britain is particularly active when he is in his cups. With nine million dollars of the money paid by Great Britain on the Alabama arbitration in its treasury, which it can find no just claimant for, and which, therefore, in equity belongs to England, the United States Congress haggle over the payment of \$425,000, agreed upon by its own government as compensation to British sealers. It is just such dodges and trickery as these that convince people of other nations that the people of the United States will not play fair whether the game in hand be business, politics or yachting. To get ahead of its opponents by tricky or sharp practice of any kind is considered clever and commendable on the part of the nation.

FRIDAY NIGHT'S MEETING.

The explanations made by the Hon. Mr. Turner, Mr. Rithet and Mr. Helmcken at the meeting on Friday evening seem, from all that we can learn, to have been most satisfactory. Very little, indeed, was known about the bill even by those who called the meeting. It had been misrepresented by opponents of the Government, and when the audience came to see what the object of the bill was and how it was likely to work, some of the most intelligent of them, we have good reason to believe, changed their minds regarding it and came to the conclusion that it could be made the means of doing a great deal of good.

Most intelligent citizens know that the maintenance of education is a very heavy drain on the revenue of the Province. But they do not like the idea of limiting the scope of the system of public education now in operation or of crippling it in any way. But to keep it in its present effective condition requires a considerable sum of money every year, which sum must go on increasing as the population increases. How is the money to be raised to educate the children of the Province as generally and as well as they ought to be educated, without adding greatly to the burdens of the taxpayers? This is the problem which the Government has to solve—and it will have to be admitted that it is not so simple or so easy of solution as many people who have no idea of the nature and the number of the demands on the revenue seem to think. It occurred to the Government that the wild lands of the Province could be made available for the purpose of supporting education.

There are millions upon millions of acres of wilderness land in the Province that are perfectly useless. They produce nothing and they yield no revenue. They are, some say, a valuable provincial asset. In which way valuable? The people derive no benefit from this immense area of land, much of it cultivated. If this land, instead of being locked up, were put on the market and the money paid for it and the taxes it would yield devoted to educating the children of the people, would they not be greatly benefited?

The Government will not be able to sell the land as an objection raised by the desponding obstructives. The reply to this was that when Government had the power to sell the land the amount of the sales was a very considerable addition to the revenue each year. There is every reason to believe that when Government land is again offered for sale the same thing will take place. A fund will be formed for the support of

public education, and not a single dollar will be added to the burdens of the people. The plan was thought to be a good one and the Land Sales Bill is the result. When the people come to see that this is the nature of the bill and this its object the misrepresentations of Opposition orators will lose their force. Common sense says, if the wild lands, that in their present condition do no good, can be made to relieve the people of taxes and contribute to the support of education the law which permits the Government to sell them for such a purpose is a good one and is at any rate worth a trial.

The explanations of the city's representatives at the meeting in the City Hall made all this perfectly clear, and to our certain knowledge caused one of the gentlemen who were principally instrumental in calling the meeting to be favorable to the measure.

Objections were made to the irregular way in which the meeting was convened. It was said, if a number of irresponsible persons can call a meeting in this city to discuss a measure before the Legislature which affects the whole province, and attention is paid to the decision arrived at by men who cannot possibly know much about it, legislation will be unnecessarily impeded, and the law-makers embarrassed. Why should a few of the citizens of the capital take upon themselves to prejudice measures about which those of other sections of the Province have no opportunity of passing an opinion? Meetings like that of Friday evening should not be encouraged by intelligent citizens. And the proceedings of that meeting go a long way to show that there is a great deal of reason in the objections urged. Leaving out Mr. Marchant, who is ready at all times to discuss any question, and who would, without hesitation, take command of the Pacific Coast naval squadron, there was no one outside the members of the legislature who had a single word to say on the subject. The privilege of holding public meetings to discuss subjects of general interest is no doubt a most valuable one and one of which we are always glad to see the people avail themselves on all proper occasions. But it is a privilege that can easily be abused. And when a few persons whose names are unknown, on their own responsibility call a meeting to discuss a subject of public interest then under the consideration of the Legislature, the privilege is in all probability abused. A meeting to be influential should be representative, but a meeting so called, except on very rare exigencies, cannot be representative.

UNRESTRICTED ARBITRATION. The Americans have of late been expressing themselves very strongly in favor of arbitration as a mode of settling international disputes. They say that it is the most humane way, and the only way for nations which are Christian in reality as well as in name. Many of them are very indignant because Lord Salisbury has refused to submit to arbitration the whole territory in dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela. They more then insinuate that the cause of the British Premier's unwillingness is that he is unconscious of the weakness of his case. If he believed, they say, that Great Britain has a good right to the disputed territory east of Sobam-burgh line, he would have no more hesitation in submitting that part of the treaty claimed by his Government to arbitration than he has in submitting the part west of that line. When discussing "Unrestricted Arbitration," the London Times of the 11th instant gives what it considers a good reason for not submitting the whole of the disputed territory to arbitration. This is what it says:

"No authoritative statement of the case of the Venezuelans is known to have been published in this country, but it is understood that their claims largely depend upon such grounds as the Bull of Alexander VI, again referred to by Mr. Clements Markham in the further letter he sends to-day—grounds which the people of the United States would of course agree with England in regarding as futile. We have every confidence, on the other hand, that our case rests upon solid foundations of history and of international law. Why, then, it may be urged, should we be unwilling to submit the whole matter to an international court? A great part of it we are prepared to submit to the risks of such a submission. Why, it is asked, do we hang back about the rest? The answer, according to Professor Westlake, is that as to a portion of the disputed territory which includes the settled districts we know that the Venezuelan claim is preposterous and that we are justified as to this portion in acting upon the precedent set by the United States in the Geneva case. It is at this point that the distinction lies between the municipal law applied by the municipal courts of civilized states like Great and the United States, and the loose and ill-defined set of principles known as international law, applied by international tribunals, becomes important. In the first case, the law is certain, and the impartiality of the judges as between private suitors is above suspicion. In many questions of international right the law, on the other hand, is vague and unascertained. The fact that the United States called for a declaration of the law applicable to cases tried at Geneva proves this to be so and shows at the same time how vital may be its bearing in this particular dispute. The court, again, is by no means always so free from prejudice as in private causes. Sentiment, personal and national feeling, erroneous theories of law, and bias, however unconscious, through national interests, have frequently had their influence on the decisions of such bodies. All that we are

unwilling to do is to expose to the chances of such a mode of settlement a population which has hitherto lived in entire reliance upon the permanence of our rule." All this means that if Great Britain could make herself as sure of the impartiality of International Courts of Arbitration as she is of that of the ordinary civil courts of either England or the United States she would willingly submit the whole of the territory in dispute to arbitration.

WHOLESONE EXPERIENCE.

Mr. McConnell, the editor of the Halifax Chronicle, is finding that in abusing Conservative public men the only safe way is to deal in intangible generalities. He has found by bitter and humiliating experience that it is exceedingly dangerous to go into particulars. As long as the Grit villifier is indefinite and vague, as long as he confines himself to calling names and making a free use of injurious epithets, he is comparatively safe. But as soon as he is so rash as to make a definite charge, he finds his position most unpleasant.

His being obliged to apologise for having falsely accused Sir Charles Tupper must have surprised many of the readers of the Halifax Chronicle; for having seen so much and such insistent abuse and scurrility heaped upon Sir Charles they, in their simplicity, must have thought that nothing could be easier than to convict the Secretary of State of any political offence. Nothing but the clearest proof of guilt, they naturally supposed, could justify the newspaper editors and correspondents in writing of Sir Charles Tupper in the way that they have been doing since the day it was known that he proposed to re-enter the Dominion political arena. The conclusion they must come to is that the veteran statesman cannot be so black as he is painted, or they would find no trouble in proving any charge they might see fit to bring against him.

UNFORTUNATE MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

We very much regret to see that the misunderstanding between the Trustees of the City Schools and some of the teachers threatens to be serious and productive of unpleasant results. The relations between trustees and teachers have hitherto been most harmonious. The trustees seemed to have perfect confidence in the teachers, and the teachers have apparently regarded the trustees as their best friends. The efficiency of the schools in the past has no doubt been in a great measure owing to this mutual respect and good feeling. It will, we are satisfied, be unfortunate for the cause of education in this city if a change for the worse takes place in the attitude of trustees and teachers towards each other. It is sincerely to be hoped that the breach that appears to have been made will soon be closed, and that the old relations will be resumed.

In carrying out a plan of civic retrenchment the City School Trustees considered it their duty to decrease the salaries of the teachers. They unfortunately were the first to feel the effect of the change, and they considered that the "cut" was too severe. Naturally, this "cut" caused some excitement and not a little complaint among the teachers. They considered that they were harshly used, and unfairly dealt with, and expressed their feelings in pretty strong terms. The Trustees seem to have been indignant, and were not slow in expressing their feelings. Then there are disputes about the accuracy of calculations. Meetings were held and hard things were said, but we do not think that matters have gone so far that a reconciliation is impossible.

We are sorry to see that the Times has attacked Mr. Hayward with its usual virulence. "Everyone will have to admit that Mr. Hayward in his capacity of Trustee has done this city good service. He has worked hard and worked most judiciously in the cause of education. If any public servant deserves consideration at the hands of the newspapers of this city it is the indefatigable and most disinterested Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He has not only done his duty zealously and conscientiously, but he has been most friendly and most obliging to the representatives of the newspapers.

We have no doubt that the present

scrofula. Any doctor will tell you that Professor Hare, of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, is one of the highest authorities in the world on the action of drugs. In his last work, speaking of the treatment of scrofula, he says: "It is hardly necessary to state that cod-liver oil is the best remedy of all. The oil should be given in emulsion, so prepared as to be palatable." He also says that the hypophosphites should be combined with the oil. Scott's Emulsion of cod-liver oil, with hypophosphites, is precisely such a preparation.

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HOLDING OUR OWN. Aiming high is usually a good way to aim; but aiming and hitting the mark is better. We are constantly studying to hit the popular idea of QUALITY, ASSORTMENT AND PRICE. And it is this thoughtful care that enables us to "hold our own" at all times, dull or otherwise. A few of our holdings: 5-lb. Pail Jar, 40c. 2-lb. Tin Condensed Milk, 25c. Heavy, in useful air-tight jars, 25c. 3-lb. Tin Peaches, Pears, Apples or Plums, only 20c. Guinness' Stout, quarts, only 20c.

Dixie H. Ross & Co. misunderstanding or disagreement is giving him a good deal of pain and that he will feel glad and relieved when he resumes his old relations with teachers whom we know he liked and respected. We do not believe that the attack of the Times will have the effect of souring him or of causing him to turn a deaf ear to any explanation which Mr. McNeill has to make. The Principals of the North Ward school, we believe, made a mistake, and we are sure that he is manly enough to acknowledge his error. A MYSTERY OF CHINATOWN. A mystery of very promising proportions is connected with the suicide of an unknown Chinaman, whose body was found hanging to the stairway in the rear of Hart's cabins early yesterday morning. The Celestial, having apparently committed suicide deliberately by hanging himself with a small cord underneath the common stairway, by which the second floor cabins are reached, A brother Chinaman, who discovered the body and reported the fact to the police is detained at headquarters as a necessary witness in order that there may be no question as to his appearance at the inquest to-morrow. Neither he nor any others of the residents of Chinatown are able or willing to identify the dead man, who from visiting cards found in his pocket is thought to have been known as Tom Cheu Ming. The body was well dressed and well nourished, and no cause is to be gathered from any of the circumstances yet presented. The police believe that they recognize in the deceased a person interested in the trouble which has recently developed at the Chinese theatre and an effort will be made to discover if the cause of the suicide can have been any threats made in this connection. The task of getting at the truth of the matter at the present time seems to be a far from light one. The Provident Loan Society of New York does a pawn-broking business at the rate of 1 per cent. a month and was able to pay a ten per cent. dividend. In Toronto among the users the rate is three per cent. a month. The New York Provident Loan Society might profitably extend its operations.

GOSSIP FROM. Irish Reunion—Keir Ha Reformer—U. S. and Sentiment. "Protection by Side Literary Treasurer—ser's New Ya

LONDON, Feb. 29.—The union has been taken up enthusiastically by several recent meetings held through Timothy Healy, speaking Thursday night, seemed credible. He said Mr. Dillon to be chairman of the party that he had attained through a long and single. Among the anti-Pa language is considered to be final bluff before his su Healy knows Mr. Dillon to leader, and always open t If the expectation of the lo ed the committee of the Ar will be reorganized in the session, and Mr. Healy will chance of taking a line with Great Britain. "Wherever ista have an organization has been adopted declaring restoration of harmony. FRIENDSHIPS BETWEEN U. S. Ambassador Thom one of the speakers at the t Seaman's Hospital society held at Mansion house y plied to Chairman Sir D founder of the Castle line, friend of Mr. Gladstone, w that the Queen the Zar, peror William were supp society, and it now had the President of the Unite pressed by the presence of The latter, dwelling upon sea there are no s as troublesome boundar contested spheres of infi states or other creations of Scarcely a day has pas tokens of gratitude and god sent by Americans to sea heroism in connection with the high seas. When a duties in Washington, I re there was a constant curru and gratitude from Great the sailors of the United S acts are healing the diff strengthening the friends sailors, and may be the meag friendship and good feel on both sides of the Atlant THE ASHANTI EXPED The British troops which of the Ashanti expedition London on Thursday in a though not battered com were enthusiastically chee marched through the ci docks where they were i barracks in the west part of The new Commander-in-Ch Lord Wolsley in an addre made on Thursday in this ing increasing the navy as ain's first line of defence, ex opinion that in the advet would be impossible to s supply of Great Britain. Hi ment was that all the fleets "would not prevent ou cousins, who were always money, and have an eye chance, from running into with cargoes of wheat and IMMORTALITY IN GLAS James Keir-Hardie, th labor leader, has made d Glasgow, similar to those u Mr. W. Stead in London ed in 1885 by the Pall Mall Hardie's revelations have b ed in language that is even that employed by Mr. Stead ments representing offer young women and child known commercial and relig Glasgow and the municipal are pilloried by Mr. Har offices against chastity, an that this model city, who posed vice had been abolis come a secret pandemoniu ality. SOCIETY NOTES. The weather during the p now warm again. There ministerial dinners, but which will herald the op will be the Prince of Wales week. It will be the occ enormous gathering of aristocracy, and the Duke of Duke of Connaught, Prin and the Prince of Teck wi those present. The Maharaj promises to be the com comes to England as a He will bring with him a suit of natives. It is definitely announce Prince of Wales, out of memory of Prince Henry of will not race the Britanni viera regatta, but will me pleasure cruise in the Me Incidentally it may be add Elphinstone is favored by B year. They complain of the feeling and are gravitating to rule. THE RAISER'S NEW Y It is announced that the W. Cass has decided to vis the purpose of raising his nee the cutter now being built son, of Glasgow, under the Valkyrie III and according sign of George B. Watson, famous regatta of the B Squadron. Such being the admitted he will need much der to avoid unpleasant ma Swarms of newspaper m about Lord Dunraven's li dance to-day, in anticipatio ing some express opinio York Yacht Club's action he name of the list of hon bers of that organization, b ship positively refused to view.

INTERESTING TO CANA Colonel Lake, Canada master-General, met with a able reception here. Lord