

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1898.

WORLDS TO CONQUER.

The earth hunger in upon the Anglo-Saxon race as never before. For a time the branch of the family occupying the United States did not feel it, or, as it would doubtless be more correct to say, did not recognize that they had it. The reason of this was that they had a vast territory of their own to be developed, and all their energies were directed to the accomplishment of that task. Six months ago not one American in a thousand would have admitted that the so-called traditional policy of the nation would ever be changed. In proof of this it is only necessary to refer to the way in which Hawaiian annexation dragged. Even its advocates before the war with Spain only urged that it should be brought about because they said the islands really belonged to the American continent and were needed as a naval station to guard the Nicaraguan canal—two very absurd claims, in which every very people took any stock whatever. Dewey's brilliant and easy victory over the Spanish fleet changed everything. As a taste of what often inflames a dormant appetite for strong drink, so a taste of foreign dominion awoke the slumbering passion of the nation, and a war, which was ostentatiously declared by the President not to be one of conquest, is resulting in the acquisition of an empire beyond the seas. So far as our own Empire is concerned, one school of politicians preached forty years ago that we had all the territory we needed, and that it would be a good thing if some of the dependencies would cut themselves adrift. Speaking of those who then thought that Canada ought to sever herself from the Empire, Tennyson wrote:

And that true north whereof we lately heard A strain to shame us: "Keep you to yourself! So loyal is too costly! friends—your love 'Is but a burden; loose the bond and go."

But the idea was popular nevertheless, and for a time there seemed to be a possibility of effect being given to it. But the British race is prolific. The law of primogeniture has its objectionable side, no doubt, but it is to her brood of "younger sons" that Britain's Empire owes its existence. In France the family divides up the estate among all children alike. Each generation sees the patrimony diminished to make provision for new branches. The result is French thrift, which a clever Italian writer points out is ruining the nation. It is easier to save than to make money, so the Frenchman hoards everything and ventures nothing, and that the hoard may not be too much subdivided, the effort is made to keep the family small. The reverse has been the rule in Great Britain. They spend it freely. They do not subdivide it, but the head of the family has the bulk of it, and the younger branches have "the headen for the inheritance and the uttermost parts of the world for their possession." And to take this heritage they have gone abroad, facing any and every peril, and building up the Empire. The last Little Englander, like the last native Tasmanian, is dead.

But some may ask: Wherewith shall the earth hunger of the scores of millions of Anglo-Saxons be satisfied? The answer is: In Asia, Africa and South America. Asia is the home of upwards of 825,000,000 people, but of this host 985,000,000 live in about 3,000,000 square miles of territory, leaving 160,000,000 for the remainder of the continent, or for 14,000,000 square miles, a population of less than twelve to the square mile. The great tier of states in America, which extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific just south of the international boundary, and the great chain of Canadian provinces lying just north of the boundary line in some respects the most notable and progressive part of the world. They could probably be reproduced in Asia in the same latitude by taking the northern part of China and the southern part of Siberia. The distance across Asia is greater than that across North America. The population of the 11,500,000 square miles of Africa is less than 14 to the square mile, and little doubt exists that the greater part of the continent is capable of supporting a highly civilized people. The only doubt as to its becoming the home of any large white population arises from the fact that the native races would increase very rapidly under orderly government, and probably occupy most of the territory themselves; but this does not mean that there is not room for millions of Anglo-Saxons and scope for an unlimited amount of Anglo-Saxon energy. In South America less than 37,000,000 people are scattered over nearly 7,000,000 square miles, and perhaps nowhere in the world is there so great an area with so comparatively little waste land. Thus we see that there is ample scope for the redundant energy and expanding numbers of the Anglo-Saxon race, that the new worlds to conquer are even greater than those which have been already subdued by this invincible race.

Conditions at Manila are very bad. General Merritt does not appear to be equal to his responsibilities. The trouble is that he has had no experience to qualify him for them. The only nation in the world with a body of men trained to such emergencies is our own.

Present indications are not favorable to the early conclusion of the negotiations between Spain and the United States. The Philippines are likely to afford a question very difficult of settlement.

THE COMMISSION CLOSED.

The evidence of Mr. Turner before Chief Justice McCall shows that there was nothing in the settlement of the claims that anyone connected with it need hesitate from showing up in the clearest light of day. The claims were urged in good faith, were examined in good faith and paid in good faith. There is no pretence that any one received money to which he had not a good and equitable right, or that a dollar was paid under circumstances which would suggest to a reasonable man the slightest wrongful intention on the part of any one. The expenditure in connection with the parliament building was large, and the circumstances in connection with carrying out the contract somewhat complicated. The contractors were not unnaturally desirous of getting as much as they could for their work; the government, while ready to do them full justice, were not disposed to concede more than could be defended on the ground of fair play to the province. Every care seems to have been taken to elicit facts at a just settlement. While there was necessarily some secrecy about the matter so far as the general public was concerned, there was none as regards the legislature, and the whole matter was laid before the committee of public accounts, and if any member of the legislature was not satisfied with the explanation he had every opportunity to find out whatever he wanted to know. The legislative opposition was represented on the public accounts committee, and everything that has been told before the commission could just as well have been elicited then as at any other time. It is quite possible that if five other men than the late Executive had the settling of the matter, they might have reached a different conclusion. They might have agreed to give the contractors more or they might have concluded to give them less. They would scarcely have agreed to give them nothing. Mr. Turner and his colleagues exercised their best judgment in the premises, and it seems to have been a reasonable judgment, as it was clearly an honest one.

Those people who expected that the Chief Justice would unearth a scandal must find themselves grievously disappointed. There have been some things said which show that a good deal of feeling existed between the people who had charge of the work and the contractors, but we did not require a commission to find this out. Every one who had ears to hear what was going on knew that long ago. The late government seems to have done bare justice to the contractors, and we feel sure that the people of British Columbia would not desire that any one should lose by reason of a contract entered into and carried out in perfect good faith. The whole Mr. Turner and his colleagues may congratulate themselves that the commission was appointed.

THE ATLIN COUNTRY.

Good reports continue to come from the Atlin Lake district. The last person from there, whom the Colonist has met, is Mr. D. Patterson, of New Westminster, who has been in the district since the early part of July. He speaks with moderation, but most encouragingly, of the prospects of the new camp. There will undoubtedly be much activity there next season. The district is accessible from Skagway, which is the easiest route at present. From Junction, from which point cattle have been driven in, and from Glenora, whence several pack animals have gone in during the latter part of the season. Another gentleman, who is just down from Lake Teslin, says that, although he had not heard of the Atlin strike when at the lake, he is satisfied, from what he has since learned, that the stakings have reached to within fifteen miles of that sheet of water.

The country around Atlin is generally open in character, but is timbered. There is much grass. As a general thing, the soil is gravelly, so that traveling is easy. Possibly there may be some land fit for cultivation, but this year no one has paid any attention to that feature of the case. Some hay was cut during the summer, and is on hand for the use of what few animals will be wintered there. Access to the country during the latter part of the winter from Skagway will be quite easy. The gold is coarse, and nuggets worth from \$10 up are common. Bedrock is near the surface, possibly not more than five feet down in most places. In all the streams that have been prospected, what appears to be pay gravel has been found. Discoveries of gold-bearing quartz are also reported.

We feel safe in saying, as the result of numerous inquiries and as a deliberate judgment, formed after discounting exaggerations made by interested parties, that the Atlin district is worth looking into by persons who may contemplate spending next season in prospecting. It will probably produce considerable gold next year, an earnest of which has already been made. Being in British Columbia, it is not subject to the mining regulations in force in the Yukon, and consequently it will be regarded with greater favor by miners. It is so easy of access and its climate is so favorable that mining and prospecting there will not be attended with any of the serious difficulties accompanying such work at Klondike. Daily mail and a line of telegraph will undoubtedly be established next season, if the promise of this year's discoveries is made good. In all there have been so far between fifteen and twenty creeks in which gold has been discovered. We advise against any 'immoderate anticipations, but feel confident that a substantial degree of development may be looked for next year.

THE NEW AMERICAN POLICY.

One effect claimed for the new policy, upon which the United States seems to be about to enter, is that it will for a time divert attention from certain domestic problems of great interest, but we are not certain that this is an objection to it. These problems are social, commercial and financial. The social problems are the relations of capital and labor, civil service reform, the elevation of political standards, the improvement of the administration of justice. The commercial problem is involved in the tariff. The financial problem has to do with the banking system and bimetalism. These are certainly extremely important matters, but we are unable to see how the solution of them will be deferred by the adoption of territorial expansion. On the contrary, we are inclined to think that the responsibilities which new acquisition will create, and the problems which will have to be dealt with will sober the nation, will tend to eradicate the provincial spirit which has animated its politics to such a great degree and produce a higher type of public men. The reason why the United States has not long before now felt the necessity of dealing with such problems, as those referred to, is to be found in the fact that a large unoccupied territory was available for the people. If conditions did not suit men at home, they had only to move into the seemingly boundless West to find new communities, where they would be troubled by the difficulties confronting the older settled states. All kinds of social, financial and political problems solve themselves in the face of a vast area of fertile land in which any man who wishes can find a home. The acquisition of a dominion beyond the sea will probably have a similar tendency. It will certainly have a profound effect upon the commercial policy of the nation. This is already manifest. It can hardly fail to bring to important changes in financial matters. Its social effect will be profound. Harper's Weekly points out that the opponents of expansion have the advantage in ability over its advocates. This may be or may not be so. Possibly in view of the array of names given by the New York paper, the so-called greatest minds are in favor of expansion. But if history teaches anything at all, it is that in very many cases, the leaders, who have guided public opinion into the best channels, have not been those who have had the most repute in their day and generation. It is an old saying that a prophet is not without honor, save in his own country and his own father's house.

Mr. P. J. Baldwin, who has been on the Yukon, tells the Toronto Globe that the Yukon can become a valuable country for cattle raising, and that vegetables and oats can be produced there in abundance. This is interesting, but it is not quite new. Dr. Dawson told the world this more than ten years ago. In an article contributed to the New York Independent by the present editor of the Colonist nearly ten years ago, and in another to the Chicago Interior, the prediction of Dr. Dawson as to the possibility of the district in these lines was quoted. There is an immense amount of information about the country in the Geological Survey reports, which very few persons seem to have noticed.

Now that the Times has explained what it meant by its objection to government clerks working for the public, we have only to say that we agree with it, with this qualification, that if a private individual is in such a hurry for his work that he cannot wait until it can be done in the ordinary routine of office business, he ought to pay the clerk for his extra time. But the Colonist has not been discussing this kind of work. It has referred wholly to private work done for private individuals, which the government is under no obligation to furnish.

Mr. G. B. Martin, ex-Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, speaking of the statement attributed to him to the effect that he declared the payment of \$30,000 to the contractors for the parliament building an "iniquitous thing," says that he has been wholly misunderstood. What he may have said was that the claim of the contractors for \$30,000 was iniquitous. He does not remember having said this, but he thought it was, and may have said so.

The Winnipeg Telegram explains the reasons for the appointment of Mr. Forget as Lieutenant-Governor of the Northwest Territories. It says that if Mr. Forget is rewarded for his aid in settling the Manitoba school question, and generally for his services as a political fugleman of Mr. Sifton. The Telegram thinks he will make a popular and successful governor, if he can get rid of his political partisanship.

The Province explains that Mr. Wade was not dismissed from his office at Dawson, but fails to tell why he abandoned the position of prosecuting attorney. We are quite aware that the latter position is not an office of a permanent nature; but why did Mr. Wade give it up?

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THE NORTHERN MAIL.

We print a letter from Mr. Mike King complaining of the mail service to Lake Bennett and points beyond. Mr. King is an old and well-known resident of Victoria, and those who know him will concede that he is not likely to overdraw any case which he makes out for publication. His letter speaks of an uncertain mail service and of accumulation of mail matter between Victoria and Dawson. This should be looked into at the earliest possible moment by the postal authorities. There is not so much glory in this sort of work as there is in figuring in connection with cheaper ocean postage, but the people of the Yukon pay pretty handsomely per head into the revenue and are entitled to have their wants provided for, as far as can be done.

Last winter no one complained. The difficulties in the way of transportation were enormous and the whole situation was so new that no one understood how to deal with it. But this excuse no longer holds good. There are regular channels of communication over which passengers, freight and express matter can be sent expeditiously and with regularity, and we see no reason why mail matter cannot be sent in the same way. Mr. King's letter is dated September 27. It reached this city on the 12th inst., that is, it was fifteen days on the way. Out of this period two days must be taken, because the letter had to go to Seattle and be sent over from there. This leaves thirteen days from Lake Bennett to Victoria, if we had a direct service. Allowing four days from Skagway we have eight days left for the distance between Bennett and Skagway, which Mr. King says he walked in twelve hours. This is not very satisfactory, even if we admit that all to be expected at present is a weekly service. The same mail brought a Dawson City paper of September 17. As many people have made the trip from Dawson to Victoria in ten days, it seems strange that nearly a month should be needed to get the mail out. We urge the post office department to give its immediate attention to the proper transmission of the Northern mails. The people in that part of Canada have the right to every possible consideration in their isolation.

DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY. The Toronto Globe pleads for higher politics than Canada usually has to bear, an aspiration in which all good citizens will join. But when it goes further and suggests that Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Foster should announce where they stand on certain questions, which it propounds, it abandons the ground of public policy and enters the arena of the debating school. The leaders of an opposition have no reason to avow their position upon mooted questions. In this particular there is a difference between Canadian and United States politics. In the latter country there is no government, as we understand the expression here when we talk politics. The administration may or may not frame the policy of the nation. It would be easy to cite from the recent history of that country many instances in which the avowed policy of the administration has been frustrated by Congress. Nothing like that could occur in Canada, without being followed by a resignation of the ministry. Politics in the United States are evolved in the party conventions. In Canada we look to the government of the day for the development of the lines which the country will follow. In almost every instance in which a party in opposition has attempted to define its policy, it has made a mistake. It was in obedience to the obligation thus created that Sir Wilfrid Laurier felt compelled to submit the prohibition plebiscite to the people, a step which every one now concedes was useless. The Globe, in the same issue, notes the Liberal plank adopted at the Ottawa convention. Our contemporary makes an effort to show that this plank has determined the fiscal policy of the party since it came into power, but it is a very pertinacious one, and after reading it one is forced to the conclusion that the Globe would feel vastly more comfortable if that plank had not been formulated. We do not say that in the eye of an election, a party may not properly define its position upon some acute issue. It ought to do so. What we hold is that the adoption of academic declarations upon matters of public policy is a mistake, from which every political party has suffered.

We should be sorry to see the Conservative party make the blunder of defining its position on issues which have not yet arisen, and it is unreasonable for the government papers to ask it to do so. The duty of developing a policy for Canada rests for the time being upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues. If by no means follows that the Conservatives will oppose everything which the ministry may submit. Some of the points on which the Globe asks for information as to the position of Sir Charles and Mr. Foster, are the opening of the Yukon by rail and telegraph, the improvement of Canada's internal avenues of traffic, the collection of royalties in the Yukon. Probably no one in Canada will answer in the negative to an academic question as to whether he favors these things. When the several questions are taken into the arena of actual politics, and legislation is attempted in regard to them, differences of opinion are likely to arise. Take the question of the opening of a railway commission. How can the Globe expect a public man to answer such a question until he knows what sort of a commission the Globe has in mind, what its powers are to be, what the expense attending it is likely to amount to, and what benefits are expected to be derived from it. When the government brings down its

plan for a railway commission it will be time enough to ask Conservatives whether or not they are in favor of it. So as to the other questions. Before anyone ought to be asked to define his position in regard to them, they should be reduced from the abstract to the concrete. By all means let us elevate politics, but let us choose some other level than that of the debating society.

THE YUKON CHARGES.

Mr. H. S. White, of Reuter's service, is alleged in an Ottawa despatch to have said that he has been misrepresented by the Colonist. Mr. White can hardly have made any such statement. Everything which the Colonist represented Mr. White as having said appeared over his own signature, and in the form of letters from Dawson sent by him to the Colonist under a contract with this paper. The last night Mr. White was in Victoria, he remained in the Colonist office until midnight, and in a conference lasting upwards of two hours he elaborated the points made in his letters, condemning the Yukon administration in the severest terms. Under these circumstances, we are not disposed to accept any telegraphic repudiation of his letters, which it would be useless for him or any one to make, for the letters are available at any time by any one who desires to form an opinion of their genuineness. We make this statement without wishing to be understood as at all reflecting upon Mr. White, but simply in reply to the statement in the Times.

THE QUEBEC CONFERENCE.

The Montreal Star of the 6th inst. had a Quebec despatch which purported to give a resume of what had up to that time been accomplished by the Anglo-American conference. In giving a summary of what the Star says, we wish to remind readers that nothing official has yet been given out by the conference and, therefore, nothing must be accepted as certain in regard to the outcome of its deliberations. It is said to be doubtful if the sealing question is settled on any basis, as the grounds of difference are so great that an equitable compromise seems unlikely. The Atlantic fisheries will, it is said, be settled, so that Canada will have access to the United States market with fresh fish, and the United States will have the privilege of buying bait and transshipping fish in bond. Newfoundland is to be included in this arrangement. The Alaskan boundary question will not be adjusted unless arrangements can be made for the free transportation of Canadian goods into the Yukon. A perpetual treaty granting the people of each country bonding privileges for goods in transit through the territory of the other is probable. Some progress has been made in the direction of a reciprocity treaty. The following paragraph we quote entire, without expressing any opinion as to what it means: "Senator Fairbanks and Congressman Dingley have both expressed themselves as desiring that Americans shall share in the era of progress now dawning upon the Pacific provinces." All questions arising out of the navigation of the great lakes and the Canadian canals are likely to be adjusted on a basis mutually satisfactory.

If this is anything like a fair forecast of the work of the commission, there is a probability that its results will give very general satisfaction, but as any arrangements made will have to run the gamut of the United States senate, no one should feel too sanguine of the final outcome.

CANADA'S GREAT MEN.

Sir John Bourinot has directed attention to the fact that there is no monument anywhere to Joseph Howe. This great son of Nova Scotia deserves such recognition as a monument can give. More ought to be done than has been done to familiarize the people of Canada with the character and achievements of her illustrious sons. Though small in population and with not a very long history, the British North American provinces have produced many men, conspicuous for their ability and for their devotion to the cause of the people. There is a danger that the youth of Canada may grow up ignorant of the splendid examples set by these men, and whatever can reasonably be done, to render the footsteps which they left upon our history more conspicuous, ought to be done. There is a fine field for usefulness, which might be occupied by some one of discriminating judgment, in producing a popular history of the development of responsible government in the Canadian provinces. It is not a work to be undertaken hastily. It would be better that it should be left undone than that it should be badly done. The person undertaking it ought to have abundant leisure, and have access to the archives of the Dominion. It would call for several years of research. Such a book could give judicious biographies of Canada's great men. Of biographical dictionaries we have an abundance. These things are very well in their way. They are almost indispensable in a newspaper of wide circulation. The person undertaking it should say the same which they give a man is due to his ability to pay the subscription price and not to his merits. This may or may not be the case, but when the newspaper reader picks up his paper and finds in it a sketch of some one, who has just died or been appointed to office, he ought to remember that in the same issue, but of ten he has to thank the biographical dictionary, composed largely of the names of nobodies-in-particular, for the information.

What we would like to see done is something very different from this. A comprehensive historical sketch of the development of responsible government,

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Forty-Fire GREAT STEAMER. Mohegan From London York London English. Though Many Eyes Vessel's Distress Prevented A Passengers Drown Life Boats Empty. London, Oct. 14.—The port company's steamer, the Cleopatra, of the Furness Leyland line, for New York yesterday sent and a crew of 150. Lizard between the Lowlands. It is rumored a great loss of life message reports that the drowning like rats. Another report says ing ashore, one being legs severed, lashed to the deck. Particulars as to the result to obtain. It is the Mohegan struck a rock and the sea was run boats put off from the Falmouth, one returning salvaged persons. The coast at that point and has been the vessel. A despatch from the Mohegan was probably heavy east winds were disabled. All the went out but none was the vessel. MANITOBA AND Pinkerton Detective on Case—Legislature Re Plebiscite Re Winnipeg, Oct. 14.—said by a city paper that 12 Pinkerton detectives the Mohegan bank robbery every person connected tutition is being constant is also in progress. are well aware of the is being exercised over the Pinkertons have no valuable clue, but it with a will to earn it which they are receiving. The Northwest legal dissolved. Nomination October 13, 1898. The total vote in Manitoba was 12,270 against as shown by the now recedency of the province. The vote in Lis was 2,289 for and 429 against.

PEACE COMMISSION. American Reply to Spanish Read and Dismissed. Paris, Oct. 14.—Commissions of the United States named this morning by the United States peace commission to the conditions prevailing in the islands, with which they will be acquainted. The fifth joint session missions convened at two. It may be said that the third meetings scarcely surface of any protocol, marked the Spanish presence the Cuban debt. It is Americans, who have been busy, have determined include towards the Spaniards that the United States debt in whole or in part, reduced in writing for the Spaniards. In discussing the American view the Cuban debt, what is chargeable to the island beneficial thereto, and be charged to Spain. This session was two than any previous one, reply to the Spanish Tuesday was submitted and discussion followed time until about ten when the commissions Monday next. The Philippine question has been entered upon. The Spanish ambassades 3 Castile, will give a breakfast on Tuesday, 9. General Horace Porter, the former French Washington, General and Commander Braden.

Winnipeg. Peg-Leg Brown Reports Robbery Still a Battle About Fugitive. Winnipeg, Oct. 13.—Brown, the negro suspect of Constable Two Orit, passed through in charge of Detective Clearing house returning ending October 13, 1898 \$1,867,014; balances, \$ corresponding week in were \$3,008,530 and \$ Archbishop Langens left for the East to-day the consecration of Ar at Kingston. There are no new de trials first have been mense tract of country district. There are no new de report by the expert, aming the books, of Keough, of Holyoke, \$115,888, \$115,888.