

ESTABLISHED 1887.
THE
ANGLO-SAXON
OTTAWA, CANADA

PUBLISHED,
On the 1st and 15th of Every Month.

THE ANGLO-SAXON CO.,
P. O. BOX 296,
OTTAWA, ONT., CANADA.

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Ottawa, - - - Canada,
JULY 1895.

NOTICE TO READERS.

THE ANGLO-SAXON goes regularly to Sons of England lodges and branches of the St. George's Society in all parts of Manitoba, the British Northwest Territories of Canada, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island; to branch societies of the Sons of St. George in all parts of the United States, to Clubs, Reading Rooms, Emigration Societies and similar institutions in Great Britain and Ireland, and to British citizens generally throughout Canada, the States, Great Britain and the Empire.

THE LATEST LEAGUE.

Another association has been formed in England for the promotion of Imperial unity. "The more the merrier" say we, for it is impossible to have too many organizations working for such a noble cause. They are like regiments in the same army wearing different uniforms and marching by different routes, but all converging towards a common goal. This time it is "The British Empire League," whose appearance on the political scene we welcome all the more heartily because it seems to have been formed with the aid of influences which have hitherto held aloof from the Imperial Federation movement. The new league is officered by gentlemen, some of whom stand high in the ranks of the Liberal Unionist party. The Duke of Devonshire is president, Sir John Lubbock, Chairman of the Council, Sir Robert Herbert, Chairman of the Executive Committee and C. Freeman Murray, Esq., secretary. It is impossible to over-rate the importance of such accessions to the ranks of the Federationists, or to regard them otherwise than as most convincing proofs of the interest taken by all classes in the old country in the question of Imperial consolidation.

It may be asked whether there is sufficient allowance in the Empire for so many different league's and whether they are not likely to impede each others efforts? This can scarcely be the case as long as they are choosing different means for arriving at the same end. They do not oppose each other, but are working on parallel lines. Thus, the United Empire Trade League adopts the plan of preferential trade within the Empire as most likely to lead to its consolidation. On the other hand the Imperial Federation (Defence) Committee thinks that the various colonies should make special contributions for Naval Defence to the Imperial Exchequer, without altering their fiscal policy or that of the United Kingdom. Sir John Seeley's League did not adopt any plan, but proposed to deliver lectures on federation all though the United Kingdom. The Imperial Federation League in Canada believes in trade preferences and also in colonial contributions to the navy, but proposes to accomplish both objects by "the imposition of a small extra duty on foreign imports, with few exceptions, to provide funds for Imperial Defence." With reference to the characteristics of the new league these may possibly be better understood by some reference to its origin.

It will be remembered that in December, 1893, after the collapse of the Council of the original English Imperial Federation League, the London Branch, under the chairmanship of Sir John Lubbock, issued a circular, inviting, among other branches, the Canadian League to join in the adoption of a common platform. At the annual meeting in 1894 this invitation was considered and the following resolution adopted: "That the Imperial Federation League in Canada are ready to co-operate with the City of London Branch for the reconstruction of the League upon the basis of the resolutions submitted in the circular of December, 1893, provided No. 3, of these be defined to the following effect:— "That any scheme of Imperial Federation should embrace a commercial union as necessary to its strength and permanence, that such union should be based

as nearly as practicable upon freer trade within the Empire, and upon the imposition of an extra duty on foreign imports with few exceptions to provide funds for Imperial Defence." At the same meeting the Executive Committee was authorized to select a delegation to confer personally with the City of London Branch and similar organizations for the purpose of endeavoring to agree upon a common platform and plan for future operations.

This delegation visited England in July and August of last year, and communicated the results of its mission in a report which was published in the ANGLO-SAXON of December, 1894. In this report there is no mention of consultations with the City of London Branch, nor of Resolution No. 3, or its amendment by the League in Canada. The London Branch, like the parent League, seems to have collapsed, and in its place a most influential committee was appointed to organize a new association altogether. Ever since, for nearly a year, this Committee has been at work, and the result of its labours is the formation of the British Empire League. The name Imperial Federation has been abandoned altogether, and the object of the new society is announced to be "to maintain and strengthen the connection between the United Kingdom and the outlying portions of the Empire by the discussion and promotion of questions of common interest, more particularly those relating to trade arrangements and mutual defence."

This is an extremely modest, old-fashioned, and non-committal programme, and really calculated to cause those among us who have studied the question in Canada during the last ten years to think that the promoters of this latest League have just awakened from a nap in "Sleepy Hollow." They don't seem to have heard of the McNeill resolution or of the proceedings of the Ottawa Conference, or perhaps they intentionally neglect them. But it is only fair that we should wait for more information before indulging in further criticism. A word of caution may however be in order to our fellow federationists. Let them remember the fate of the parent league in 1893, and be careful to find out more regarding the plans of the new organization, before they think of joining it, and so abandoning the name and principles of their present League, as well as the fruits of the work which they have carried on up to the present time.

LORD ROSEBERY'S FALL.

It is safe to assert that never before has there been seen such an extraordinary parliamentary condition in England as that which has recently been terminated by the defeat of Lord Rosebery's Government. The House of Commons has busied itself in discussing, with seeming seriousness, projects of law which they well knew had no chance of reaching the statute book. The same condition of affairs was exhibited during the previous session, so that for two years the English Parliament has been wasting a vast amount of time and energy which would have been of the greatest value if it had been spent in considering the present circumstances of the Empire, and the necessity which exists for its federation. Such a state of affairs could not possibly come into existence in Canada. Fancy the Dominion Senate rejecting bill after bill from the Commons, and the Commons nevertheless working diligently to put through measures that were morally certain to be rejected by the Senate. It would be called a political deadlock in Canada. In England people call this unfruitful toil on the part of the Commons "ploughing the sand" and the Duke of Devonshire at a recent Liberal Unionist demonstration described it as work of a still more useless character. He said, "We heard a great deal a short time ago about 'ploughing the sand of the seashore.' That seems to me to be an altogether inadequate image for describing the proceedings of the present House of Commons. I have never myself seen grown-up men engaged in that occupation, but I have seen little children engaged in one not very dissimilar. I have seen and all of you have seen by the sea-side little children with their little spades, their little wheelbarrows, their little tools constructing out of the sand little houses and little cities, digging little canals and erecting little dykes, and engage in all these operations with every appearance of sincerity and earnestness. Well, ladies and gentlemen, the proceedings of the House of Commons in the present session, with their Bill, their Committees, their closures and their resolutions which are yet to come, seem to be not very unlike the proceedings to which I have referred, and as all these childish efforts are effaced

with the next flow of the tide, so at the end of every succeeding session do these laborious triflings of the House of Commons disappear and vanish."

It was this "laborious trifling" in the House of Commons, leading to its discredit as a serious deliberative assembly, that weakened Lord Rosebery's Government. Besides being at work on the Welsh Church and Local Veto Bills, the House was threatened with further Irish legislation, a one-man-one-vote Bill and another for the unification of London, and, at the back of all these bitterly opposed measures, there lingered important enough Ministerial Bills, such as the Conciliation Boards, the Light Railways, the Crofters, the Scotch Local Government, the Factories and the Mines Regulation Bills, to supply earnest and hard work for any normal session.

The attempt to carry out this programme with a small and ever-dwindling majority was opposed to all past parliamentary experience. Of course there have been English ministries with small majorities before now, but they were content to propose useful legislation, sure to benefit the country, and they avoided those violent controversies by which bitter resentment is created in the ranks of the community. Lord Salisbury was therefore perfectly justified when he put the question, "What is the House of Commons doing," in answering it as follows: "It is doing nothing because it is pursuing organic reforms, as they are called, and setting class against class for the purpose of finding votes for the government, instead of devoting itself to the problems which lie before it, and which, if they could be solved would cover it with glory."

The truth is that the Liberal Government was beaten when the House of Lords rejected the Irish Home Rule Bill. The Upper House is an integral part of the English parliament and the Government is constitutionally bound to possess its confidence as well as that of the House of Commons. When that want of confidence was declared Lord Rosebery should have appealed to the people at once. His neglect to do so was followed by an exhibition of the uselessness of his Government, and its defeat in the House of Commons was the consequence.

Since the foregoing strictures were written their correctness has been confirmed by Lord Rosebery himself in a speech delivered in London on the 2nd July. "In 1892," he said, "The Liberals landed in the House with a multifarious programme, and a majority that was inadequate to carry the programme through. He counselled the Liberals not to repeat their mistake. They must in the new Parliament adapt their policy to the majority. If they had only a small majority it would be futile and hopeless to attempt any such great constitutional changes as those involved in home rule, church disestablishment, local veto and one-man-one-vote measures."

Our readers are aware that we have repeatedly expressed our sympathy with Lord Rosebery in his very difficult position, surrounded as he was by colleagues who did not share his imperialistic sentiments. We have all along been hoping, even against hope, that he would erect a platform of his own, looking towards Imperial Consolidation, and either carry his government with him or "play a lone hand." He has done neither, and, we fear, missed the opportunity for defining his position and securing a career of future usefulness. Adversity may however teach him and his associates wisdom, and they may yet see it to be their advantage to throw in their lot with those who are working for the closer Union of the Empire.

THE UNIONISTS IN POWER.

Nearly five years ago a writer in the ANGLO-SAXON ventured on a prediction, the fulfilment of which seems now to have arrived. He wrote as follows: "At the present time old party lines are being obliterated, and there appear to be grounds for thinking that, in the near future the party names now current of Conservative, Liberal Unionist, Gladstonian, Radical, Home Ruler, Liberal Conservative, Reformer, Nationalist and others will disappear, and that only two parties, Unionists and Secessionists, will stand opposed to each other throughout the Empire; the one seeking to preserve our inheritance undivided, as did our neighbours in the United States, and the other striving to discredit and dismember the most glorious Empire which the world has ever seen."

For nearly ten years the Conservative, and the Liberal Unionist parties in England, although working in harmony with each other politically, have kept up separate organizations and have

held more or less aloof from each other. The nature of their connection was that of an alliance and the expediency of a closer union was very much doubted by the friends of both parties. In fact most of them agreed that nothing in the nature of a fusion should be attempted until after the general election. The leaders were however more enterprising and in their public utterances plainly indicated the course they wished to follow. Towards the end of May last the Duke of Devonshire stated that "the Unionist party of the Metropolis was never more united than at the present moment," and Mr. Chamberlain declared against the notion that the opposition consisted of two parties. "We are," said he "two wings of one party, a party that is greater than either of the sections." Mr. Balfour described the party which leads in the Commons uniformly as the UNIONIST party and Sir John Lubbock prophesied that "History would record how the Unionist party followed their great and patriotic leaders, and saved the country from the gravest danger of modern times."

The defeat of the Liberals and Lord Salisbury's appointment as prime Minister has had the effect of precipitating action and welding together the two "sections" more firmly than ever before. The Duke of Devonshire, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Sir Henry James, Mr. Chamberlain and other Liberal Unionists are members of his Government, and no one has spoken of a coalition. The fusion of the two wings is complete and the Unionist party is in power. Conservative and Liberal Unionist are names of the past, and the Tories belong to ancient history. No doubt the Gladstonians will try to fasten this name on the Unionists, and we find that Lord Rosebery himself ignores the proper name of the new Government saying that "henceforth the dissident Liberals would be found shoulder to shoulder with the Tories marching to a very dubious victory, under a banner without motto or device." This species of misrepresentation is one of the dangers which the new government has to face when the elections are brought on. But nevertheless the Unionists count on making heavy gains, and are evidently determined to make the best use of their opportunities.

It is as yet too soon to speculate as to the treatment which the great question of Imperial Federation is likely to receive at the hands of the English Unionists, but so much is certain that it will be more favorably considered than by the late government.

DOMINION DAY.

The 1st of July, 1895, will long be remembered as one of the most successful and enthusiastic celebrations of Canada's birthday. The services in the Rideau Park, the unveiling of the monument to the great Conservative chief, the military review and games all served to attract great audiences, and the beautifully cool weather enabled these to enjoy themselves and the occasion thoroughly. But there was a seriousness blended with the enjoyment, and many a heart, while throbbing in unison with the roll of the drum and the tramp of the men, realised fully their obligations to the self-sacrificing defenders of the Dominion, and silently uttered a "God bless them." The scene at the Rideau Park on Sunday before the celebration was both solemn and spirit stirring. Here were assembled over a thousand of the Canadian militia listening to the Rev. J. Edgar Hill, Chaplain of the Royal Scots, who reminded them that their uniform represents the majesty of the law, and that an ideal still greater than that of Confederation was opening out before them. On this point the reverend gentleman said: "This season commemorates the day when the Canadian people, twenty-eight years ago, found an ideal of Canadian greatness, and confederated to out-work that ideal. To-day they have so far approached the realisation of that ideal only to find a broader and grander one opening out before them. Canada's future is Great Britain's future, and who shall forecast the limits of empire reversed for the most capable nation on the face of the earth to govern for the good of the world at large."

It is well that such words as these should be spoken to obliterate the old selfish motto of "Canada first" or at least to give it a nobler significance. We need not object to that cry if in spirit it resembles the shout of the Scots Greys at Waterloo. "Scotland for ever!" was their cry as the horsemen rode across the death-filled depression which separated the two armies, and as they sabred the gunners and cut the traces of D'Erlon's batteries; but that was only the shout of one regiment among a hundred, all fighting for

the salvation of Europe. And so should every true Canadian swear it shall be when we cry "Canada first." First, she has been in the past in faithfulness to the Grand Old Land. First, in forging chains across the continent, with added links across the oceans to bind the Empire together. She shall be hereafter ever first in filial devotion to that mother country, that nurse of heroes, that mother of nations whose children in every quarter of the globe "arise up and call her blessed."

Not less eloquent and important were the words spoken by the Premier of the Dominion at the ceremony of unveiling the monument to his great predecessor Sir John A. Macdonald. He reiterated Lord Rosebery's saying that "the British Empire is one of the greatest secular agents for good that the world has ever seen," and he gave expression to an even weightier thought. "The Empire is greater than the Dominion" said Sir Mackenzie Bowell, "and the Dominion is greater than the provinces" thus, it seems to us, reminding his audience not indistinctly, that there are Imperial rights as well as Provincial rights. There are indications of a tendency in our day to favor the latter a great deal too much, and to forget that this tends in the direction of disintegration and disunion. It is well that we should be reminded that the opposite view is the soundest and the one favoured by the founders of our constitution. It is encouraging to know that our statesmen recognise the value of union in the Dominion and look in the direction of as till grander union with the Empire. Fast steamships, Pacific cables, preferential tariffs are the tools by means of which British countries are to be made to join hands, and hearts and resources across the oceans rolling between them. Let us be thankful that we have such rulers, and toast them and their like as did Tennyson when he sang:—

To all the loyal hearts who long
To keep our English Empire whole!
To all our noble sons, the strong
New England of the Southern pole!
To England under Indian skies
To those dark millions of her realm!
To Canada whom we love and prize,
Whatever statesman hold the helm.
Hands all round!
God the traitor's hope confound!
To this great name of England drink my friends,
And all her glorious empire, round and round.

SINGAPORE.

"The Straits Settlements and Imperial Defence" is the title of Tract No. 4, which has just been published by the Imperial Federation (Defence) Committee. It certainly contains some new and startling facts, and relates the circumstances which have led to the resignation of all the non-official members representing Singapore in the Council of the Colony.

It seems that the annual charge made by "the Government of the United Kingdom" on the Colony in aid of the cost of the Military Establishment maintained at Singapore was raised in 1890 from £50,000 to £100,000. The total cost amounts to £154,730, so that the inhabitants of the Colony are required to pay two-thirds of the cost of garrisoning the fortifications, and maintaining the dock and coaling accommodations, although Singapore possesses the character of an Imperial fortress quite as much as Halifax or Bermuda.

The following additional items of information are taken from the publication above mentioned. Singapore, the capital of the Straits Settlements, is the great entrepot and port of call for British trade in the Far East. The people of the colony complain that the magnitude of its defensive preparations is due not to any local requirements, but to the importance of Singapore to the other British communities who make use of it as a port of call for their ships and trade; and they urge that the burden of this expenditure should not be cast upon the local inhabitants, but should be shared by the whole Empire. As a result of the protests which followed the action of 1890 the charge was reduced for the years 1894 and 1895 to £70,000 and £80,000 respectively, but it has been intimated by the Home Government that the charge for the years 1887 and 1898 will be increased to £110,000 and £120,000. The tract also gives figures to show that the Straits Settlements with a garrison numbering less than half that of some of the other colonies, heads the list in the matter of contributions. Under this want of system some few of the small Crown Colonies are picked out to pay heavily, while others pay nothing; and the large and wealthy self-governing colonies do not contribute at all to the defence of such Imperial positions as Singapore, Halifax, Simon's Bay, Malta, Gibraltar, etc.

It is impossible to study this pamphlet, without coming to the same conclusion as the Committee that "this is