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VOL. XLVIII. NO. 95

VICTORIA, B. C., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1906.

FORTY-EIGHTH YEAR.

OFFERS SUGGESTION ON LABOR PROBLEM

Merchant of Ceylon Tells of Class of People Better Than Chinese or Sikhs—Discusses Colonial Trade Relations.

A typical British officer, exhalting the bracing atmosphere which usually surrounds the man of affairs, one who has achieved commercial success, is Capt. R. V. Webster, of the Imperial Yeomanry, London, England, who spent yesterday in the city. While possessing all the instincts of the soldier, having seen service both in the Sudan and South Africa, he is a man of business.

The possibility of Joseph Chamberlain's policy, in respect to the establishment of preferential relations between Great Britain and its colonies, being adopted, is one of the subjects Capt. Webster discussed with the members of the Sons of England. He believes that ultimately such legislation will be enacted. At the present time the political situation in the Old Country is not so satisfactory as it used to be.

Colonies Should Join Hands. Capt. Webster goes even further than to predict reciprocal preference between all the colonies and the Mother Country. He proposes that the time has come when there will be preference between the different colonies in respect to Great Britain proper. Such a thing, he thinks, is a representative of the progress of the world, and so, as the introduction of the measure is first referred to, in Ceylon, Canadian fruit could not be imported into the United States, although in quality, as a general rule, it is superior to that coming from the United States.

Upon returning to the Old Country, Capt. Webster will join the Imperial Yeomanry, taking part in the winter mobilization. Early in the spring he has a 200-ton steam yacht in the course of construction, which should be completed by that time. He is returning to the Mediterranean sea to Ceylon, thence back to the Old Country.

The captain left with a favorable impression of Victoria. When visiting here, he was struck by the idea that the people, while comfortable, were not particularly progressive. Now, he says, a marked change is apparent, and he predicts great things for the Canadian West. He was satisfied that his expectations would be realized.

Commercial Bond Best. Looking at the matter from a broad point of view, Capt. Webster inclined to the opinion that the best policy to be adopted by the home government, was that which would result in a bond stronger and more sacred than any other that could be made, in saying this he did not wish to depreciate the patriotism that undoubtedly prevailed throughout the British colonies. That such a sentiment was dominant was proved by the whole-hearted and practical way in which New Zealand, Australia and Canada had supported Great Britain during the trouble in South Africa. It was hard for him to express in adequate terms the appreciation felt by the British people at this expression of loyalty. It had done much to bring about more friendly feelings between the Mother Country and her dependencies. Now was the opportune time to take another step in the same direction. The introduction of preferential duties, upon the lines he suggested, would result in an effectual union, one that would withstand the wear of time, and make the Empire solid commercially and otherwise. There was no estimate as to what heights of greatness Great Britain could attain by the adoption of such a policy. Therefore, he wished Mr. Chamberlain every success, and only hoped that he would carry his intentions still further by advocating preference also between the different colonies. To bring this about, cooperation would be necessary on the part of the latter; but he did not think that phase of the question presented any great difficulty.

The Labor Problem. Coming from the East Indies, Capt. Webster is interested in the flow of immigration from among the Sikhs in this direction. His opinion is that the movement is much to be regretted. He does not think that the class will do well in such a country as British Columbia. From their infancy they were bred to the soldier. Even at home they did not engage in commerce. Their only ambition seemed to be to enlist in the British army. Undoubtedly there were a pronounced success in that line, being brave and physically adapted for service throughout the districts of India. But for agricultural labor, for which timber and for the heavy work which would naturally be expected of them in this province, they were, he

SONS OF ENGLAND TAKE UP THE LABOR PROBLEM

Will Assist Deserving Emigrants From Old Country This Year to Large Extent—May Cooperate With Government

The problem of overcoming the labor deficiency in British Columbia has been undertaken by another influential organization—the Sons of England. It is already in occupying the attention of the provincial government and the Salvation Army. With the added assistance of the Sons of England, the province may bring more here in 1907 than heretofore. Last season the number crossing the Atlantic as a direct result of the efforts of the Sons was twelve thousand. This year it will be increased to twenty-five thousand. If the commissioner reaches a satisfactory understanding with the provincial government, as seems assured, a large proportion of that number will find their way to British Columbia.

Local Lodge Working. Judging from recent developments, the sentiments expressed by the article in question are endorsed by members of the Sons of England throughout the Dominion. At any rate it was announced in a recent issue of one of the New Westminster papers that the lodge of that city intended taking up the matter of the immigration of Chinese.

Speaking of Ceylon, Capt. Webster asserted that while the principal industries of that island are the cultivation of tea and coffee, the rubber industry is being developed in the near future. It was five years ago that the discovery was first made that the rubber tree would flourish in that climate. Since then acre upon acre had been planted, and it had been demonstrated that an income could be made from the tree. It could easily be seen that the new industry, when developed, would prove of the greatest commercial importance to the island.

Has Previous Experience. It was pointed out that the immigration question was one which the Sons of England had dealt with on a small scale for several years. They were now extending a hand to those recommended as being worthy of assistance, as far as transportation was concerned. When they can do so, they were referred to the head office of the Sons of England. The latter always kept in touch with all the branches, and were able to spring into action where their services were most needed. This year the same thing would be done on a larger scale than heretofore. This had been agreed upon throughout Canada, particularly in the Northwest Territories and in British Columbia. More settlers would be brought out than ever before. And the majority of these, it was stated, would be sent west. The lodges of the mainland and of Vancouver Island having sent representations explaining the condition in this province, there was no doubt that this province would get a larger share than usual.

An important point, and one which, in the opinion of members of the local society, should not be overlooked, is the fact that the men brought out by the Sons of England must be of a respectable, industrious class. They are selected carefully, in fact the major portion are members of the Old Country lodges. But it must be understood that the organization confines itself to those belonging to their ranks. While rather more conservative than the Salvation Army in its attitude toward the colonies they do not discriminate against a really worthy applicant simply because he may not happen to be a united effort to the society.

A United Effort. The Sons of England, therefore, may be depended upon to do all in their power to help in solving the problem which the residents of British Columbia are confronted. It has been suggested that they might work in conjunction with the provincial government and the Salvation Army. Hitherto this proposal has not been seriously considered by the lodges of the province. No doubt, members of the Victoria lodge would be brought up before long. Whether any action along that line will be taken is a matter for conjecture. It is acknowledged that better results might be achieved were the three bodies to join forces and make a strong combined effort to induce a sufficient number of the laborers of the Old Country, thousands of whom are living from hand to mouth, and supporting families upon pitances which would appear ridiculously small to the wage-earner of this country. But the Sons of England have a method of their own in respect to immigration, and any proposal to unite with one or more outside bodies would require more or less negotiation, all through the Toronto office, to meet with a successful issue. The Toronto office, on that account is that the society will continue working along its own lines irrespective of others. That is the opinion of the paper referred to, and it is true that it will do everything in their power to bring out settlers to meet the conditions of the province, and to see that they are guaranteed by members of the lodges of this province.

WINNIPEG INVESTORS COME TO VICTORIA

Prominent Residents of Prairie Capital Looking for Pacific Coast Property

To look over Victoria property with the idea of transacting several deals is the mission on which a party of prominent Winnipeg men have come to this city. In the party, which is registered at the Grand, is Hugo Ross of the Hugo Ross Realty Company; George Skinner, proprietor of the Marriott Hotel; L. Verhoeven and Mr. Simpson, all of Winnipeg; and Mr. Brunton, of Edmonton. They spent several days at Vancouver and sought some property there at the sale of government lands in the Victoria area. Mr. Verhoeven said that the location of the city appealed to the people of the midwest, especially, as they looked for some variance in the physical features of the country from the flat prairie, and there was found to be a marked exodus towards the coast. It was of the opinion that the city would eventually occupy the same position with reference to the Dominion that San Francisco did to the United States, and that it was being strangled by the earthquake.

Commissioner Coombe Coming. In the meantime the provincial government is working assiduously in the same direction. Commissioner Coombe is expected to arrive in Victoria about the 3rd or 4th of next month. He will interview Premier McBride, Hon. R. G. Tait, and other members of the cabinet. The subject of the colony's immigration is the labor problem. It is expected that he will be a success in that respect. The commissioner will undertake, on behalf of the army, to bring a certain number of agricultural workmen to the coast next year. The gov-

BILL PASSES THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE

House of Lords Takes Fifteen Days on the Educational Measure

London, Nov. 22.—On the ground that it contained the spirit of home rule, the House of Lords this evening struck out the clause in the Education bill empowering the establishment of a central education council for Wales. The bill, however, passed through its committee stage, after having occupied fifteen days in its discussion, or longer than any other previous measure in the House of Lords.

As amended by the Upper House, the bill is wholly unacceptable to the government, and the majority in the House of Commons, who contend that it has become frankly denominational, since it requires that unless religious instruction be given them daily, schools will be regarded as public elementary schools. The nonconformists are so incensed at the House of Lords' amendment that over a hundred nonconformist members of parliament already have signed a memorial asking the government to promptly reject all the amendments of the Upper House.

Strong efforts are being made in influential moderate quarters to arrange some workable compromise, and with this object in view a deputation of prominent persons interested in the education question today waited on the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth place. The primate, in a long speech, expressed himself as anxious for a settlement on large and generous lines all around, and said he was prepared to agree to a compromise in the case of many of the objections and difficulties, rather than have the controversy practical rested elsewhere than with him, but that it might be brought about was his most ardent wish, and as such a deputation could do much to further that consummation.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP. The overwhelming defeat sustained by the Progressive party in the London County Council elections, has led to a re-examination of the policy of municipal ownership. Montreal Gazette.

DESPERATE PEASANTS SELL THEIR DAUGHTERS

Starvation Brings About a Horrible Condition of Affairs at Kazan

St. Petersburg, Nov. 22.—Reports from the famine districts of Russia show that distress is still growing acute. The peasants in the government of Kazan have been driven to desperation and are selling their daughters into slavery to the Mohammedan rulers of the Caucasus. A form of typhus fever known as "hunger typhus," resulting from starvation, has become epidemic in Kazan.

VISCOUNT DEAD. London, Nov. 22.—Henry Robert Braud, second Viscount Hampden is dead. He was born in 1841.

SENATOR KERR DEAD. Toronto, Nov. 22.—Senator William Kerr died at the general hospital at 8 o'clock tonight. He underwent a severe surgical operation on Tuesday and did not recover from the shock.

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OPENS THIRD SESSION OF TENTH PARLIAMENT

Governor-General Delivers Speech From the Throne, Foreshadowing Legislation Proposed by Government—Hyman's Resignation.

Ottawa, Nov. 22.—(Special.)—The third session of the tenth parliament of Canada opened this afternoon with the usual ceremonies. The day was as balmy as one in June.

The speech from the throne was read by the governor general, Earl Grey, as follows: "The session of the tenth parliament of the House of Commons: 'In opening the third session of the tenth parliament of Canada, I avail myself of the opportunity to offer you my congratulations on the unparalleled prosperity prevailing in all parts of the Dominion. The harvest has been abundant and the trade with both British and foreign nations continues to expand in annually increasing volume, with every prospect of continued growth for many years to come.'"

"The number of immigrants seeking homes in Canada continues steadily to increase, and it is very satisfactory to observe that a larger proportion than in any former year has in the past season come from the British Isles. 'During the recess following the last session, I visited the four western provinces and was much gratified to note the great advances that were being made in the development of the vast resources of those highly favored sections of the Dominion. I found the people of the west rejoicing in their prosperity, and full of hope and confidence in the future growth of its agricultural and industrial wealth. The quinquennial census recently taken in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan shows that those provinces are now entitled to an increase in their representation in the House of Commons. A bill giving effect to that provision will be submitted for your approval.'"

"In accordance with the announcement made in a previous session, you were asked to consider a bill for the revision of the custom tariff. The sanction of parliament will be required to give legal effect to the treaty made with the empire of Japan. A bill for that purpose will be submitted for your approval. 'The products and manufacturers of Canada shown at the recent international exhibition held in the city of Milan proved a great attraction and as a result it is confidently expected that trade with Central and Southern Europe can be materially increased. 'The naval authorities having relinquished the use of the dockyard at Halifax, a proposal was made to transfer it to the government of Canada. The offer has been accepted and the dockyard will now be used by the department of marine and fisheries as a base for its operations in connection with aids to navigation. 'Many immigrants having in recent years been induced to come to Canada by false representations made in the United Kingdom, a clause has, at the request of the minister of labor, been added to the Immigration Act, under which the Imperial parliament for the punishment of any person who may be found guilty of that offence. 'Bills will be introduced by me amending the Election Act, the Post Office Act, the Dominion Lands Act, a bill for the more effective supervision and inspection of Canada, and a bill relating to the sale and manufacture of patent medicines, and also a bill to make better provision for dealing with marine offenders. I have hoped that the report of the commission appointed to inquire into the working of insurance companies will shortly be completed, and will be laid on the table. 'The subjects I have mentioned will, I hope, receive your best consideration, and the measures to be submitted for your approval will, I trust, tend to the

welfare and good government of our fair Dominion. 'Gentlemen of the House of Commons: The accounts of the past year will be laid before you. I am glad to say that the revenue has shown a large expansion and has not only provided for ordinary expenditure, but has also, to a great extent, provided for the outlay on capital accounts. The estimates for the coming year will be laid before you at an early date. 'Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate: Gentlemen of the House of Commons: A united application having been received by my ministers from the governments of the several provinces asking for an increase in the provincial subsidies, a conference was recently held when the reasons for granting additional aid were fully set forth and discussed. The revenue has shown a large expansion reached by my government will be submitted for your consideration. 'Senate Not Busy. The senate had very little business to transact after the formal opening proceedings. It was decided to commence the debate on the speech from the throne on Monday evening. Senator Jeffrey will be the mover, and probably Senator Roy will be the seconder. 'Hyman's Resignation. The sensation in the Commons was an announcement that Hon. C. H. Hyman had resigned his seat. Speaker Sutherland announced he had received a letter from Mr. Hyman, but it was irregular in form, consequently it will be necessary to communicate with Mr. Hyman and ask him to conform with the parliamentary rules. As laid down by Bourinot, a member may resign his seat by giving notice formally in writing to the speaker. The resignation of the clerk in the journals. Another method is by addressing and delivering to the speaker a declaration of his intention to resign, made under his hand and seal before two witnesses. 'On Sir Wilfrid Laurier's motion it was decided to take the speech from the throne into consideration tomorrow. 'MacLean to the Front. MacLean has a bill on the order paper to put sleeping car and telegraph companies under the railway commission. He also wants a repeal of the anti-ticket scalping law. 'The Government Dinner. The Government dinner at Government House tonight. The invitation list was purely official. Lady Grey later gave a reception to the wives of the gentlemen invited to the dinner. 'Immigration Bonuses. The Superintendent of Immigration has sent out a circular to agents of the department in Great Britain explaining the present position of the immigration and explaining to them to be circumspect in their methods of conducting business. 'Another circular to booking agents in the United Kingdom says that a bonus of one pound will be paid for each adult over 18 years of age booked for Canada of the following classes: Farmers, farm laborers, gardeners, stablemen, and domestics. A bonus of ten shillings will be paid for immigrants booked between 1 and 18 years of age. No bonus will be paid to head officers of steamship or railway companies.

STEAM BARGE SINKS AND CREW ARE LOST

Six Men Fail in Attempt to Reach Shore in a Small Boat. Toronto, Nov. 22.—The steam barge Resolute owned by Haney and Miller, contractors, foundered off the Western gap this morning, and in an effort to reach shore in a small boat, six of the crew were lost. They are: John Harrison, chief engineer, Deseront; Thomas Topping, second engineer, Deseront; David White, deck hand, Prescott; Harry Gregory, fireman, Bath, England; and John Burns, fireman, Perth Colborne; Nelson Whittman.

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