

motherland, and whose avowed object it is, and for long has been, to bring about annexation with the United States. There is the *Globe* staff of old forgey anti-British agitators of the Anglin, Edgar and Cameron type. There is the *Mail* company of disaffected office seekers or position hunters, whose avowed object it was once declared to be to "smash Confederation" as a consequence of disappointed hopes. There is a fifth rate and somewhat hysterical Thos. Shaw individual whose only virtue is his sincerity. There are secessionists, displeased politicians, and pronounced annexationists always; but of men of substance, loyal Canadians, and well balanced minds, there is a terrible dearth in the ranks of the propagators. Such being the case, beyond all peradventure—as those who run may see—the fate of the issue when joined, is certain; but whilst assured, the very fact of such a proposition being presented, should rouse the loyal and true to a fuller review of our existing status, with a determination to extend and to more closely weld together our destinies in connection with the Empire. This can only be done by a combined pressure brought to bear upon our politicians to propound a scheme of practical commercial confederation with the Empire and its 300,000,000 of peoples.

In a few words my idea is by means of Confederation of the British Empire, politically and commercially, to extend our commerce on free trade principles with 300,000,000 of British subjects, whereas the Annexationists, I beg pardon, I should say "Commercial Unionists," propose to restrict our trade relations practically to 40,000,000 of foreigners!

If they do not mean that, then what do they mean?

Assuredly, the political wirepullers of the so-called Reform party in Canada are in a bad plight, since they have to violate every principle of Liberalism and loyalty in their endeavour to constitute a platform.

From a local point of view, as a St. Thomasite, it requires no keen insight to foresee the direct and immediate effect such a suicidal course of national prositution would have upon St. Thomas—nothing under "Commercial Union" conditions could prevent the local trade going to Detroit. We now have advantage taken of every excursion to that city, to smuggle over American goods, and many take advantage of such excursions solely for that purpose, and consider it pays and is perfectly fair to do so.

Now, in the name of common sense, if on so small a scale, every opportunity is seized to buy in an American city, what would be the immensity of this exchange under free trade conditions? Not only would St. Thomas be practically wiped out, but every town and village between St. Thomas and Detroit would be converted into a desolate wilderness.

I do not propose in this article to enter into a dissertation upon political economy, but will confine myself to a denial of the practical effects of "Commercial Union" as claimed by its friends, always assuming in my refutations thereof, that they really mean by "Commercial Union" that, and that only—not political union.

When "Political Union" is openly propounded, it will be necessary to meet them on other grounds. So long, however, as they continue to assert that they do *not* mean annexation it should be sufficient to prove the utter impracticability of commercial union such as is proposed—consistently with political disunion. Commercial Union would simply build up the trade of the United States, drive out of Canada every industry, deprive our farmers of any local market, and hand us over body and soul to the mercies of "Brother Jonathan," and would be in fact the most utterly ridiculous and shameful surrender of nationality and display of ostrich-like stupidity, it is possible to conceive.

In an "annexation" cry there would be at least something rational—even though repulsive.

What is wanted, however, is a continuation of our commercial policy, the development of our resources, and the fostering of such industries as under fair conditions can hold

their own in the future, and in the meantime to discuss and consider ways and means whereby to further enlarge our political and commercial status, with a view to a closer welding together of our interests and kinship with the empire in its vast entirety.

We are all free traders in theory, but present conditions demand primary consideration, and the idea and special object of Imperial Federationists is to enlarge the field of free trade in the not far distant future under Imperial conditions.

ALFRED E. RIDLEY.

SONS OF ENGLAND SOCIETY.

GRAND SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
SHAFTESBURY HALL, TORONTO.

The Most Worthy Grand President, with the Right Worthy Grand Secretary, instituted Devonshire Lodge, No. 53, in London, Ont., on Thursday, Nov. 24th. This is the third lodge in London and promises to be the largest and most influential in that district. The order is growing very rapidly in this division.

On Friday the 25th the Grand Lodge officers instituted the second degree in London, at which representatives were present from all the lodges.

On Saturday the Grand Lodge officers visited Windsor and instituted the second degree to the members of Prince of Wales Lodge. The progress made by this lodge is very encouraging; the brethren are very enthusiastic and working harmoniously for the order. The trip of the Grand President and Grand Secretary to this extreme section of the province produced a good impression.

All alterations or amendments to the constitution should be sent in to the Grand Secretary by the 1st of December.

The Grand Lodge will meet in the city of Toronto, Shaftesbury Hall, on the second Tuesday of February, 1888.

The Grand President will pay an official visit to Essex Lodge on the 2nd, Sussex on the 9th, and Lansdowne on the 12th of December.

Albion Lodge will celebrate the anniversary of the order on the 12th, at Shaftesbury Hall; Lansdowne, Peterborough, on the 12th, and Somerset, Parkdale, on the 14th of December.

The Grand Secretary expects in a short time to institute two new lodges in Ottawa during the month of December.

THE GRAND SECRETARY ADVISES ALL MEMBERS TO SUBSCRIBE FOR THE "ANGLO-SAXON."

Ottawa.

The first annual concert of the Sons of England of Ottawa, in aid of the charitable funds of Derby and Bowood lodges, took place in the Grand Opera House on Wednesday, November 9th, the anniversary of the birth of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, under the distinguished patronage of their Excellencies the Governor-General and the Marchioness of Lansdowne. The programme was filled by the following artists:—Mrs. Caldwell, soprano, of Toronto, who sang "A staccato polka," Cuckoo Song, "Lo! hear the gentle lark;" Miss Maad Burdette, contralto, of Boston, who sang "Best of all," "Thine eyes so blue and tender," and "The Broken pitcher;" Mr. Sims Richards, tenor, of Toronto, who sang "The gay hussar," "Where'er St. George's banner waves;" Mr. W. Edgar Buck, basso, of London, England, who sang "Guiding light," "They all love Jack," "Hearts of oak," "Old Simon the cellarer." A duet between tenor and bass, "The old brigade;" duet between soprano and contralto, "The mocking bird." Two quartettes, "Oh! the roast beef of Old England," and "God Bless the Prince of Wales;" three pianoforte solos, by Miss Jean Ramsay Brown, "No. 4 Allegretto, Schubert," "Chant, Polonais op. 74," Chopin, Liszt and "Berceuse;" a violin obligato by Mr. Robert Brewer, of Ottawa; an overture and selection by a picked orchestra under Mr. James Carter, completed the evening's musical pleasure.

The following composed the committee of management:—

Messrs. R. J. Wicksteed, LL.D., W. C. Cousens, M.D., R. W. Powell, M.D., E. J. Reynolds, J. T. Hickmett, J. Davis, A. Short, E. Ackroyd, Geo. Low, Sr., Jas. Foster, J. Shepherd, C. Bott, J. Goodall, W. R. Stroud, H. Bott, W. T. Mason, W. Taylor, E. B. Moreland, A. Snuggs, H. Cawdron, W. Percy, W. Fest, G. Nicholson, R. A. Crouch, Geo. Ambridge, T. H. Jennings, and J. Chadwick. J. T. Bartram, Chairman, R. J. Tanner, Secretary.

The stage, vice-regal box and dressing rooms were tastefully decorated; the arrangements were complete inside and outside the House, and perfect good taste, beauty and thoroughness characterized the work of the committee. The artists were gratified at the handsome manner in which they were treated during their stay. The noble patrons—their Excellencies—said in turn, to one of the managers: "I desire to thank you much for a very pleasant evening;" and this their opinion was echoed by the brilliant assemblage of some four hundred of Ottawa's fairest and bravest.