

ag. they were within an inch of war with the United States? Assuredly they were. Canada knew it only too well. (Canadian cries of "Hear, hear.")

The Chairman. Order, order. I think that is travelling somewhat beyond what is either correct or expedient.

Mr. Hopkins, continuing, said Great Britain would not be wise if it did not look at the possibility of war. There were in Canada vast numbers of manufactured goods which were now imported from the United States but which Canadians would assuredly import from Great Britain under a preferential arrangement. Was that no inducement, when it was remembered that the population of Canada would be, before long, probably twenty or thirty millions? They in Canada were willing to approach Free Trade by degrees, and they did not desire to tax raw materials for manufactures. Let an Imperial Congress be held to discuss a question which was not one of Free Trade or Protection but of Empire.

MR. CASTELL HOPKINS AND CANADIAN HISTORY.

It will be remembered that Mr. J. Castell Hopkins, long and most favorably known in Toronto and elsewhere in Canada, was appointed a delegate to represent the Canadian Manufacturers' Association at the Third Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire, which was held in London last month. Mr. Hopkins was also authorized to act while in Great Britain in behalf of the Canadian Historical Exhibition Committee, under a resolution that read as follows:

That Mr. J. Castell Hopkins be fully authorized by this Committee to associate himself during his visit to Great Britain with Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Sandford Fleming, C.M.G., Principal Grant, D.D., Sir Donald Smith, and other representative Canadians in London, for the purpose of endeavoring to secure from public and private sources loans of such pictures, documents, and objects as are likely to prove interesting and valuable in connection with the contemplated Historical Exhibition to be held in the City of Toronto in 1897; and that Mr. Hopkins be requested to secure, if possible, the co-operation of the Imperial Institute, the Colonial Institute, the Royal Geographical Society, the Corporations of London and Bristol, and the assistance of the Duke of Devonshire, the Marquis of Lorne, the Marquis of Lansdowne, and the Earl of Derby.

Speaking of Mr. Hopkins and his presence in London in connection with the interests he had been commissioned to represent, the Canadian Gazette, of that city, says:—

Mr. J. Castell Hopkins is one of the best known of Canadian writers. For four years he was associate editor of the Toronto Empire—the chosen spokesman of Macdonaldism in Canadian political life, and a keen and yet always sane advocate of Imperialism. He was one of the founders of the Canadian branch of the Imperial Federation League in Canada, and there is hardly a movement of this decade making for closer British unity which has not had the support of his ever busy pen. Two or three years ago Mr. Hopkins freed himself from journalism and the mental fetters which in Canada at least journalism involves, and devoted himself to Canadian literature. His "Life and Work of Sir John Thompson" is said to have reached the widest circulation of any Canadian book. His "Life and Work of Mr. Gladstone" treats of the career and views of that statesman in relation to Imperial and especially Canadian problems, and he hopes

before this year is out to publish a third work in which the life and reign of the Queen shall be regarded from a similar standpoint. "The Queen as an Imperial Factor" is not its title, but it might almost be; and realizing, as all Imperial statesmen do—even statesmen so little given to Imperialistic tendencies as Mr. John Morley—that the Crown has its chief justification and utility as an emblem of Imperial unity, we may welcome the treatment of the theme of the throne from this standpoint.

Mr. Castell Hopkins is now in London as the delegate of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire. The combination of Imperialistic literature and cotton yarns may strike the reader as strange, but it should be remembered that the Protective system has made Canadian manufacturers so great a factor in Canadian politics that they must ever have a dominant voice in the settlement of those questions of Imperial unity to which Mr. Hopkins devotes so much of his energies. He comes to the Congress to voice their warm approval of the closer commercial unity of the Empire, and those who watch the currents of Canadian life will know that their approval may, when translated into practical proposals, carry us far on the road. Another object of Mr. Hopkins' visit is to further a unique project—the Canadian Historical Exhibition of 1897. The intention of the enthusiastic executive chairman, Mr. O. A. Howland, M.P.P., and his associates is to mark the four hundredth anniversary of Cabot's discovery of the mainland of North America by an exhibition in the magnificent Parliament Buildings at Toronto, in which these four hundred years of Canadian history shall be made, as it were, to live again. By pictures, portraits, relics and living pageants, such as Lady Aberdeen so successfully carried out at Ottawa not long ago, the story of Canada will be told as it has never been told before—the tale of the discoveries of the Cabots and their French and English successors, who pushed European colonisation to the Pacific; the tale of prehistoric Canada when the Red Man held sway from sea to sea; the French regime with its many dramatic episodes and its picturesque life; the history of the more staid early English rule; and, lastly, the busy Canada of to-day, with its wheat and cattle, its gold and copper, its game and fish, its budding army and navy, and all its bustling national life. Having once gathered together so unique a record of Canada past and present, it will be sought to found a permanent national museum.

This is the undertaking to which Lord and Lady Aberdeen, the Dominion and Provincial Governments, and the institutions representing the learning and historical zeal of Canada have given their cordial approval, and Mr. Hopkins now seeks, with the aid of Lord Dufferin, Lord Lorne and Lord Lansdowne, as ex-Governor-Generals of Canada, of the Colonial Secretary, the High Commissioner, and all friends of Canada here to form a British Committee to assist the project, notably by securing the loan from English collections of pictures, relics, documents and other memorials of Canada's past, so that Toronto may be during the display a veritable Canada in miniature. The exhibition is most fortunate in the time at which it is to be held. The British Association meets at Toronto in August, 1897. The Toronto Industrial Exhibition, which is next year to be made a gathering of exceptional and indeed national importance, opens at the close of the