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MISSIONARIES OF EMPIRE.

Judging by the comments in the English press, the visit of the Queen's Own Rifles has made a deep impression in the old country, and has been something more than a period of military training for the Canadians. Sir Henry Pellatt, who took the regiment over, is referred to as having helped to affect a revolution in the mental attitudes of the two peoples, and by his action to have done much to advance the cause of Imperial unity. "He is taking back with him to Canada 640 of the most fervent missionaries of Empire we have ever had," is the way the military correspondent of the London Daily Mail sums up the results of the trip.

The writer in the Mail considers it a vitally important thing that Sir Henry Pellatt has accomplished. "He plunges suddenly into our British polity," he says, "with one of the most striking facts that the generation has known. He brings to England a whole regiment of Canadian territorials and gives us one of the most vivid lessons in what the Empire means that we have ever had. The King more than any of us has appreciated what Sir Henry has done. No one in his realm has such a strong imperialist mind as his majesty. None of us more admires Canada, and the Canadians. Hence the striking phrases used by the Duke of Connaught in Avignon Park, the beautiful old demesne of Sir John Shelley, a relative of the poet. 'Sir Henry,' said the duke, 'has performed an imperial duty' in bringing these troops here. An imperial duty is a phrase which expresses exactly Sir Henry Pellatt's views, his explanations, his reasons, his objects—what you will—in bringing his Queen's Own Rifles to England."

Then he interviews Sir Henry: "I asked him one day what about annexation? He turned on me quickly. 'Annexation is deadlier than mud in Canada. We will not be annexed. What we are all gone on in Canada is the imperial tie. We are crazy on Imperialism.'"

The colonel of the Queen's Own makes it clear that he is no politician. "I have never meddled in politics," he tells the Mail's correspondent. "I have no use for them. All I want to see is the British people realize how much they can do if they unite the Empire in one whole. We are neither free traders nor other traders. We want you to think, discuss, consider, do everything which will secure all the British possessions in one world-wide entirety. In Canada we are free men—freer, we think, and I am sure, than even in England, but that is only because of the imperial tie. I feel no sacrifice too great to make that permanent."

Coming from a man in Sir Henry's position with no axe to grind and no political purpose to serve, it is little wonder that these sentiments should bring home to the people in England a truer appreciation of what the imperial idea means to Canadians. As the writer in the Mail expresses it "We have taken a tremendous stride forward towards Imperial Unity."

As to the men of the Queen's Own and their experiences it is worth noting that like thousands of other Canadians they found their pre-conceived notions of the old country very much astray. "They came here, they tell me," says this correspondent, "with the impression that this country was slow and in its decadence, and that the British soldier is a drunkard and a wastrel. Every day they make solemn apology to the motherland for those their grievous errors. Each day finds them more in love with England, her scenery, her people, and her pleasant ways. The British soldier is to them, some of them, much higher in worldly position, the best of men. They have begun to realize why Britain is not merely an island in the northern seas, but the seat of a great Empire."

AIRSHIPS IN WAR.

Confidence in the value of airships as scouts received a rude shock as the result of the German military manoeuvres at Preussisch recently. A rain storm compelled one airship to descend in the enemy's territory and it was easily captured. Sham field works completely deceived the men in the airships, who reported the enemy's main position miles from where it really was.

According to the report the Blue's vessel "M 3," which all day was observing the Red position, was completely hoodwinked by the Reds, who erected sham fieldworks along the Oberland canal. The airship reported these as being Gen. von Kluck's main position, with the result that Gen. von Mackensen's force halted all night in front of the works preparing to attack them next day, while the Red army was entrenching itself several miles eastward.

The sham works were most ingenious. They were purposely constructed so as to be easily visible, while tree trunks, etc., were arranged in imitation of cannon, and the crew of the air scout, reconnoitring in cloudy weather at a distance of between three and four thousand feet, were completely deceived. In consequence, the situation which at the opening of the operations was distinctly in favor of the brilliant cavalry leader, Gen. von Mackensen, altered in favor of Gen. von Kluck, who awaited the Blue assault from a strongly entrenched position.

The operations were notable for the introduction of an innovation into German field defence tactics, consisting of a conspicuous first line of earthworks intended to mask the real position of the main force and to deceive the enemy into developing himself and exposing himself to the defenders' artillery in the second line. This device, taboored by the German commanders, was borrowed from the French, it is said, at the Emperor's personal desire.

A CANADIAN PRECEDENT.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's utterances in Saskatchewan are quoted in Australia against a tariff concession sought by the sugar refineries of Queensland. A deputation of sugar growers and refiners of the native product waited on the Commonwealth government asking that certain machinery used in the sugar industry be admitted free of duty. The request exasperates the Brisbane Telegraph, which says that "the demand is barefaced of high tariffism." This gentle reproach leads the Brisbane free trade editor to quote Sir Wilfrid Laurier's teaching "that protection encouraged wholesale fraud and dishonesty and enabled protected industries to demand values that did not exist."

The Telegraph continues: "This sugar growers' demand conclusively corroborates the Canadian premier's statement. It amounts to an attempt to defraud other industries of their share of protection, and by thus cheapening sugar production at their expense, to enable sugar growers to demand value which does not exist, for their product. Could commercial or industrial dishonesty go to farther limits? . . . For sheer cool impudence, and for unadulterated protectionist effrontery, the demand now in question establishes the world's record."

It would be a great shock to the writer of this vituperation, who calls Sir Wilfrid Laurier as his witness, remarks the Vancouver News-Advertiser, for him to learn that Sir Wilfrid has granted to Canadian refiners of native beet sugar the very tariff which the Australian delegation ventured to request. Thus the Canadian premier and his associates are implicated in a like "base shamelessness," "callous selfishness," "commercial and industrial dishonesty," "effrontery" and several other crimes and misdemeanors.

It is now several years since Mr. Fielding's tariff bill contained this feature. The Brisbane Telegraph seems to think the proposition too shameless, too dishonest, too impudent to have ever been made before. And yet it was presented to and promptly adopted by a Canadian government pledged against protection. Mr. Fielding defended the clause without a blush of shame upon his face. But this may strike the free trade writer in Australia as a proof of his shamelessness.

A KENT COUNTY BRIDGE.

The Richibucto Review it seems has been following in the footsteps of that illustrious prevaricator, the Telegraph, and indulging in some misrepresentations and insinuations in regard to the Main River bridge in Kent County. The Review is taken sharply to task by the Moncton Times, which points out that this bridge is one of the legacies left to the Hazen government—one of the many monuments to the incapacity of the late administration.

"In 1905 or 1906," says the Times, "some eight thousand dollars was spent upon it, but the very necessary precaution of building a proper foundation appears to have been neglected. Shortly after this large expenditure had been made the bridge commenced to sag or tip over and a considerable sum was spent by the officials of the public works department last year in the effort to keep it up. In this, however, they were unsuccessful, and now it is said the engineers have decided that it is useless to spend more money in the effort to repair it and that a new structure with a safe foundation must be erected."

"When the people stop to think that this bridge, erected at such a cost is only five years old, they are not likely to want a return to the former government's system of erecting public works. It is, in fact, only one of scores of similar structures that have not lived out a half or a quarter of their reasonable term of usefulness. And that is the way public money was wasted under Mr. Hazen's predecessors."

CURRENT COMMENT

(Ottawa Citizen.)

In the death of Lieut. Governor Fraser of Nova Scotia the public life of Canada suffers a heavy loss. Both as a member of the House of Commons and in his gubernatorial capacity. Hon. Mr. Fraser was a representative Canadian in every sense of the word, and was respected and esteemed by all classes of the community irrespective of political affiliations. He was a fine type of what may be termed the Canadian Celt, the possessor of abilities and virtues which were the heritage of an ancestral stock which has contributed in no small measure to the upbuilding of the nation. Personally he was a man of most lovable disposition and commanded the respect and esteem of all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

(Moncton Times.)

The Richibucto Review sneeringly refers to the fact that some supporters of the Hazen government in Kent County have automobiles. This latest charge against Mr. Hazen's administration is not likely, however, to "cut very much ice," even though the coming winter, as predicted in some quarters, should be a cold one. The former premier and present leader of his majesty's loyal opposition owns and drives an auto, and so does that other illustrious statesman, ex-Surveyor-General Sweeney. Perhaps the picaresque editor of the Review was not aware of this fact.

(Hamilton Spectator.)

It seems that the distaste for the language of La Belle France, as a portion of the separate school curriculum, alleged against Bishop Fallon by the French-Canadian press, is also shared by Mgr. Sbarretti, according to the same authority. It is a very pretty quarrel, and one in which English-speaking citizens are not immediately concerned; but, at the same time, there are few who will not heartily endorse the remark attributed to the first-named prelate, that "in an English province like Ontario one tongue is necessary, and that is the English."

(Hamilton Herald.)

The East will probably always do the finer kind of manufacturing for the whole country. But there are many coarse manufactures, depending on bulky raw materials, which can be carried on quite as well West as East—perhaps better, if the West is the base of supply. The mutually profitable relations between the farmer and the manufacturer will not always be sustained only at long range. And when the West is dotted with factories, of one kind or another, the free trade cry will cease.

(Calgary Herald.)

The Chinese are objecting to the British cologne. They don't like the design of St. George destroying the dragon on the reverse of the crown piece. They would like a washing board substituted for the dragon.

(Haverhill Gazette.)

Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis described Mr. Roosevelt as "the only man on earth who can throw double axes every time." While we do not understand these ecclesiastical references, the remark sounds good.

(Winnipeg Tribune.)

Scientists claim that a toad in the New York Zoo has just eaten its first meal in 1,000 years. It must have been rather shocked at the increase in prices.

(Vancouver World.)

Well, after all, the unfortunate who remarked that organized charity was the condensed milk of human kindness, may not have been so far wrong.

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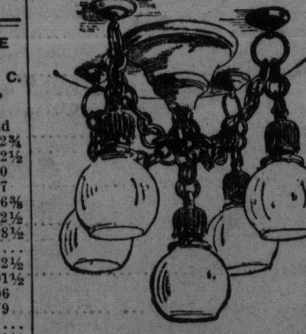
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