

Future Success of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph

THE eleventh ordinary general meeting of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Limited, was held at River Plate House, Finsbury-circus, E.C., the other day, Sir Charles Euan-Smith, K.C.B., C.S.I. (Chairman of the company), presiding.

The secretary (Mr. Hy. W. Allen, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditor's report.

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, said the company had laid the foundation of future success on a sound and firm basis. The tremendous achievement of regular Transatlantic communication was an accomplished fact. Wireless telegraphic communication with the United States of America was now as easy, and when the contemplated improvements were completed, would, they believed, be as rapid and as easily available as that carried on by the cable companies, the difference being that they hoped to accomplish the service which they rendered to the public at a little more than 50 per cent. of the present cost. (Applause.) The record of the Transatlantic wireless service during the past few months carried conviction on these heads, and demonstrated its ensured potentiality. Henceforward all the efforts of the Marconi company would be concentrated on turning to profitable account the enormous advance in all branches, and especially in the Transoceanic service. The multiplication of facilities was now merely a matter of expenditure, which, as compared with the results that should be realisable from this multiplication and completion of their system, might be regarded as trivial and

insignificant. It was, therefore, in a spirit of confidence, based, as they believed, on real and practical grounds, that the directors considered themselves fully justified in soliciting the further support of the shareholders and of the general public for the purposes of exploiting the immense field that had recently been opened up, and of securing those substantial returns which were bound to accrue. The present stage was one that emphatically called for the active and practical development of the world-wide business which was believed to be ensured to the company by reason of its valuable agreements and concessions secured in various parts of the globe. The extent of the benefits which would accrue to the shareholders depended on the adequacy and also on the celerity with which the company was placed in possession of the necessary means to reap the harvest which awaited them. (Hear, hear.)

After reading the resolution regarding the increase of capital which the directors recommended, namely, the creation of 250,000 Seven per Cent. Cumulative Participating Preference shares, the chairman said they had acted on the best advice obtainable as to the form the new increase of capital should take. It was felt that an issue of preference shares paying a satisfactory rate of interest would be the most attractive. The amount for which they now asked would, in the opinion of the Board, be sufficient to clear off all their liabilities to bankers and others, and place the board in sufficient funds to carry out all improvements, duplications, and extensions which it was considered necessary in order to place the company in a position capable of earning the dividends which they proposed to pay. They recommended this issue to them, therefore, not only because they believed that the new capital would ensure the success of the company, but also on the purely business ground of offering them an industrial investment which was well secured and bore a good rate of interest. (Renewed applause.) It might, no doubt, weigh well with some of the shareholders that the Marconi Wireless company, as now established and universally recognized, formed a national asset of considerable importance, and in the success of which England had good reason to be interested, not only now, but also with regard to the measureless possibilities of the future. (Applause.)

Mr. Marconi, who was very warmly received, said:—In rising to second the adoption of the report I thank the chairman for the kind remarks he made about my assistants and myself, and to say what I have to say about the business position of the company. I have not much to add to the statements which have already appeared in the copies of my lectures attached to the report and what has already been stated by our chairman. He said that the transmission of messages between Ireland and America was commenced before the stations at Cheltenham and Glace Bay were completed. The working of the Transatlantic service during the seven and a half months since it was inaugurated has in every way confirmed the view which I have held for long—viz., that wireless telegraphs can furnish, and will furnish, a new and economical method of communication with America and other distant countries. The experience gained in these months of practical working has been sufficient to enable me and my assistants to indicate exactly what modifications and extensions to the

present equipments of these stations will be necessary and adequate for the continuous operation of these stations on a twenty-four hours basis at a high rate of speed. This experience also shows what obstacles—which many had regarded as insurmountable, such as the interference with other stations and the difficulty of transmitting messages from long distances during the day time—have been overcome. For some months past the majority of our messages and communications had been carried across the Atlantic during the day time, and no interference whatever with the working of the ship to shore communications had been caused by the operation of the powerful long-distance Transatlantic stations. No special attempt has been made so far to work at a high rate of speed. I, however, have been informed that a speed of as much as twenty-four words per minute had been achieved. With slight modifications of the detail of the apparatus at a very small cost, I am convinced that a speed of at least thirty words per minute can be obtained. I also wish to state, as a very recent development that I have carried out it will be possible to effect duplex working between wireless stations—that is, each station is able to send at the same time as it receives messages. If this is applied to Transatlantic stations, as I have every confidence it will be, it should double their effective rate of telegraphing—that is, supposing thirty words with single working is possible, the duplex arrangement will make it, up to sixty words per minute. In reference to long-distance communication, I should further state that the Italian high power station at Coltano is nearing completion, and some delay was caused by the building the government undertook to construct not being ready. The installation of the electrical plant is now being proceeded with, and the station will be completed, I think, by the end of the year. The Italian government has also entered into an agreement, or contract, for the construction of high-power stations in Abyssinia, erected on the Somali coast. The stations will be worked according to an agreement which has been entered into between myself and the company and the Italian government. With reference to these stations, the Engineering Supplement of the "Times" of yesterday stated: "It is possible before long that India may derive advantages in the way of cheap telegraphing from the result of the Italian enterprise on the Somali coast. (Applause.) It is also hoped by the Italian government that a communication might be carried out for ordinary post office or commercial service between England and Italy, and I have been made aware that communications have been going on between the Italian post office and the British office in order to carry that out. In conclusion, I have nothing more to say except to again put on record my strong belief that wireless telegraphy is destined to become an indispensable aid to civilization in affording a new and economical means of communication with countries at a great distance as well as with ships at sea. I shall be glad to answer any questions of a technical nature on what any member of the company may desire to have my opinion.

The report and accounts were adopted, and thereafter an extraordinary general meeting was held, at which the resolution to increase the capital by the creation of £250,000 seven per cent. cumulative participating preference shares was duly passed.

Canadian Club an Educator

THE Canadian Club is an institution which within the last few years has become of distinct significance in moulding public opinion throughout the Dominion, writes a correspondent of the London Times.

It would, perhaps, be more correct to describe it as a method of education than as an institution. Clubs of the ordinary kind are found in all the larger Canadian cities with the usual appliances, more or less luxurious, of club life, where the members take meals, write their letters, read their journals, or entertain guests. The Canadian Club is something quite different in aim and organization. Its machinery is very simple. Membership is by election, but the entrance fee is nominal and the expense of membership slight. Its only home is the largest and most commodious room obtainable, where arrangements can be made for some scores or hundreds of members to take a simple meal together once a week. Its only staff consists of a president, a secretary, a treasurer, and a committee, all of whose work is voluntary and unpaid, and who are changed from year to year. The aim of the club is not to supply comforts to its members, but to increase their knowledge of public affairs and make them better citizens.

Its method is the very opposite of the ordinary club as we know it in England and elsewhere, which groups people according to their politics, their social standing, their pursuits and their tastes. The Canadian Club aims to bring together in an unconventional way people of different occupation, social position, or political connection, on the ground of common citizenship, common interest in public affairs, and a common desire to discover the truth in matters of public debate. The leaflet of the Montreal branch of the club, which lies before me, gives its objects as follows:

"To foster patriotism by encouraging the study of the institutions, arts, literature, and resources of Canada, and by endeavoring to unite Canadians in such work for the welfare of the Dominion."

But discussion is by no means limited to subjects purely Canadian. Imperial and world questions figure largely in the bill of intellectual fare furnished to the members. This is only natural. The feeling that Canada must necessarily take a rapidly enlarging place in the world's affairs pervades every mind.

The Canadian Club is the crystallization of an idea which took its beginning among a group of serious-minded young men who were not satisfied with the ordinary means of getting information on such questions. They wished to get their knowledge from the best sources, at first hand, and in an impartial form. They sought for something free from the bias of the party press and from the violence or unfairness of party orators. They particularly desired to provide opportunities that would attract young business men, on whom the future of the country so much rests.

Success in working out the idea depended largely upon finding a time and place of meeting which would be favorable for collecting together men of affairs and from all classes of society. Some happy inspiration suggested the luncheon hour as a suitable time for the purpose. As a sequel to this decision, the largest restaurant room that the town or city affords was clearly indicated as the fitting place of meeting. Most business men allow themselves at least an hour for the midday meal and for the subsequent pipe or cigar. Only strenuous people bent on making the most of time would

have selected this particular hour. But Canadians are nothing if not strenuous. Rightly utilized, the hour is found to serve admirably the necessary purpose. Twenty-five minutes is allowed for the meal, and careful arrangements for prompt and speedy service make the time adequate. Then smoking is allowed, and the speaker of the day has 35 minutes to develop his argument or line of thought to his audience. Condensation is, of course, necessary in such circumstances, but for both speaker and audience a Thucydidean style has great recommendations, and all fear of the after-dinner bore is removed. A minute for introduction by the president before the one speech of the day, and another minute at the end for thanks to the speaker, complete the programme, and in a very short time the crowd of business men has dispersed to his daily work and to reflection upon what has been heard.

The idea had its origin in Toronto about five or six years ago, and branches of the club were soon organized in all the larger cities. Now they are rapidly spreading to the smaller towns, and are admittedly taking a large part in the formation of sound public opinion throughout the country. While originally a young man's movement, it has steadily attracted the support of the older members of the community. The many clubs now established form a connected chain of serious thinkers across the whole continent. Lord Grey has spoken of the movement as one of the most effective means of public enlightenment that have ever come under his observation.

The foremost Canadians in almost every walk of life regard it as an honor to be asked to address the clubs. The heads of the great railway systems discuss the problems of transportation; presidents of banks deal with questions of finance; educational men unfold their ideals or explain their needs; experts in many walks of life contribute their special knowledge. If politicians are asked to give the addresses, they are expected to do so without the recriminations familiar on the party platform. Distinguished visitors from England, such as Mr. Bryce, Mr. Morley, the Bishop of London, Mr. Kipling, and others, have addressed the clubs in the larger cities. President Eliot, of Harvard, Mr. Secretary Root, and Mr. Bryan are among those who have thought it worth while to come from the United States for the same purpose. The press gives full reports of the speeches, and thus widens the range of educational influence for the spoken word.

The practical success of the Canadian Club in attaining the objects aimed at suggest that it might with advantage be imitated in other British countries. Education on public affairs among us is spasmodic and is usually carried on under the impulse of party feeling. A plan which provides for continuous instruction and stimulus to thought on debated questions in times of quiet must be a steady influence and protection in periods of popular excitement.

One morning recently a suburban resident looked over his fence and said to his neighbor: "Hey, what the deuce are you burying in that hole?"

"Oh," he said, "I am just replanting some of my seeds; that's all."

"Seeds!" shouted the first man, angrily. "It looks like one of my hens."

"Oh, that's all right," the other returned. "The seeds are inside."

An old trench has been found at Sandy Hook containing the bones, it is believed, of 30 or 40 British soldiers.

AN OPPONENT'S TRIBUTE

The following letter has been addressed to the Prime Minister by Mr. Balfour:

Clouds, Salisbury, April 27, 1908.

My Dear Asquith.—It is with the deepest concern that I find myself prevented by illness from taking any part in the tribute which the House of Commons will pay to the memory of the late Prime Minister. I should have regretted this in any case; I regret it doubly as a member of the minority in a House of which Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman was for two years the leader. Greatly should I have valued the opportunity of expressing on my own behalf and on behalf of my friends our high esteem for the character of the departed statesman.

It would not be possible to form, nor fitting on such an occasion to express, any comparative judgment on the part played by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman during his long and distinguished public life. But it would, I think, be safe to say that he never served in any office without gaining and keeping the affections of his subordinates, that he never served in any government but with an unswerving loyalty for the general interests, and that when, after a long apprenticeship in office and in opposition, in sunshine and in shade, he rose to the highest position under the crown, all men felt that courage, consistency, high ideals, kindness that never fell into weakness, shrewdness that was never edged with malice, had received their fit reward.

One more observation may be allowed me. To many great men it has happened that their years of life have reached far beyond their years of vigor, and that, when death came at last, the greatest events with which they were concerned have receded into the twilight of history. I know not whether this be truly matter for regret; yet it seems a happier fate to leave the political stage, as Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman has left it, in all the fullness of his powers, with the esteem and respect of his strongest opponents, and the devoted affection of that great party with whose triumph at the general election his name will be for ever associated.

Yours very sincerely,

ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR.

PRINT V. SPEECH

Lord Wm. Cecil says that even in England a great deal of the energy often spent in preaching and speaking would be better applied in appeals to the public through the ordinary journals; and in other nations public meetings and public speaking were not such an institution as they had been among ourselves from Saxon times. The Chinese were accustomed to get all their information from the printed page; therefore, their national consciousness must be approached by this means. He agreed with Dr. Timothy Richard that it was the duty of Christians to evangelize not only individuals, but races, which were more than merely collections of individuals. If we were to convert the Chinese, race, we must appeal to it as a race, and this could only be done by societies like that through literature.

"Transatlantic tourists are often surprised, when they visit Stratford-on-Avon, to find that the beautiful parish church was not built to receive Shakespeare's honored bones, and is not dedicated to him, but to the Trinity," says the Church Times. "He lies there only as one redeemed sinner among many. The French republic has turned the Son of Mary out of St. Genevieve's church in Paris to fit it for a pantheon for the mighty dead of the new age. But in our national life we still have some use for Christ and His saints."

Mr. Austin on Shakespeare

FOLLOWING is a report of a speech made by Mr. Alfred Austin, at a banquet of the London Shakespeare League, at the Holborn Restaurant:—Shortly before I received your kind invitation to be here this evening, I had been trying, I fear in vain, to explain to a singularly intelligent foreigner our unwritten Constitution. At length, with the proverbial lucidity of his race, he extricated me from my difficulty by saying, "I think I begin to see my way through the labyrinth of your national peculiarities. You have an unwritten, but not an unspoken, Constitution, which is embodied, day after day, and night after night, with unbroken continuity, throughout the year, in long dinners and still longer speeches." He added, with perfect candor, that, while we spoke often to any other people, our speeches are pre-eminently the worst in the world. If I swell the number of these last this evening, I kindly remember that I do so, not from choice, but from submission to national custom we can none of us avoid. Pondering on the theme on which I am bidden to discourse this evening, I asked myself what would Shakespeare have thought of our perpetual conviviality and speech-making; and very little reflection satisfied me that he would have thought of them pretty much as we ourselves think of them, since an analogous if not an absolutely similar custom prevailed among Englishmen in his own time. Of all great poets, Shakespeare is the most mirthful and the most convivial, as was to be expected from one who was a thorough Englishman, a thorough man-of-the-world, and brimful to overflowing with a perfect mixture of profound thought and effervescent merriment. No other poet is so grave, no other so gay; none moves with such rapid transition from lively to severe, or glances with such swift and unerring vision, in moments of fine frenzy, from earth to Heaven. Would that he were here this evening! For, being a fellow of infinite jest, he would, like his own poor Yorick, have set the table in a roar. Yet is he not here? I have always been surprised when coming across the remark, one meets so often, that we know little or nothing of Shakespeare; for I feel that I know more about Shakespeare than about any other man that ever lived, and for the simple reason that he has told me more about himself than has any other. There is no written record, no oral tradition, as to the hour at which he rose of a morning or at which he retired to rest, what was his favorite dish, and what the precise color of his eyes and hair. We are in some doubt as to the precise day when he was born. Yet are not such things among those which Coleridge declared, when a fellow-traveller told him the name of the person who owned the place they happened to be passing, are not information? But Shakespeare, the real Shakespeare, the mind, heart and soul of the man, his view of other men, of women, of society, of the State, his prevailing and final estimate of things in general, of these he has told us with a frankness and a frequency that have never been equalled. In a word, he has revealed himself to us with an unconscious and unintentional candor immeasurably exceeding that of the most egotistical lyrical poet that ever warbled. It may possibly occur to some of those who have allowed me the privilege of addressing them, to ask how it is possible that the most objective and dramatic of poets should furnish us with this ample self-revelation? My answer must be that, in every case, a poet's works are his fullest and most instructive autobiography. Just as a critic, whatever else he may

do, inevitably criticizes himself, and gives us the measure of himself, so, but in a much greater degree, the poet betrays his inner self even when he seems to be writing of the creatures of his imagination. I do not for one moment question that there are times, and times almost without end, when Shakespeare is expressing only the thought or feeling proper and pertinent to the occasion, and to the imaginary or historical personage, who is speaking. But there are other times when, quite superfluously, as far as the action of the play and the development of the characters are concerned, he expatiates on a theme arising, it is true, out of them, but somewhat delving the march of the story. I hope it will not sound presumptuous if I say that I always feel I can distinguish the occasions when Shakespeare, the man, is speaking, rather than Shakespeare the dramatist. Could there be anything more distinctively personal than Katharine's speech at the close of "The Taming of the Shrew," anything more clearly and comprehensively expressive of Shakespeare's own view of the proper relations of man and woman, wife and husband? Could there be anything more definitely individual than the speech of Claudio in "Measure for Measure," beginning

"Aye, but to die, and go we know not where!"

any utterance more candid respecting life and death, this world and the next, here and afterward? Again, in a region somewhat more mystical, is it not Shakespeare himself who almost gratuitously puts into the mouth of Lorenzo the passage:

"There's not the smallest orb which thou behold'st, But in his motion like an angel sings, Still quiring to the young-eyed cherubim, Such harmony is in immortal souls, But while this muddy vessel of decay Doth grossly close it in, we cannot hear it."

In that passage, as in numberless others, we find the loveliest poetry as the expression and adornment of the profoundest intellectual and moral truths; and it is the absolute fusion of these, and not the mere trilling lyrical faculty, however charming, that constitutes the real greatness of the poets who manifest it; in other words, who have the so potent art of transfiguring what is real in life into the Ideal, without losing hold of the former. For this supreme gift every imaginable quality of mind and heart are requisite; and no poet ever possessed them so richly and used them so lavishly as Shakespeare. Finally, we see what manner of man Shakespeare was when we find him, after securing for himself a competency, returning to his birthplace, where the romance of his youth had been enacted, and there having, like Prospero, broken his wand, leading the stationary life removed for which the Duke in "Measure for Measure" so suggestively expressed his preference. But, mindful of Shakespeare's laudation of brevity, I will relieve you from further attention; content if I have said and cited enough to justify the assertion that we know of Shakespeare all that is worth knowing concerning any man. This is the bequest he has left us; the richest inheritance that any nation ever received; inheritance of supreme wisdom, arising from the co-operation of the strongest practical good sense with the loftiest and most captivating imagination.

A little borax in the last rinsing water will make handkerchiefs easier to iron and look better when done.

MANA
HO

MANA
HO

MANA
HO

MANA
HO

MANA
HO

MANA
HO

MANA
HO

MANA
HO

MANA
HO

MANA
HO

MANA
HO