

## The Toronto World

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CANADIAN REPRESENTATION AT WASHINGTON.

Just now the relationship of the self-governing states of the empire to the mother country is in a fluid condition.

True to precedent the development of the imperial fabric proceeds without reference either to theory or logic.

In this it parallels the constitution of the United Kingdom itself, which defies analysis and refuses to be bound by the conclusions of theorists.

Many observers, both British and foreign, have in their day and generation diffused imminent constitutional changes and have prophesied that the empire could not survive them.

But they came all the same, and the machinery of the state readjusted itself without any very serious friction.

The fact is that absolute arguments of the nature affected by abstract reasoners ignore altogether the personal equation furnished by the British people themselves.

In matters political and, indeed, in all affairs, great and small, compromise is the law of the national life.

This ingrained habit of centuries has accompanied the British settler wherever he has gone.

Through their several trials and difficulties each of the great colonies has passed into the status of a self-governing community, and has cherished and fostered the spirit of independent nationhood.

That was a bogey dreaded for a long time by the statesmen of the motherland, and only the certainty of secession, were autonomy longer refused, wrung the concession from them.

Autonomy, however, they never did not breed the anxiety they feared.

With their main grievance removed the new imperial states resumed their hereditary loyalty to the crown and busied themselves with their own immediate affairs.

Re-adjustment from time to time of their relations with the central government naturally followed until to-day the statutes of the British parliament conferring constitutional rights are interpreted by the supreme court of the empire according to the rules applicable to the act of a sovereign people.

The framers of the British North America Act in this matter indeed builded better than they knew.

The process of development will not stay at the point it has now reached, but will continue to follow its own law.

There is nothing surprising in the emergence of a desire for the direct diplomatic representation of Canada at Washington, nor is there the slightest reason to doubt that this will be cordially conceded whenever the Dominion government formally prefers the request.

It is easy to point out theoretical objections and hypothetical difficulties, and it would be foolish to deny that these may be possible and those logical.

But if there is anything in the common loyalty to the crown and in the determination to maintain the imperial bond the objections will prove inept and the difficulties as they arise will be overcome in the good old way of discussion and compromise.

Co-operation is the goal whitherward the imperial states are tending—co-operation by states independent in their own affairs, but prepared when necessary to sacrifice something of their individual rights for the sake of the common good.

That has already been done, and more is in process of doing. Citizens loyal both to their own nation and to the empire will view without misgiving all departures which in themselves are justifiable, conscious that in the long run they will make for the security, not the relaxation, of the imperial bond.

A WORD TO DIRECTORS.

In these days when the searchlight of investigation is being turned on

fiduciary matters, the lot of a director, who has been too busy to direct, is not a joyous one.

It is not in human nature to fall to sympathize with the director who has been caught napping, but sleep is not an excuse for duty undone.

For the director who intentionally has failed to direct, the punishment should and will fit the crime, but for the director who unintentionally failed to direct, the public is prepared to show some mercy.

Yet, no mercy can be shown unless the hapless director is ready to show fruits fit for repentance.

If, in failing to direct, the director has jeopardized and even lost the funds of those who trusted him, while taking care that he lost nothing himself, there is but one thing for him to do, and that is to return the money he has made.

We would go so far as to say that that regret expressed for neglected trusteeship is mere idle talk, until the director's personal monetary gain is returned to those to whom it rightly belongs.

Regret is all right in its place, but regret without return is dross.

Regret requires no effort, but returning the rake-off is hard.

The weak man expresses regret; the strong man cashes in.

We believe there are directors of institutions that have not passed unscathed under scrutiny of the insurance commission, who are beating about to find a course by which they may rehabilitate themselves in the confidence of their friends and their fellows.

We have charted the course, and wait for the first director to take it.

TRUST THE PARLIAMENT.

The London Advertiser is in great distress about the constitution. It reports a paragraph from a recent editorial in The World respecting the great injustice being done the Province of Manitoba.

It is pleased to attribute the editorial in question to the member for South York. It seems that he is a terrible fellow to question the perfection of the B. N. A. Act.

"Mr. Maclean is asking the people of Canada to do many new and wonderful things," concludes The Advertiser.

"but they draw the line at letting him throw the B. N. A. Act into the melting-pot."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has pinched the B. N. A. Act until it is black and blue.

It was he who again brought its provisions into question, if not into dispute, by the autonomy bills of 1905.

In these assaults upon the constitution he was vigorously aided and abetted by The London Advertiser, especially in the London by-election.

But certainly, Mr. Maclean, a member of parliament, has a right to form and to express an opinion respecting this or any other act; and so, for that matter, has anyone else.

And The World is free to repeat that Canada has been her own parliament, subject to the royal veto, unfettered by acts of the imperial parliament.

The United States is being destroyed to-day by the rigidity of its written, and to some extent obsolete, constitution. Let Canada develop freely along the lines of least resistance.

Public opinion is the best restraint upon the legislature. Britain has no written constitution; why is one so essential for Canada?

Every day this hard-and-fast constitution will bind closer and become more irksome.

Let essentials be agreed on as to provincial rights and in unmistakable language; then let the parliament of Canada be, in fact and in spirit, the high court of the nation.

Can we not trust our parliament?

THE TEXT BOOK INQUIRY.

Public approval will be extended without reserve to the determination of the chairman of the government text book commission to make the enquiry complete and searching in every respect.

The proceedings so far as they have gone demonstrate the propriety and advantage of conducting such investigations in the full glare of day.

Already more good has been done to the cause of honest and straightforward dealing, and more benefit will accrue to the people than endless private commissions could have effected.

Some interesting sidelights have been cast, too, on methods and practices which only need to be known to meet with that general condemnation which is the best preventive of future misdoings.

Incidentally the sitting yesterday provided an example of the higher standard of commercial morality which undoubtedly exists in Britain.

A sample of the schoolbooks in use in England was produced, and an expert witness declared "that book will last forever"—perhaps too absolute a pronouncement, but one which will not be misunderstood.

Subjected to an acid test the English paper remained unstained, while too many of the Canadian volumes turning "as brown as sugar"—presumably unrefined—condemned themselves.

One would fain hope that these defective specimens of native handwork were the exception, but the result, judging from previous revelations in other lines of business, is apparently part and parcel of a prevalent lack of the moral sense in commercial affairs.

Emerson in his "English Traits" published half a century ago, referred in eulogistic terms to the thoroughness characteristic of English methods, and, indeed, excellence and durability are still looked for from British work-shops.

Whether that reputation is as fully maintained as it was earned may be questionable, but that British commercial morality still reaches a high comparative standard is universally conceded.

In its survival lies the best warrant for the continuance of British industries.

Dishonest practices exist there as elsewhere, but no evidence is procurable that the commercial and

industrial community of Britain have come to regard the state and the public as the proper subjects of a general system of graft and plunder.

For the evils from which Canada and Ontario suffer, publicity is the surest remedy, and on that account Mr. Crothers' conduct of the school text book commission is not only commendable in itself but forms an admirable precedent for future chairmen to emulate.

HEARST FOR GOVERNOR.

Altho no outsider can penetrate the mysteries of the federal and state politics of the United States, it is quite safe to say that William Randolph Hearst owes his nomination as Democratic candidate for the governorship of New York State to the hold he has obtained on the electorate.

If the further question is asked, how that hold was obtained, different answers would doubtless be given, with more or less truth.

But the main factor has certainly been the revolt of the people against the trusts and the feeling, vague perhaps, and more emotional than argumentative, that in Hearst there was at once a liberator from servitude and a guide to the promised land of good government and cheaper and better public services.

The important feature of the nomination is that it has been wrung from a really hostile machine in deference to the evident state of public opinion.

It is a tactical move on the part of the old guard to retain the support of the independent leaguers and the chief point of interest is what are the terms which have allied Tammany Hall and the Democratic nominee.

No one has any faith in the disinterestedness of the Tammany organization, and Mr. Hearst will need to be a man of exceptional strength of character and administrative ability if he is to carry out his program.

He may be the man of destiny—if he is not, one will in due time be found. Until he is, the revolt of the people against their political masters and the trusts, which control them, will not be downed.

MORE ABOUT COAL.

Editor World: In your issue of Thursday, 18th inst., I notice a communication on coal from "A Country Dealer," who seems to evince a technical and general knowledge of coal and of the situation not altogether characteristic of the average country dealer.

He says: "Canada has been the dumping ground for the products of United States coal mines, and either ignorantly or good-naturedly dealers have accepted the situation."

Unfortunately, there is too much truth in that short paragraph, but what are we to do?

I found fault with a consignment of coal from one of the big line companies as I knew I would have trouble with my customers, and was told to get out of the business.

So, from another of the big companies, through the blandishment of a Yankee representative, and was satisfied with the first few cars, but a further large order nearly paralyzed me, so what are we to do?

No use buying from brokers, they are supplied by these big people, and the price is then over-circular for goods even inferior.

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