

FROM WEEK TO WEEK

"Spectator's" Discussion of Topics of Interest to Churchmen

"SPECTATOR" had the privilege of attending the banquet given by the Board of Trade of Toronto to the members of the Imperial Congress of the Chambers of Commerce. Between four and five hundred men representing practically every unit of the Empire, men of substance and influence, were present, and in their hands in no small degree lay the production and transportation of commodities that minister to the convenience and comfort of a large portion of the world. The president was a member of the House of Lords, there was a knight or two, but beyond these the men that make and move our commerce are plain citizens who have not attracted to themselves the honours of public life. We are disposed to think of Canada as the young man's place of opportunity, but among the British delegation there were those who seemed to have quite recently emerged from boyhood. Without any embarrassment or apparent self-consciousness they presented resolutions of international bearing, and were received with the same attention in the deliberations of the Congress as those of larger and more extended experience. At the banquet referred to the writer could not but feel that our Imperial visitors had hardly a fair opportunity to judge Canadian hospitality at its best. He is not, of course, referring to the menu, but to the intellectual part of the refectation. The speeches which were almost all made by Canadians located in Ontario had manifestly for their inspiration the extension of Canadian commerce, the larger investment of British capital and the encouragement of immigration. Both the Dominion in general and the Province of Ontario in particular were held up to the presumed admiring gaze of our guests. They were turned about so that they could be viewed from every angle, from their area to their activity, from their men to their metals, from their corn to their cataracts, thus these men from the ends of the earth were fed up with the story of our esteem for ourselves and our possessions. Towards midnight, the toast to "our guests" at length arrived, and the giver of the toast, true to the form of the evening, forgot all about the guests and the countries from whence they came and added his tribute to the—hosts! One waited in vain throughout the banquet for a whole-hearted recognition of some of the achievements of at least one spot outside our Dominion. Have we no debt to acknowledge in poetry, art, literature, political organization, social ideals, commercial worth, military achievements, naval guardianship, men who stand before the world as its greatest leaders? The guests didn't supply the omission, possibly, because after all they had heard—like the Queen of Sheba—there was no more spirit in them.

In the excellent speech delivered by Sir George Foster at the banquet given to the Imperial Chambers of Commerce, his most impressive passage was an appeal to the leaders before him to give more attention to the humanities of trade and industry. He pointed out that the starting point of commerce was the exchange of the necessities of life. Men had to live before they did business. The very beginning of all these great enterprises that girdled the earth today was the primitive effort of one man supplying another with those

things on which life depended, and receiving in exchange something which was equally necessary for himself. The second step in the development of commerce brought in the element of profit. To-day the latter feature of trade has a tendency to obscure the former. Sir George warned the captains of industry before him, that if they hoped for peace and understanding in the conduct of their industries they must give more attention to the humanizing features of their business. The wellbeing of humanity takes precedence over dividends. Some few months ago "Spectator" ventured to address exactly the same advice to the men who lead in the commercial world, asking them to make this very thing a prominent subject of consideration at their congresses and conferences, and to let the world know that they were doing so. A correspondent hastened to rebuke him as ignorant, stupid, and the Lord knows what else. He was the one man on the face of all the whole earth that didn't know that all this is being done and had been done to perfection. Would the correspondent in question now direct his attention to George Eulas Foster, Knight, Minister of Trade and Commerce for the Dominion of Canada?

There is one point in the position taken by the Bishops at Lambeth, regarding the hoped-for ministry, "acknowledged by every part of the Church," that ought not to escape the attention of either Anglicans or non-Anglicans. "Spectator" refers to the suggestion that "if the authorities of other Communion should so desire, we are persuaded that terms of union, having been otherwise satisfactorily adjusted, Bishops and clergy of our Communion would willingly accept from these authorities a form of commission or recognition," etc., and to "the hope that the same motive would lead ministers who have not received it to accept a commission through episcopal ordination," etc. This appeal is addressed "to all Christian people." That includes Roman Catholics as well as Methodists. If this offer, suggestion or hope means anything, is it not intended to hold in a far wider sense than some of our non-Anglican Protestants seem to think. Doesn't it mean that when we come to that full and final union of the whole Catholic Church—"all Christian people"—we have laid down the principle to which we ourselves may be called upon to submit? Let us project ourselves into the future. We will assume that the non-Roman branches of the Christian Church have been united in spirit and in deed on the lines set forth at Lambeth. We have come to the final act of unification. We are earnestly wrestling with the problem of union with the Roman Catholic authorities. The "terms of union having been otherwise satisfactorily adjusted" there remains the point of Anglican Orders. It is the last rock that stands in the path leading to a magnificent attainment. The Roman authorities say: "Our Bishops and priests will gladly receive a commission so that they may minister acceptably in your congregations; we hope that your ministers will accept a commission through "Catholic" ordination, and thus attain a ministry throughout the whole fellowship." They further add that "in so acting no one of us could possibly be taken to repudiate his past ministry," etc. Now what shall be the issue? Judging by the whole spirit of "the Ap-

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peal," the Report and the Resolutions of the Bishops, "Spectator" is convinced that although the principles laid down have been applied in one direction only, they are applicable and intended to apply to the eventuality assumed. Let us not scoff at the possibility of such circumstances arising. Wonderful things have and are happening, and we dare not say that anything is impossible. It may help, therefore, to bear these things in mind.

"Spectator."

The greatest corn crop in the history of the United States is in prospect for this year's harvest. Forecast of production based on September 1 conditions, was placed at 3,131,000,000 bushels by the Department of Agriculture. Such a yield would exceed by six million bushels the previous largest crop on record, which was in 1912. A crop of even larger proportions will be harvested if frosts hold off until late and permit maturity of much late corn now rated as of doubtful promise.

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