

It is regarded as a certainty that, what has been accomplished in South Africa after three years of war and enormous expenditures would have been quietly, easily indeed, secured long years ago had the Colonial Office adopted the advice of the distinguished Governors and other officials who learnt what was needed for consolidating all South Africa by direct observation of the country and personal contact with the peoples of the Transvaal, Natal, Cape Colony and the natives of the adjacent territories. The annals of Canada afford lamentable illustrations of the disastrous results arising from the policy of attempting to govern a colony when developing arbitrarily by officials in the Mother Country who had no personal familiarity with the people whose affairs they controlled.

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Not only the leaders of one political party in England were bent upon abandoning the Colonies to their fate, but even statesmen like the great Lord Derby and his circle, whose names are associated with an Imperialistic policy, at one time expressed opinions adverse to the retention of the Colonies. "We have too many black subjects," was Lord Derby's remark when it was proposed to defend an African colony that was likely to slip out of the Empire. The fatal step of "cutting the painter" by which England was tied to the Colonies would have been taken but for the speeches in favour of an Imperial policy, by which the Colonies would be retained under a system of local self-government, which were made all over Great Britain by Sir George Grey, who had learnt this wisdom as Governor of Australia, of New Zealand and later of Cape Colony.

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Self-government, not government by the Colonial office, was the policy which saved the Empire from disruption, and, doubtless, the visit of Mr. Chamberlain to South Africa is for the purpose of studying the situation there in order to organize a system under which the whole of that country will enjoy the same, or similar liberties as those which render Canada one of the best governed countries in the world.

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The cable between Canada and Australia is likely to be completed, so far as the mere placing of it is concerned, in a few days. If all goes well it will be ready for business early next month.

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What is to be done with the Doukhobors? A large body of them, reported to number 1600 to 1800 men, women and children, have abandoned their homes in the North West and started on a pilgrim-

age bound for some unknown destination. The movement of itself would prove them to be under some insane, though avowedly religious impulse, which is not without historic precedents. They will have to be controlled; if necessary, indeed by force, as if left to pursue their mad career there will be scores of women and children frozen to death and an outcry will be raised against Canada which will be very injurious to this country.

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In his address at the last half-yearly meeting the President of the Grand Trunk Railway made a remarkable statement to the following effect:

"During 1901 no fewer than 115 new industries, comprising many large works and manufactories were established or put in course of establishment along their line in Canada, representing a capital of \$5,541,000 and 51 industries along the line of the Grand Trunk in the United States, with a capital of \$1,985,000. It would be difficult to afford a more practical illustration of the prosperity of the times of the increased earning capacity of the Grand Trunk Railway arising therefrom."

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Last week we had to protest against a cablegram from Reuter's being sent to England announcing that a financial panic existed in Montreal, there being not the least foundation for such a statement. A few days after this appeared in the London papers another Reuter's message depicting the fuel situation here in most exaggerated language, so far so indeed as to be absolutely untruthful. Montreal has suffered severely from the coal strike, no doubt, but there has been no such fuel famine and distress in this city as was depicted in Reuter's cablegram. The transmission of news from this city to Great Britain should be strictly confined to news, and mere sensational items kept for the *gobe-mouches* who enjoy that form of diet.

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The Montreal City & District Savings Bank has favoured us with one of the "Home Savings Bank" boxes which they have had made for distribution amongst families. The box is very strongly made and has an elegant appearance. The idea is a development of the very old-fashioned box, usually of crockeryware, which had various uses, some being for saving small coins, others for collecting them as a contribution to some charity or religious cause. The bank box, or miniature safe, is lent free to every depositor of \$1, which this deposit will be refunded on return of the safe. Unlike the old style, these boxes cannot be opened except by the bank where the key is kept. When the contents have accumulated the safe should be taken to the bank where