

The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, TUESDAY MORNING, NOV. 22, 1910.

THE THROES OF EMPIRE.

The failure of the veto conference and the recent events in the British Parliament unlock the discordant forces in Great Britain which for a few months have been outwardly quiescent. The present imperial outlook is troubled, and the even near future no man can predict. Nor is the unrest confined to locality. Proceeding from different causes, it manifests itself throughout the Empire, and every manifestation affects vital interests. It is in truth a time when every thoughtful and loyal citizen of the Empire wears a troubled brow and bears a troubled heart, within his breast.

In India the gradual enlargement of education in western ideas and methods, and the dynamic effect of the growth and achievements of Japan, have awakened a desire for greater native participation in governmental functions, and, among foreign enthusiasts of the less stable kind, for the complete elimination of foreign rule, which gravely and seriously enhance the difficulties of government. These are not a little aggravated by the injudicious and meddlesome interference of radical and socialist agitators, who would apply their wild theories to the conditions of a dense Eastern population, whose genius and environments render even the most cautious and conservative participation in self-government hazardous. The license accorded to the native press has borne its inevitable fruit in the dissemination of lying and heated appeals to the prejudices of the native, and the outbreak of fanaticism in assassination and murder. The British Government has yielded to the agitation so far as to grant enlarged representation and co-operation of representative Indians in the higher processes of government, but have had to combine therewith repressive measures designed to suppress seditious utterances and punish those guilty of overt acts. Caste and the divisions of races and creeds enhance the difficulties faced by the Indian Government and to all this must be added the vast underground of the unknown thought and sentiment of 300,000,000 of people hedged about by an almost impenetrable secrecy and suffused with suspicion and distrust. Against this we must set the magnificent work which has been done by the British Administration in abolishing rank abuses of caste and custom, in introducing and carrying out sanitary measures which have saved countless lives and improved the conditions for all future generations, in the opening up and irrigation of the wild mountain tribes of the frontiers, and in keeping law and order in constant evidence. Gratitude does not seem to be a trait of Eastern peoples, and had Britain no higher motive than to earn that, her reward would be poor indeed. But she has exercised a great trustee-ship for India and the world, and in this must lie her justification. It is gratifying to know that the great native princes recognize her worth and are intensely loyal to crown and country. But all said, the present in India constitutes one of the gravest cares of British statesmanship, and the future depends on the wisdom of each step now taken.

In Egypt British rule has rescued the country from bankruptcy and the peasantry from an intolerable and debasing tyranny, brought stability of conditions and comparative prosperity to the people, and in the vast engineering works, so successfully carried out, has rescued large cultivable areas from the encroaching sands, and rendered the Nile overflow a well ordered and beneficent contribution to national industry and wealth. The power of Egypt has been extended to the Sudan and her available territory greatly enlarged. Here again Eastern ingratitude has been encountered, and aided it would seem by lack of purpose and consistent policy on the part of the administration, has developed into a native movement for control. Britain's work in Egypt has been thrust upon her, in part by national considerations, but has also developed into a great trustee-ship for the benefit of the Egyptian people. This work would be speedily undone were the ignorant and corrupt native forces to be allowed their operation, and until it is finished and its permanency guaranteed there is no likelihood that the British Government will abdicate its position. But the problems are delicate and intricate, and the burden is a heavy one. It taxes and will continue to tax the best statesmanship and ability of the government.

It is satisfactory to note that in contrast to the situation above described the great Overseas Dominions are taking care of their own interests and relieving the Motherland of all harassing problems in connection therewith. Gradually the processes of consolidation have laid the lines of three great prospective nations, in three far separated quarters of the globe, extending their authority over an immense aggregate of territory and preparing the prosperous homes of present and coming millions of vigorous and hardy and high grade people. Based on British precedents their constitutions and their institutions promise the perpetuation of British ideals and the preservation of British power and influence. In the short processes of time they will, in some respects, surpass, in many points equal, and in very few fall short of the present Motherland, and in connection with New Zealand and Newfoundland, whose future either in or out of one of these three combinations is assured, will girdle the globe with a renovated and reinforced Anglo-Saxon civilization. Between these and the Motherland there is distinct and cordial agreement, the broad spirit of co-operation and mutual interest, and the bonds of an undoubted and warm loyalty. In these troublous and perplexing times it is a source of unalloyed satisfaction that the organized and self-govern-

ing overseas sections are firm planted in their several spheres, relieve the home government of a vast burden of administration, anxiety and work, and buttress with strong support the Empire of which they form a part.

It is when we come to the Motherland herself that our anxieties become more tense, and our vision more troubled. We try to measure the forces at work, and to divine what the result may be. And just at present both processes are difficult. Old institutions are questioned, and must answer for their existence. New forces are pressing to the front, and will not be denied. The purposes and scope of government are being canvassed with a heat and intensity of feeling never before witnessed, and the clash of theories and measures seem to be unreconcilable, and to point to ultimate confusion and disorder. Will it be independence for Ireland or devolution for all the constituent parts of the United Kingdom? Will the Lords go, and the government of an Empire be entrusted to an unbridled and unbalanced one-chamber where factions rage and party exigencies weigh more than established principles? Will individualism be put to sleep, with the soothing drug of state socialism, or will there still be left some initiative for the personal factor and some property for the man who craves it? Will there be an hereditary monarchy, unparliamentary and stable, or a changing democracy, borne on the feeble shoulders of an impulsive and not over-intelligent universal suffrage? These questions perplex us, and the answers thereto seem involved in doubt. All this would be disheartening enough, but it becomes more so when we recollect that the fate not of the United Kingdom alone, but of the Empire, depends on the solution obtained from the electors of the former. Hence the interest and anxiety on the part of those outside the United Kingdom. No one can shut his eyes to the fact that the Empire as a whole will be profoundly affected if the status of parliament and monarchy is materially changed in Great Britain, and yet the Empire as a whole can only stand by and await results. It has no voice or part in the decision, though its future depends absolutely on the nature of the decision made. The whole situation is anomalous, and full of danger. The Empire for Empire work is unorganized, and its future may be made or marred by the conclusions come to by one of its parts.

But we have great faith in the sound common sense of the British electorate, and the patriotism and ability of British statesmen, and we trust that the outcome will vindicate our faith. To us it seems that the genius of Empire demands a continuance of the limited monarchy shorn of none of its present powers; that a reformed and strengthened second chamber is absolutely essential to good government in the United Kingdom, and to the stability of the Empire at large, that every attempt upon the integrity and solidarity of the Empire should be resisted, be it at home or abroad, and that consistent with this integrity and solidarity the fullest powers of local government should be assured to each division and that for Empire purposes some representative body should be constituted, which, relieved from local legislation and administration, should be free to give that attention to the greater interests of Empire, which is so imperatively demanded. In that body the Overseas Dominions should be adequately represented. If the present turmoil and confusion in the Motherland result in a clearer apprehension of the facts that our needs have outgrown the old machinery, and that reorganization and adjustment are necessary if the Empire is to be perpetuated, we shall be great gainers. And we believe that result will be attained, and that the throes of the British electorate will indicate the speedy birth of better Empire methods.

CARNEGIE MEDALS.

The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission has discovered fifty-eight more heroes and heroines deserving of niches in its own hall of fame, and has bestowed upon the whole half hundred, the coveted medals of silver and bronze, with \$40,250 in cash rewards to thirty-three persons, as well as twenty-three pensions, ranging in value from \$20 to \$70 a month.

The work of the Commission is to be commended unreservedly, says the Bangor News. It takes pains to see that its rewards of merit are bestowed upon the deserving—in many cases, the orphans and widows of those who have given their lives to save their fellows—and the prizes made possible by the wealthy ironmaster's bounty no doubt constitute an incentive in some instances to the performance of heroic and self-denying actions. But only a small proportion of all the heroes there are can possibly be rewarded, and many a deed of the sublimest courage has had no tangible recompense, because it has had no witness. Heroism, like other forms of virtue, must, in most cases, be its own reward. It is doubtful if a single one of the thirteen miners who rescued comrades at the mine disaster in Illinois a year ago gave a moment's thought to their chances of receiving a decoration or a money prize.

The true hero is beyond reward, as he is beyond all praise. The Victoria Cross or a Carnegie medal is not to be won by deliberately calculating the chances. The guardian generally comes to those who are expecting it least, and it is usually given, not for some outstanding, spectacular deed of bravado, surrounded by a cloud of applauding witnesses, but for a deed done in the plain routine of every day, in no expectation of recognition or reward.

Current Comment

(Vancouver News-Advertiser.)

The Bishop of Hereford made a historic address at his diocesan conference last month. His declaration that the Anglican church had been too slow in accepting or seeking fellowship with Nonconformists was a bold and striking statement. An opinion expressed at the Church Congress that the acceptance of the Episcopacy must go before communion and fellowship with other churches this bishop describes as "an utterance belonging to darker days."

(Toronto World.)

Calgary is considering government by commission, but it is doing so through the city council, which wishes to have its cake as well as eat it. The council desires to have the commission at the mercy of a majority vote of the council, and thus rob it of all the independence which is the redeeming feature of commission government. The ward politicians are always against popular and progressive government.

(Summerside Journal, P. E. Island.)

Bourassa has a weakness for big game. He went after Premier Gouin in St. James' division and defeated him in what had hitherto been a strong Government constituency. Now he is going after Sir Wilfrid's scalp in Quebec East. History has an awkward way of repeating itself.

(New York Sun.)

Patriotic considerations aside, northern Maine might be just as well off in a business way under the Dominion standard as under the stars and stripes, and possibly it would be better off. That, however, is an economic question that does not affect the Americanism of the state.



The Standard's Old Reporter

"I see some people are making the discovery that the city needs a business administration—that we ought to elect business men to the board of aldermen," said Uncle Hiram, as he fell into a hole in the street.

"Well, ain't that quite a discovery?" asked the reporter.

Hiram picked himself up, and snorted:—"A business administration would probably say I had no business falling into that hole. And if I tried to get damages for my ruined coat,—well, the lawyers would probably take my shirt. That's business. The trouble about this great discovery is that it's like some of our friends' jokes—as old as Noah. Every little while we've been discovering that we need business men in the city council, and we've been electing business men as long as I can remember. We have a council of business men now. We've always had a business men's government, and as you know business is business. The city has been governed in the interest of business, and all its paying franchises handed over to big business men. Another bunch of business men would not greatly improve matters. The whole system of modern business is characterized by inefficiency and stupidity. In the last generation or so the productivity of the labor of men in our cities has been multiplied a score or more of times, yet the Rev. Mr. McSkillick tells us that there are more kinds of misery due to bad business arrangements in our modern cities, than Milton in his blindness ever dreamed of. Business progress is always associated with poverty."

"Well, what are you going to do about it?"

"We don't need any old women," said Hiram. "Arch-angels couldn't get satisfactory results if they tried to operate the present system of city administration. Before falling over ourselves to elect business men, we should take a tumble ourselves. We've had enough of business government to teach us that it would be good business to mind our own business."

"Isn't that the great complaint now? That people mind their own business, and let the public business slide?"

"No doubt. As things are arranged now the public business is not our business. It isn't run by us—the most we can do is make a few crosses on a slip of paper about All Fools Day. Civic elections ought to be held on the first of April anyway."

"Well, how are you going to remedy it?"

"Change the system, so the public business will become the people's business."

CLOSING COTTON LETTER.

By direct private wires to J. C. Macintosh & Co. New York, Nov. 21.—The census bureau sprung a surprise on an untoward short interest in the cotton market this morning, reporting 8,764,153 bales ginned to Nov. 14th, against 7,339,809 to the same date in 1909. It had been generally expected that the total would be from 100,000 to 250,000 bales in excess of the figures given, and while upon the percentage basis of previous years it was not possible to figure out almost any size crop, the prevailing impression was that the report lent color to the smaller crop estimates now prevalent. The census figures coming upon an overcast market caused an opening ranging from 25 to 30 points above last night's close, and notwithstanding heavy realizing on the advance price rose from 40 to 45 points and closed only 2 to 5 points under the best of the day. The popular theory has been that the ginning figures for the period covered by today's report would reflect the maximum movement of the crop from plantations to the gins. If the movement over the next few weeks should tend to corroborate this supposition we may see considerably higher prices before there is a reaction of consequence. Interior and port receipts will therefore be watched very closely henceforth.

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