



This is how Dr. Cook, the alleged first discoverer of the North Pole, looked to the imaginative eye of Mr Cyrus Cuneo, in Illustrated London News.

## THE CENTENARY CELEBRATION

By R. S. NEVILLE, K. C.

THE movement in favour of a celebration of the Century of Peace, which has existed between Canada and the United States of America, is only one of a number of projects which have been put forward by different societies, and there seems to be a general feeling that there should be a celebration or a series of celebrations during the years from 1912 to 1915 to commemorate the great events which preserved British North America to the Crown and Empire in 1812-14, and to celebrate the Century of Peace which has followed.

The events to be celebrated have a national, an imperial and an international aspect.

From the national viewpoint, Canadians will feel that the highest regard and reverence should be paid to the memory of those who saved the sparsely settled provinces of a hundred years ago to the Crown, and made a trans-continental British North America Dominion possible.

From the Imperial standpoint, the Canada of to-day is an important link in the chain of nations that encircles the world and provides the Empire with naval bases, coaling stations and centres of strength on both sides of every ocean and on every continent.

In its international aspect, the successful defence of Canada in 1812-14 will be as potent an influence upon the history of the world as the American Revolution, for it laid the foundations of another nation in the Western Hemisphere, destined to be equally as great as the United States and threw its weight in the international scales on the side of that imperial power which leads the world in the paths of peace and freedom.

The Centennial Celebration of the events of 1812-14 will, therefore, arouse the enthusiasm of the Canadian people, invite the hearty co-operation of the whole Empire, and, if commensurate with the occasion, it will attract the attention of mankind.

We should, however, utterly fail to appreciate the unique opportunity now afforded us, if we did not invite an international celebration of the Century of Peace which has followed the war, but I entirely dissent from those whose proposals contemplate a celebration confined to Canada and the

United States only. The peace which Canada has enjoyed, has been due to the powerful protection of the Motherland and to her unmatched diplomatic success in America. Besides it has been a peace between Great Britain and the United States, and we should be taking an entirely too narrow view if we did not invite the active and prominent participation of the British Government.

Nor is this enough. We should invite France. The war of 1812-14 was simultaneous with the war with Napoleon and the last shot in each war was fired within a few months. There has been a hundred years of peace, therefore, between England and France, as well as between England and the United States. Not only have those conditions of peace been tripartite and contemporaneous, but has been a degree of parallelism between Britain's relations with France and her relations with the United States. Occasionally, during the 19th century, England and France co-operated in foreign affairs, yet on the whole they were rivals and looked upon each other as hereditary enemies. Occasionally, also, Britain and the United States worked together, but the hereditary policy of the United States was to drive monarchical institutions out of the Western Hemisphere. Friction and friendship alternated in both cases. It could hardly be otherwise, for the colonial policies of Britain and France clashed and Britain's very presence in America was contrary to the settled policy of the United States.

In the middle of the last decade of the 19th century, the relations of the two foreign nations with Great Britain were simultaneously put to the test. France commenced an expedition from the French Congo into the Soudan and the President of the United States, almost at the same time, through his Secretary of State, sent the famous Venezuelan Despatch, which went far beyond the discussion of the matter at issue, and practically, though irrelevantly, notified Great Britain to quit this Hemisphere. The danger with the United States quickly passed, but the terrible journey of the French expedition through Africa took three years to accomplish, and when Sir Herbert (now Lord) Kitchener met the French expedition at Fashoda, in 1898, Major Marchand's force was so weakened

by hardship that Kitchener could easily have crushed it. But instead of either party attacking the other, Kitchener had a friendly interview with Marchand, planted the British flag beside the French flag there in the African wilds, and the two agreed to leave the question of territorial jurisdiction to be decided by their respective Governments. Considerable temporary excitement in the homelands resulted, but, as in the Venezuelan matter, so also in this, good sense prevailed, and the French agreed to withdraw from the Soudan upon getting a freer hand in Tunis.

Thus, Kitchener and Marchand, outside the bounds of civilisation, commenced that drawing together of the two flags which culminated in the agreement of 1904, by which all matters between England and France were settled throughout the world. It was the intensity of the temporary excitement that brought both nations to realise the terrible misfortune it would be to both to have war break out, no matter which was successful. It was also the intensity of the temporary excitement in the Venezuelan case that produced the same realisation on the part of the United States. Their securities had a panicky fall of a thousand millions of dollars in about 24 hours, which is the equivalent of the indemnity which France was forced to pay Germany after a disastrous defeat in the Franco-German war. Naturally, the financial and business men of the United States came to a quick understanding of the national disaster that must result if actual war should follow.

It was also in the very year when Kitchener and Marchand met in Africa that the Spanish-American war broke out, and a European combination to intervene on behalf of Spain was vetoed by England. The United States thus realised that after all England was the only friend they had, and as the result of the war was that the United States became a "world power" with extensive overseas possessions, the value of British friendship to them became much more important, and this has since been emphasized by the potent influence of England in the interest of friendly relations between the United States and Japan. Hence, it will

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