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Colonials

Many people in Canada have allowed themselves to chafe under the application of the words "colonist," "colony," "colonial." With the growth of Canada in wealth and population, and her advance in status in her relations with the Mother Country, has come to many the notion that the term "colonial" implies inferiority. The word is so seldom used in relation to Canada that, even if the idea of inferiority is to be admitted, there is little ground for complaint. Canada is a "Dominion." In the same way the greater colonies have names which obliterate the word "colony." Australia is a "Commonwealth," New Zealand is a "Dominion," Newfoundland is now a "Dominion," South Africa is a "Union." However, there are some people who will continue to complain if in any way the word colony, or colonist, or colonial, is applied to our country or its inhabitants.

In like manner there is a movement afoot to change the name of the Royal Colonial Institute, a London institution which for many years has labored to keep the colonies and their people to the front in British public affairs. The discontented ones will endeavour to strike out the word "Colonial" and substitute "Dominions," or some other word that will imply greater things. There is, however, a wholesome conservatism in England, which likes to hold fast to old things unless very substantial reasons for change can be found. It is not likely that the old and honored name of the Royal Colonial Institute will be changed.

The same movement has lately attacked the "Colonial Office," the name which has long been attached to the department of the Imperial Government having supervision of the affairs of the overseas dominions other than India. In this case the so-called reformers have got as far as to make their demand in the British House of Commons, thinking probably that at this time, when the Imperial Conference is sitting, the desire for change would become more manifest. Whether the Conference has taken up this question is not yet known. The Imperial Government seem to have resolved to give no encouragement to the advocates of change, for Mr. Bonar Law has emphatically stated, in answer to a question, that there is no intention of making any change in the title of the Colonial Office. Apart from any other view, it is necessary to remember that besides the several Dominions, the Commonwealth, and the Union, there are many overseas British countries which have not so much self-government as the others. These are known as Crown Colonies, and are practically governed by the Colonial Office in London. A change of the title of the office designed to minister to susceptibilities of the larger communities might fail to properly embrace the service which the Colonial Office performs in relation to the smaller ones.

India

The splendid part that India has taken in the war—the large contributions of men and money given by the princes and people of the country—make the affairs of India now more than ever before of much interest to British people everywhere. Having regard to the immense difficulties arising from distance and from the variety of races and creeds of India, the Imperial Government have been remarkably successful in the control of Indian affairs. Since the dreadful mutiny of the Victorian period, the condition of the country has been on the whole quiet and satisfactory. Some discontent has occasionally become evident—such things have happened even in quarters where the temptations and excuses were less—but in the main there has been a pretty general recognition of the fact that government by the British authorities was a blessing to India. The visit of the present King to India a few years ago, which many feared would prove perilous, was undoubtedly very successful in promoting the loyalty of the Indian people. Wherever British rule exists there will be a desire to give the people, at the earliest reasonable time, a large measure of self-government. A few years ago, while Lord Morley was Secretary of State for India and Lord Minto was Viceroy, the powers of the Indian Government were enlarged. Measures of this character, amongst a people like those of India, necessarily had to be applied gradually. There is a section of men in India, educated Indians too, who have manifested some impatience, and have agitated for a broad system of Home Rule. These had the very active support of a talented and energetic and troublesome Englishwoman, Mrs. Besant, who went out to India and identified herself with the movement. Some months ago the British Government announced in Parliament that, with a view to a new enquiry into affairs, the Secretary of State for India, Mr. E. S. Montagu, would go out to India immediately and join the Viceroy, Lord Chelmsford, in a thorough study of the whole Indian problem. Mr. Montagu, one of the ablest of the younger British statesmen, had already considerable knowledge of the subject, having served as Under Secretary for India at a time when he had to answer for India in the House of Commons, the Secretary of State at the time being Lord Crewe. Mr. Montagu has just returned to England after spending many months in India, associated with the Viceroy, in the course of which he has heard representatives of all classes of His Majesty's subjects. The conclusions reached by Lord Chelmsford and himself have been set forth in a report to the Cabinet, which has not yet been made public, and which is now awaited with deep interest. What is to be expected is that the report will advise further efforts to enlist the co-operation of the Indian princes and people in the work of government, but the condition