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The Prince's Visit

NOTHING could be desired in the reception of the Prince of Wales beyond the cordial welcome given to him in every part of Canada that he has visited. From the moment of his landing at St. John to the present he has been cheered by vast crowds who have in every possible way given him assurance of their appreciation of the privilege of meeting the heir to the throne. Older citizens have found in his presence a happy reminder of the visit of his grandfather (afterwards King Edward) in 1860, and the middle-aged recall the pleasure they had in welcoming the present King, when he came to Canada a few years ago. It has often been said that British institutions have the happy faculty of adapting themselves to the changing conditions of the nation. The popularity of the Royal Family of Great Britain illustrates this. Monarchies in other lands are passing through strenuous times. Few of them find themselves in harmony with the spirit of the age. But the British King, the link of Empire, finds himself at the end of a great war stronger than ever in the loyalty and affection of the people over whom he rules, and his son mingles daily with the masses of the people with a democratic freedom that is not excelled in any republic. The young Prince, by his modest and gentle manner, has won the hearts of all the Canadians whom he has met.

Ireland

THE irrepressible Irish question seems likely to soon come up again in a form that will require action of a definite character. The Home Rule Act, which after a long contest was placed on the statute book shortly before the outbreak of war, was suspended for the period of the war. It will automatically come into operation whenever the war is officially declared to be at an end. But events of the last five years have served to make nearly everybody dissatisfied with the Act as it stands. If Home Rule is to be established to the satisfaction of any considerable number of the Irish people it is probable that a new Home Rule bill will have to be prepared. The most promising movement of late has been that which is proposed by Sir Horace Plunkett, known

as Dominion Home Rule, a system based to a considerable extent on the Canadian constitution. That some progress is being made on these lines is indicated by another speech from Sir Edward Carson, who tells his Belfast friends that Dominion Home Rule is Sinn Fein rule. Sir Edward Carson's persistent opposition to Home Rule in any shape or form is much to be regretted. His speeches inflame the Ulster mind at a time when clear thinking and moderation are very necessary. The Lloyd George Government will have to put their ideas of Home Rule into shape very soon. The question presses for action.

The British Preference

WHEN the Laurier Government, twenty-two years ago, adopted the British preferential tariff there was strong opposition to it in the Canadian Parliament. The Conservative party of that time took the ground that preference should only be given to British goods on the condition that the benefits would be mutual. A preference for Canadian products—especially foodstuffs, which were our chief exports—in the British markets was insisted on as necessary. The Canadian Government of the day held that on these terms no progress could be made in the preferential movement and that the wiser course was to grant the preference in Canada, leaving the British people free to take their own course. This policy prevailed and the preferential system became well established in Canada. When the Conservatives came into power they did not continue the demand for a mutual preference. For a long time the preferential movement here elicited no response in England, so far as tariffs were concerned; though there is no doubt that the more liberal tariff conditions in Canada were much appreciated in the Mother Country and gave all things Canadian a better standing there. A measure of preference is now to be given to the Dominions in the tariff legislation of the British Government, but as the plan does not include breadstuffs, which are Canada's chief exports, it is not likely to be regarded generally as of high importance. A notable feature of the arrangement, however, is that the British Parliament, following the exam-