

OUR MANITOBA LETTER.

Politics—Englishmen and their Influence.

Westward Ho! No. 98.

(Special for the Anglo-Saxon.)

WINNIPEG, MARCH, 1890.—The agony of the great political struggle is over and the Annexation Monster, with as many names as the Old Fellow himself, who so lately went roaring through our streets, lies for the nonce, crushed, but by no means dead. The fifth was a day of the wildest excitement, closed in by a night of saturnalian revel. Never, even in this city's palmiest of boom days was there a whirl and turmoil.

It would perhaps be scarcely right to say that the unexpected came to pass, but it certainly was not expected that the Conservative candidate would have beaten the Liberal by an overwhelming majority of 500 and upwards out of a total vote polled of some 3,700.

The cause of this state of affairs is, however, not hard to find. What the Liberals call the "loyalty cry" was a very important factor in the defeat of their candidate, and this, coupled with the threatened destruction of many of the most important business interests of the city, evolved a mighty force which sweeping over the minor obstructions of mere local and sectional interests, effectually buried out of sight the "one time peoples' favourite Isaac Campbell, and returned Mr. Hugh John Macdonald as M.P. to represent this, the "Hub" city of the Northwest, in the legislature of our great Dominion.

It is conceded, now that party feeling has cooled down, and the smart caused by the losses of those who bet their money on the wrong side has subsided, that we could not well have selected a better man for the Conservative standard bearer.

That the sneering allusions of some liberals to the love of Canadians for the Mother Country being mere "sentiment," and the traitorous policy of unrestricted reciprocity as outlined by Messrs. Laurier, Wiman, Goldwin Smith and the great Mixer and Muddler of a by-gone day, had a great deal to do with the Conservative victory is little to be wondered at, when it may be fairly estimated that at least a third of the male population of this city and of the Province of Manitoba are born Englishmen.

In regard to the branch of the Sons of England B. S. established here, though unfortunately but few of the members were qualified to vote, a disability caused by the fact of our polling lists were at least four years old, yet their expressed sentiments were overwhelmingly with the Conservatives in the present crisis, and had they all voted the Grigs would not have obtained four per cent. of their franchise.

The local lodge, Westward Ho! No. 98, is the Pioneer of the S. O. E. B. S. in the Northwest, and is building itself up rapidly and soundly; it contemplates making some important changes in its methods of working, which, of course, will have first to be submitted for approval the S.G.L.E., and also intends to occupy a far more commodious meeting place in the near future, its present hall being far too small to properly accommodate its rapidly increasing membership.

One of the worst troubles with which the lodge has to contend, is its remoteness from the centre of authority, and consequently the impracticability of oral communication with members of the S. G. L. E. in matters where such method of intercourse is desirable. Another is the delay in getting answers to correspondence with secretaries of other lodges in regard to character of brethren, or assumed brethren, who make application for assistance.

Of course, from the very nature of such an institution as the S. O. E., it would be impossible to pay lodge secretaries anything like an equivalent for their services. They therefore can scarcely be expected to put aside their own affairs for those of the lodge at a moment's notice, but it would be well for them all to remember that courteous and immediate answer to distant correspondents might save in the one case individual suffering, and in another help to prevent the contingent fund of remote lodges being imposed upon. The writer having taken a very active part in the recent election contest, must plead such action with its consequent loss of time as excuse for making this, his first communication from Canada's Northwest metropolis, shorter than he might otherwise have done.

How to Federate the British Empire.

AN AUSTRALIAN SUGGESTION.

In the *Australian Review* for January there appears an important article by Mr. M. H. Hervey, who, under the disguise of a paper called "The Latest Phases of Imperial Federation," boldly ventures to grapple with the practical difficulties of federation. His article, after passing in review the various phases of the question as between England and the Colonies, draws a bill for the federation of the Empire. The attempt is so novel, and Mr. Hervey's proposals are so precise, that they deserve to be read much more widely than by the comparatively few readers of a high-priced quarterly review. I therefore venture, by the kind permission of the editor, to give the salient features of the scheme. Mr. Hervey maintains that it is utter nonsense to wait until the colonies make the first move.

THE FIRST PRINCIPLE.

The first principle on which the Empire should be federated is that of assuring to all sections of the British Empire at least as great individual and greater collective advantages than they at present enjoy. He would join the territories, which he proposes to form into a political and commercial union, under the titles of states, protected states, dominions, territories and strongholds of the Britannic Federation. States are those which enjoy local self-government, have a population of at least 100,000 souls, and have an export trade of at least one million per annum. Any British community refusing to join the Federation is to be pronounced recalcitrant, and if from any cause the independent existence of such recalcitrant community be, by direct vote of the said parliament, decided to be a source of danger to confederate interests, it may, by a further vote, be adjudged a renegade state, and be thereupon treated as a dominion.

Any state may, at its discretion, at any time, cease to fulfil its legislative Imperial functions, sinking, however, by such *laches* to the status of a renegade state.

THE UNITS OF REPRESENTATION.

If federation were applied on this basis there would be seventeen states, ten protected states, seven or eight dominions, seven territories, and about twenty strongholds. He would constitute the Confederate Parliament on what he calls the trade unit of representation.

Upon this basis, which is as simple as it is fair, the numbers returnable by trade average being £21:7 United Kingdom, 33; other states, 83, viz., Ontario, 9; Quebec, 7; Nova Scotia, 2; New Brunswick, 2; Manitoba, 1; Prince Edward's Island, 1; Newfoundland, 1; Guiana, 1; Cape Colony, 4; Mauritius, 1; Victoria, 17; New South Wales, 19; Queensland, 5; South Australia, 5; Tasmania, 1; New Zealand, 7.

THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Mr. Hervey would divide this Parliament into a supreme legislative council with 130 members, and a supreme legislative assembly with 227 members.

The legislative council to be selected by the Upper House of each State Legislature from among its own members, and the Lower House to be constituted in the same way from the Lower House of each State Legislature, the representatives in each case to be chosen as far as possible from the local ministerial party and the local opposition. No bill is to become law excepting by three-fifths majority, and the administration to be carried on by ministers confined to Imperial affairs which shall be deemed of confederate interest. What these are may be inferred from the following list of the Imperial Cabinet:

- Ministers shall be appointed to the following Departments: 1. Finance. 2. Protected States. 3. Dominions. 4. Territories. 5. War. 6. Admiralty. 7. Emigration. 8. Education and Science. 9. Commerce and Post Office. 10. Foreign Affairs.

REPRESENTATION AND TAXATION. Upon the difficult question of revenue Mr. Hervey lays the doctrine that each state must contribute an amount proportionate to its representative strength in the Confederate Parliament, while the unrepresented dependencies should be taxed according to their ability to pay as evidenced by their revenues.

Supposing the general revenue to be £45,000,000. Of this amount the states would contribute thirty millions and the dependencies fifteen. To ascertain the share payable by each state we need only place the state-representative number over 414 and observe how many pounds sterling this fraction of £30,000,000 amounts to. Thus, while the share of the United Kingdom would be £31,414 of £30,000,000, or £23,986,282. Tasmania's would be but £4-14, or 72-467. Similarly, while among the dependencies wealthy India would certainly not get off under seven figures, Ascension would escape with a mere trifle. The various amounts due having been calculated, it will lie within the province of the minister for finance to distribute the totals for payment by the different executives.

THE FIRST MOVE AND HOW TO MAKE IT.

This, Mr. Hervey thinks, is a plan neither unfair in its conception nor unduly difficult in putting into execution. What should be the first move? Mr. Hervey has thought of this also, and this is his suggestion:—Two ways suggest themselves. A short Federation Enabling Act could decide upon the exact basis of state-representation, and this could be passed simultaneously in all prospective states

of the confederation, to be at once followed by a Convocation Act summoning the Colonial Members to Westminster, or wherever else the House of the New Parliament might be situated. Or, the machinery might more simply be put in motion by a resolution of the writer can find no evidence that the Royal Prerogative to summon representatives is confined to any one region. And, even if it be a stretch of the Prerogative, the exigencies of the political situation would amply justify its exercise. The chief thing is, to get the representatives together. Once that is effected, Imperial Federation will have passed from the foggy regions of speculative theory into the bright sunshine of accomplished fact.—*Review of Reviews.*

News of the Navy.

MOVEMENTS OF THE WARSPITE—THE MUTINE LIKELY TO BE AGAIN STATIONED AT ESQUIMALT.

There was a slight change of programme on leaving Acapulco, the Warspite going straight to Bahi Honda, near Panama, while the Espiegle was deputed to visit the intermediate ports in the Gulf of California. She rejoined the flagship at Bahi Honda on the 31st December. The Warspite, having sent her on to Panama, went for a very pleasant cruise around the adjacent islands until the 16th January, when she sailed for Panama, and arrived the next day, anchoring five or six miles off the town. Here we learnt that after all the humbug that was not to bring out the supermarines for the Pacific station, but that they would arrive in the royal mail steamer Orionoco. She anchored at Colon on the 12th January, a special train being in waiting, were taken across the isthmus to Panama, where they embarked by means of a special steamer.

The Orinoco takes home some court-martial prisoners, invalids, etc., and will leave in a fortnight. Surgeon Barrington and Midshipman Spencer were invalided home, suffering from general debility and gunshot wound respectively.

I regret to say that Gunner Samuel Madge, R.M.A., died very suddenly on board the Warspite. He was missed when the watch was falling in, and on search being made was found under a barrette—dead. A post mortem examination was held on board, and it was found that the cause of death was heart disease. The body was buried on shore the following day, in the English cemetery, with naval honours.

We were off to Callao, and thence to Valparaiso, on account of the riots consequent on the elections taking place. Nothing serious is anticipated—this being an annual occurrence—but the presence of one or two English ships is generally considered necessary. At present the Champion is at Valparaiso and the Pheasant at Iquique for this purpose.

We also hear rumors of further troubles with America regarding the Behring Sea, which will necessitate the presence of the whole squadron north, but nothing definite is yet known.

The Espiegle remains at Panama for her relief, the Garnet. The Acorn is at Coquimbo, on her way home.

The Vulcan, torpedo depot ship, now being completed at Portsmouth, is under orders to proceed as soon as she is finished on a voyage round the world, visiting all the foreign stations, and making good the defects in the torpedo arrangements of the vessels in distant waters. The Vulcan is fitted up as a torpedo workshop, and is capable of carrying sufficient Whiteheads to equip the entire fleet in time of war. She carries a large number of torpedo boats with her. She is a regular torpedo factory.

On the arrival of the Royal Mail Company's steamship Orinoco at Plymouth on Friday, it was reported that two seamen of the Warspite, on the Pacific station, named Angear and Shea, who had been sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment by court-martial for insubordination, escaped from the mail boat just before her departure from Jamaica. The two prisoners had succeeded in eluding the vigilance of their custodians, attired in civilians' clothes.

The Mutine will, it is said, be again brought forward for the Pacific station before long, and as her boilers are tolerably efficient, she will not require an extensive overhaul.—*Naval and Military Review.*

A Siberian Explorer.

Dr. Otto Herz, well known for his works on mineralogy and ethnology, is now on his way back to Russia after an expedition across Siberia. Starting from St. Petersburg in March, 1888, Dr. Herz spent his first winter at Yakutsk, and afterwards made his way to the Vilyni River, where he found a rich scientific field, discovering rare minerals and beautiful opals in the bed of the river. In the long overland journey from Okhotsk to Petropaulovski, he encountered a snowstorm which lasted nine days, and he gives (according to the *Daily Chronicle*) a thrilling description of two days spent in the wilds of Siberia, exposed to all the fury of storm. Crossing the Okhotsk Sea, the explorer made his way across the peninsula, and in most places he was the first white man the native nomads had ever seen. He found them possessed of enormous herds of reindeer, and was the first European to ascend a volcano, 15,780 feet high, from the summit of which he could see the Behring Sea. From Petropaulovski he reached San Francisco by means of a small steamer, and is now returning home laden with observations which cannot fail to prove of a very interesting character.

Direct Taxation.

The *Huron Expositor* gives the following reasons why direct taxation would be of great benefit to the people. "It is a great mistake to suppose that direct taxation seems to us to be 'exceedingly silly.' This fear is, also, 'encouraged by the politicians. We believe we are correct in saying that 'neither side is in favour of raising revenue by direct taxation, but there is this much to be said, that if the revenue were raised in this way, both parties, in power, would be more economical and would look more closely after the expenditure. But why the taxpayers should object to the direct method of collecting the revenue we cannot imagine, neither have we ever noticed in print a reason. Revenue must be had, and the only way it can be got is to collect it from the people. The only difference between the two systems is that by the indirect mode of collection the people do not know how much they really are taxed, whereas by the direct method, they would know just how much the Government of the country does cost them. Is it not in accordance with every-day business principles to know what any particular service costs us? In our private 'every-day business we do know what our expenditures are. Why then should we desire to hide from ourselves this knowledge in connection with public affairs? This is something we would like to learn from those who oppose direct taxation. Do the people enjoy being hoodwinked?'"

Progress in Brazil.

The provisional government has prepared and decreed a new-Constitution which was to be presented to the Constituent Assembly, called to convene on November 15, this assembly to have power to amend and finally adopt it. The following are the articles which treat of religious freedom:—

It is prohibited to the States as well as to the Union to establish, aid or hinder the exercise of any religious worship.

All individuals and religious denominations may publicly and freely exercise their worship, associating themselves for this purpose, and acquiring property within the limits prescribed by the law of mortmain.

The Republic recognizes civil marriage only, which will always precede the religious ceremonies of whatever faith.

Cemeteries will be secular in character and administered by municipal authority.

Instructions furnished by public institutions will be secular.

No denomination or church shall enjoy official subsidy, nor hold relations of dependence or alliance with the government of the Union, or that of the States.

If these articles are approved by the Assembly and the principles of religious freedom become thus embodied in the Constitution of the Republic, Brazil has before her a bright future, and her statesmen will be forever freed from the troublesome "religious question;" and the people of Brazil liberated from the thralldom of the papacy, free to follow the dictates of their consciences, will be a happier and better people.

The Romish church will itself reform, if it is possible for the church in Brazil to reform, and a grander opportunity will be presented for Protestant christianity to enter and freely and openly teach "the truth as it is in Christ Jesus."—*Rev. John M. Kyle, Rio de Janeiro, in The Church at Home and Abroad.*

In pursuance of the resolution of the conference held at Mr. Howard Vincent's house, the committee met at 1, Grosvenor-square, and made the preliminary arrangements for organizing a United Empire Trade League under influential home and colonial auspices. With reference to Tuesday's debate in the House of Commons on the development of trade with the colonies, it should be explained that, after the assurances of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the Government would keep the matter before them with an anxious desire that means should be found of bringing the colonies closer to the Empire by means of improved commercial relations, Mr. Howard Vincent had no object in pressing his motion to a division. This was regarded to be especially inexpedient, in view of the serious political crisis and the pending elections in Canada. General Laurie, M.P. for Nova Scotia, was present in the gallery.

There is an evident tendency towards strengthening the already frequently expressed desire of the colonies for closer commercial union with each other and the Mother Country. The possibility of inducing English politicians to entertain the idea of a preferential tariff is discussed. Failing that, the notion begins to gain ground that groups of colonies, even when not federated, might, without in any way altering their tariffs, enter into preferential Customs agreements with each other, on the same principle as that embodied in Mr. Hofmeyer's scheme for the Empire. The negotiations which have been going on between Canada and the West Indies may possibly result in some such agreement between them. The opening of the Jamaica Exhibition, which brings the tropical products of the island, such as sugar, bananas, fibre, &c., to the notice of the commercial world, may be expected to stimulate her trade. She is desirous of obtaining a more extended Canadian market, and, if this desire leads to any new departure in inter-colonial trade relations, the result will be watched with great interest in other parts of the world.—*London Times.*

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