

AMBASSADOR BRYCE

[The following article was printed in The Monetary Times when the Honorable James Bryce was appointed the British Ambassador at Washington. Mr. Bryce was a visitor to several Canadian cities last week, where he delivered several significant addresses, and the article is republished below in view of its timely interest.—Editor, Monetary Times.]

There is something curious about the retirement of Sir Mortimer Durand from the British Ambassadorship at Washington. At fifty-six years of age he has left the diplomatic service for good and all. It is notorious that the British embassy at Washington has sunk in importance during his incumbency. Discussion of his retirement in well-informed British newspapers makes it pretty clear that he was never big enough for the post.

Mr. Bryce, who is to be the new ambassador, has a great reputation as a philosophical litterateur. His books, "The American Commonwealth," "The Holy Roman Empire," and "South Africa" are monuments of industry, patience and discrimination. He is not nearly so brilliant a man as is often supposed. He is not clever enough to do silly things. His literary work is quite without distinction of style. He belongs to that cult of liberal thinkers which, without saying so, imagines itself to be a very special intellectual aristocracy. But he has none of the affectations of the pedant, and he would make an excellent Ambassador, though, except by way of coming in contact with distinguished foreigners, his training has not been in the diplomatic school.

It is an agreeable indication of the drift of things that several London newspapers have proposed the selection of a Canadian for the post. Such an appointment is not likely to be made this time. But it will come after a while. It is a pity that undoubted Canadian patriots, who should know better, have deprecated the idea of a Canadian Ambassador on the ground that the Dominion has no citizen able enough for the job, because no one has had the right kind of training. The secretaryship of the embassy is said to be good enough for us.

This surely is the weakest thing that was ever written by an earnest Imperialist on a topic related to the advance of Canada to international rank. Not training, but gumption, is primarily needed in diplomacy, as well as in journalism and railroad building. Sir Mortimer Durand had plenty of training and was a grotesque failure. Only two years ago he said to an eminent English statesman in Washington, "We are getting along very well, and would do even better if it were not for those confounded Canadians." Nearly every diplomatic bungler has been trained in the service. In London, the centre of the world, the most brilliant and successful ambassadors have been Americans, who had no training for the post in the narrow sense of the word.

It is the peculiar advantage of American ambassadors to England, and British ambassadors to Washington, that they can cultivate fraternal sentiments between their countries in a way that is impossible to every other ambassador in every other country, because the speech and literature of the two nations are the same. Though the average American does not understand the privileges of an inheritor of the tongue which Shakespeare spake, his cultivated compatriot does. The dominant fact of modern world progress is the expansion of the English-speaking people. The British ambassador at Washington who is governed by the insular prejudices of two generations ago is not good enough for superannuation.

The American Ambassador in London almost invariably circulates through the country, listening and making speeches, whereas the British Ambassador to Washington has probably thought it beneath his dignity to fraternize with the citizens of the Republic. At times he has exhibited an ill-concealed indifference to this part

of the Empire, whose servant he is. The appointment of Mr. Bryce will certainly produce a change from the bad old way of doing things. No British Ambassador previously appointed has had a recognizable reputation among the American people. It will not be so with Mr. Bryce. Though he is not a spellbinder, he speaks excellently well; and has such an illimitable store of knowledge that he would dispense a great deal of enlightenment to the Americans without being conscious that he had lost anything.

THE SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

"The unfamiliar sight of a newspaper, the Inland Colonist, of Kitselas, printed on light brown paper of more than usual thickness, and the editorial explanation that, "owing to the lack of newsprint in town, the paper is being printed on wrapping paper supplied by local tradesmen," makes us pause to pay a tribute to the spirit that will not be beaten. It is the spirit that has made the West; a spirit that has been richly exemplified by the pioneer newspapermen of British Columbia and the prairie provinces.

"In proportion to its population Canada has more newspapers than any country in the world. It is a fact to be read into the other fact of Canada's great development. The newspaper is a necessity to development. Nothing helps a town more internally, nor advertises it more effectively to the outside world than a well-conducted newspaper. For instance, an English school mistress with interests in Prince Rupert writes to the Daily News this week, and tells of reading to her class a story of the castaways on Zayas Island in an Optimist of two or three months ago; a subscriber in York, England, tells of how the paper is passed round among a circle of friends; a story of the exploits of a Graham Island settler on his way to his pre-emption brings an inquiry from Virginia about Graham Island. The wideawakeness of the frontier newspaper puts to shame the hundreds of towns in Great Britain with from 5,000 to 15,000 inhabitants who cannot support a local newspaper.

"Getting out a newspaper on the frontier is a very different matter to getting out a newspaper in a city block with a paper factory at one end and a machine shop and type foundry in the basement. It was the editor of the Inland Colonist, we think, who entertained his readers last fall with a harrowing tale of his troubles with a broken chase. In a city not one man in a thousand knows what a chase is; in Kitselas every man, woman and child has a personal knowledge of and regard for the source of the Colonist's trouble. Every time the monkey wrench drops into the press and gets run over by accident every man, woman and child in Kitselas goes into mourning with the editor.

"And this spirit that will not down, this spirit that runs the edition off on wrapping paper rather than be beaten, affects a whole community. It inspires others to share in the sacrifice. Many a man in Kitselas this winter has carried home his new suit of clothes over his arm, saying: 'Never mind wrapping it up. Send the wrapper over to the Colonist instead with my compliments.' Many a woman has stayed up late at nights hunting up wrappers from parcels and smoothing them out for the press. Getting out those brown paper editions has become a communal feature, something in which everyone in Kitselas could lend a hand or a sheet of paper.

"The spirit that prints the edition on brown paper of various shades is the spirit that conquers. It is the spirit that has built up the West. It is something to boast of. So with a feeling of genuine regret we read in the last edition the editor's announcement that he intends to move his plant and energies to Telkwa—a place he announces in capitals, where every man is a born booster. Is this latter a sly dig at Kitselas?"—Prince Rupert Daily News.

PEACE RIVER DISTRICT MAY HAVE RAILWAY.

That a new railway is shortly to be constructed in the West, connecting the Peace River district with British Columbia, is the statement made by Mr. Lloyd Jones, manager of the Corporation Agencies, Limited, of Montreal. French capital has become interested in this district, and they have sent over some men who looked over the district and decided that it could be opened up by a railway to the coast.

What is to be the British Columbia terminal has not been decided as yet, but the railway is expected to start from Dunvee, in the Peace River district. It will cost, Mr. Jones says, \$50,000,000, but will make the Peace River district of great value, for it will give easy access to the coast, from which place produce grown may be shipped to Europe via the Panama Canal.