# The Colonist.

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## THE DAILY COLONIST

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### THE FUTURE OF CANADA.

We should not shut our eyes to what the publicists of the United States have to say about the future of our country. For a long time the public opinion of the United States regarded Canada as certain to fall into the possession of the United States, because it was too insignificant and too inconsiderable to either stand alone or be worth retaining by Great Britain. This conception of Canada, the growth and wealth of Canada have forced the well-informed public opinion of the United States to abandon. A country which leads the world in the per capita value of its export trade, and which is so rich that half a million people inhabiting the fringe of one portion, produce annually fifty million dollars worth of the staff of life, is obviously one regarding which the reconstruction of such an idea is entirely necessary. The material environment by which the conditions of human life are determined is clearly one which can never force such a country to any course of action it does not voluntarily adopt from considerations of an entirely different character. The conclusion arrived at by Mr. Frank B. Tracy in the North American Review is that the Canadian Dominion will ultimately become part of the United States. His argument is that the separation of Canada and the United States is abnormal and temporary. The two peoples are almost homogeneous. With the acquisitions of Louisiana, Florida and the Pacific West the next natural step in the expansion of the United States was the absorption of Canada, but just at the time when conditions were ripest for the change came the American civil war, which alienated the two countries and led in 1866 to the termination of the reciprocity treaty of 1854. Mr. Tracy admits that Canadians today manifest no desire for annexation; but he believes that time and growth must bring it to pass. The barriers between the two countries are largely fictitious; the two peoples "are much more alike in spirit than are New Englanders and Texans." Mr. Tracy believes that there is a process of assimilation going on between the Canadian and American type of character which will eventually bring Canada into the arms of the United States of her own volition. With this interpretation of the future history of the North American continent, we beg most emphatically to differ. Patriotism, we are willing to admit, is, in the last analysis, the fruit of the conditions under which men live, and no sentimental adherence to any flag or dynastic constitution can possibly be maintained against permanently inferior conditions imposed by that flag or constitution. We grant all that, and yet remain of the opinion that the publicists of the United States turn an unwarrantably blind eye to the entire lack of attraction that country and its institutions have for Canada. To tell the honest truth, the United States would have to have a thorough housecleaning before it was fit for Canada to dwell in. A country with nine millions of negroes in it by cant and humbug free and equal to white men, by practice and custom dominated by the superior race, is not at all attractive to a country of equal area inhabitated by a sturdy and homogeneous race. A country which imports nearly a million of the scum of Europe annually, and refuses to maintain the breed of its own strongest and most virile stock, is one whose future we may be excused for dreading too much to share it. A country whose laws are good simply because they are the conventional tribute paid by hypocrisy to virtue, and whose administration of these laws is made an engine for the protection only of rich men and criminals, rich men because they can buy its tribunals and criminals because they can defy them, is a country in which life and property are too insecure for the admiration of a people whose men walk by day and by night in equal safety. A country in which the rights of property are only protected by hired mercenaries and in which the rights of labor are only asserted by violence and assassination is a country with which we dread assimilation and do not desire it. A country whose politics is so corrupt that corruption has lost its meaning, its penalties, and its stigma, is not tolerable by a country with still enough of virtue to fight corruption where it finds it. No! This forecast of the destiny of Canada is based upon a wrong reading of events, and of the motives which influence mankind in the individual and the mass. It is far more likely that Canada will continue to absorb and convert to a reasoned patriotism upon the true basis of sound institutions and equal law, some of the best elements in the United States, and vindicate in the history of North America, as our forefathers did in Europe, the eternal supremacy of the northern lands and the northern races. When Mr. Tracy deals with the relations between Canada and Great Britain, he is dealing with something with which our relations with the United States have little or nothing to do, and which he is equally incapable of comprehending. His idea is that the connection of Canada and England is of no material value, political or commercial to either, and that the tie binding Canada to the Empire has been a clog socially, politically and nationally, and that Canada cannot continue to be half nation and half subject colony. We freely admit that except as the forerunner of an organic Imperial Union the tie which now exists between Canada and Great Britain is of little or no advantage to either country. But its development depends not upon Canada but upon Great Britain. If that development is ever denied and its fruition disappointed it will be the work of Great Britain and not of Canada, which regards the Empire with passionate love and its future with equally passionate expectation. When Goldwin Smith, a very eloquent British exponent of the views of Mr. Tracy, writes that "the idea of a United Continent of North America, securing free trade and intercourse over a vast area with internal safety and external peace is no less practical than it is grand," we agree that it is practical and not devoid of grandeur, but neither so practical nor so grand as a world-wide Imperial Union upon the basis of Anglo-Saxon civilization, of an integral part in which Canada is the unquestioned heir, and into which it is not unlikely that, in the future, the United States might beg admittance. This is Canadian loyalty to the Empire, and only if Great Britain abdicates her great prerogative of assisting in its full development, will Canadian loyalty ever become atrophied and decay.


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### CAUSE AND EFFECT.

We have often enough prophesied the present condition of the New York Stock Exchange to take a melancholy satisfaction in what is otherwise a somewhat serious phenomenon. We have never been able to subscribe to the doctrine that wealth could be created by amalgamations and consolidations and over-capitalizations. The fact that the "insecurities" thus produced were exchanged at a high price was a proof that the nation had wealth, not that it was increasing it. The speculators were enriched by this kind of business not the people, and the speculators are now looking round for a cause of the condition of affairs which has checked their enrichment. They declare that when the United States government brought action against the Northern Securities Company as an illegal merger, capital received a shock and confidence was destroyed. As a matter of fact we may be excused for thinking that the revelations of dishonest promoting which have taken place, have destroyed the confidence of the small investor, on whom the whole structure of sudden millionaires and bloated financiers is really built. It is curious to reflect that while two years ago the Schwabs and Morgans and Gateses were types of all that was most admirable and desirable in the United States, they are now generally recognized as products of a dangerous mania of stock and share speculation. What we honestly confess we did not expect was that this mania could have passed away with so little disturbance to the prosperity of the United States and the continent. The slump in stock exchange values and the wreckage among over-capitalized companies and combinations cannot go very much further than they have already gone. Yet the general prosperity is unabated, and, in the West particularly, Wall street might be Timbuctoo for all the suffering caused by its tribulations. The power of resistance developed on this continent, both in Canada and the United States, to conditions which in most countries would have precipitated a violent panic, is something marvelous. The ordinary conditions of business have been barely disturbed by a series of violent shocks in what is supposed to be the centre of affairs. The West suffered by the extraordinary concentration of surplus capital upon what are called "industrials." In our opinion the West is bound to gain through the release of capital from absorption in industrials and its application to the development of new resources. The savings of the people of this continent, both in Canada and the United States, have been absorbed in the maintenance of inflated values in the shares of manufacturing concerns. That has stopped, but the accumulation of capital has not stopped, and it is the turn of the mines, forests and wheat fields of the West which is coming in the immediate future. It is thus that we interpret the situation as it now stands, and it is full of good omen for British Columbia, the greatest and widest and richest of the but partially developed portions of North America.

### THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

The Canadian attitude towards the decision of the Alaskan Boundary Commission is one of suspense. About the decision we do not care. Our main consideration is the means by which it was arrived at. If the right was not ours, and we deceived ourselves, why should we not submit like any other litigant cast in a suit at law? But if the right was ours, and for reasons of policy, our interests have been sacrificed, it is a very different matter. We have two reasons for being in doubt in this matter. One is that the United States refused to submit its case to the arbitrament of an independent tribunal, and insisted upon the appointment of one-half of the commission, men who are politicians and not jurists, and who signified their intention of bating not one jot upon the American contentions before ever the commission sat. In this connection the eloquent peroration of Mr. Dickinson, the United States counsel, is worth reproducing. "The tribunal," declared Mr. Dickinson, "is unique, and the treaty will entirely miscarry unless at least one member shall decide against the contention of his own people. The faith thus manifested by the governments of Great Britain and America that judgment and justice will be exalted above the plane where the sympathies that move men have sway, challenges the attention of mankind and distinguishes this tribunal above all others. It does not follow that a failure to reach a decision will show that such faith was in any degree misplaced; but if a settlement is reached it will be a triumphant epoch in history, the struggle of humanitarian principles for the substitution of something better than war as the sole court determining international differences. What could give higher inspiration to those laboring for the peace of the world than the settlement of these issues, so pregnant with possibilities? If the tribunal should render judgment practically unanimous, it would be the strougest assurance yet given to humanity that the Christian nations are tending towards the only practical realization of the poet's dream of a parliament of nations and a confederation of the world." With every word of that we agree. It is one of the greatest pleas for international just dealing according to law as applied to international relations, ever penned. But its force, to us, is somewhat diminished by the fact that it was addressed to admittedly closed ears so far as the United States commissioners were concerned, of whom everyone was pledged, by what he owes to his political career, and by his previous statements, to the maintenance of the United States case in its entirety. The second reason we have for doubt is that the prevailing tone of the British press has not been the necessity of maintaining Imperial rights, but the necessity of cultivating the friendship of the United States. Can we be sure that this necessity has not influenced the decision of the tribunal. Frankly, then, the matter is still in suspense, and it is still in suspense because it has still to be submitted to the Canadian people. For the loss of territory, for an adverse decision, they care nothing. But upon their decision whether it has been fairly done much depends. We are a people patient above the ordinary, and in the eyes of many, subordinate, but nevertheless a people seized by a burning sense of justice, a sustaining conviction of our own power, and a firm determination that if less than justice has been done us, those responsible shall rue it.

The Honorable Artillery Company of London has been paying a visit to its original offshoot in the city of Boston. If we are to believe the New York Evening Post, the development of these ancient and honorable bodies has proceeded along somewhat different lines since they originally parted company. That newspaper says in welcoming the London company to New York: "In welcoming the Honorable Artillery Company of London to this city we frankly confess to certain feelings of surprise. We had supposed that venerable organization to be as nearly as possible like its Boston offshoot—rather of indefinite jest than of minute accuracy in gunnery; representatives of civic dignity and of heroic gastronomy rather than devotees of the drill yard and steady occupants of the caisson. But it appears that the London company is largely made up of young men, that it contains few members of imposing portliness, that it eats and drinks in moderation, is capable of a prolonged march, and conceivably might go into action without universal apoplexy. Such a conditions of things rudely counters all American notions of a civic artillery company, but when we come to look at it, we rather like it. We conceive that the Honorables may be on their good behavior, and we sincerely condole with the Ancients and the Old Guard in their disappointment at finding their guests something less than heroic in accepting liquid hospitality. But we admit a certain pleasure in discovering a city militia company whose works are not wholly comprised in the creation of records of 'empties.'"

### EASY FOES.

The lines taken by the opponents of Mr. Chamberlain's imperial policy should make his eventual victory much easier. First, we had Mr. Ritchie speaking of the punishment the United States would mete out to Canada, now we have Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman joining the Little Englander campaign to the sympathies of the British pro-Boers in the late war. The people of the British Empire regret that war. It was costly in blood and treasure and waged against brave opponents. It revealed both the weakness and the strength of the empire. Had it not been for the response of the Colonies it would have very seriously injured the prestige of Great Britain even in ultimate victory. But as it was, it enormously increased the power and solidarity of the Empire as a whole. We regret the war—all wars are regrettable, but we do not regret one step taken by Great Britain prior to the outbreak of hostilities. In the Transvaal we had a small state turned for years previous into a military arsenal with no power against whom its arms could be directed except Great Britain. We had these military preparations masking an inevitable ultimate ambition of shearing South Africa from the British Empire. We had a denial of the just claims of Great Britain, and finally an irruption in force into British territory, and all this based upon a deep-rooted conviction that the Boer and not the Briton was the dominant force in South Africa. If it was "bluff" to meet that with decision and finally, when necessary, with force, then may we always have such "bluffers" as Mr. Chamberlain to depend upon! The outbreak of hostilities was greeted on all sides as the first break which heralded the disruption of the Empire, and it was this more than anything which elicited the wonderful display of Union sentiment, that amazed and confounded the world. The South African quarrel was nothing to us, but the Union was and remains everything to us. Mr. Chamberlain is now fighting the economic forces of empire disintegration which are more subtle and more dangerous than any force of arms which could possibly be brought against it. He found Great Britain asleep and has awakened her rudely and with violence. We have known people to resent being awakened from slumber even if danger and opportunity justified the rudeness. Against Mr. Chamberlain there was a widespread feeling of irritation over the disturbance he has created. But the conviction is growing, and will grow, that it is time Great Britain was awake, and there is nothing which will more assist its growth than the lullabies with which Mr. Ritchie and Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman are attempting to soothe her to sleep again.

### PLEASING DREAMS.

The Liberals are, as usual, amusing themselves in their discomfiture, by reckoning on disunion among their opponents. Do they really imagine that a party dependent upon union for power, is going to be disintegregated by the ambitions of any of its individual members? Such is not a reasonable proposition. Individual members of the Conservative party have no doubt their legitimate and honorable ambitions, just the same as individual members of the Liberal party have theirs. Why should they not? But that is a very different matter from refusing to recognize that the interests of the party are paramount. To those who know the real attitude of all the elected members on the Conservative side to the party and the government, the dreams in which the Liberals are indulging of some benefit to inure to them from divisions among the victors are absurd. The Liberals base their hopes upon an early election. Nothing else would be of any advantage to them. They have only seventeen elected members in a legislature of forty-two. In order to make any progress they must upset the verdict of the people of British Columbia, and they are trying to secure an opportunity of doing so. Their attitude is that of bad patriots, and bad politicians, and bad losers. Bad patriots, because further political turmoil would be a provincial calamity, bad politicians, because, in showing why they desire Conservative disunion, they do the utmost possible to further consolidate the party, and bad losers, because, having lost the game, they should wait for the next deal, and not wrangle over a decided event. Having failed in their attempts to break up the Conservative party, they will next attempt to snatch a division in the legislature which might precipitate an election. Here again they will fail. Twenty-two men, absolutely determined to steer this province into the peaceful waters of stable government, can do so against seventeen equally determined to foment strife and cause trouble, without losing either weight or sleep over the task. The Liberals should act like men and not like mice. They are going to be in power in this province in a decade or so. Let them keep their eyes on the future, and not worry about a present in which they have little or no concern.

### THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

We do not know what to make of the news we get about the Boundary Commission. First we had a statement attributed to Lord Alverstone, widely resented in Canada, and emphatically denied by that noble lawyer. Then we had remarks attributed to Mr. Aylesworth to the effect that he was employed in putting stiffening into Lord Alverstone's back, remarks sufficiently unlikely in themselves to require the formality of contradiction. Then we have had the London Times oracularly anticipating the final settlement of the matter, and again, a morning London paper conceding the decision to the United States, finally a denial of this paper's information and authority. The only thing to be done is to await the result, and to heavily discount anything that is not official and definite. But all the same, there are some very peculiar circumstances in connection with the commission. We know that the British press is excessively punctilious about comment upon matters sub judice. Still, if the note has been struck of the necessity of maintaining British rights at all costs and hazards, we have not heard it. We have heard of nothing save the advantage of being on friendly terms with the United States. We recognize that advantage, but right is right, and, compared with what is right and lawful, the friendship of the whole world should be subordinate, and its enmity despised. Is the Britain of today the Britain that sold Calais to France or is it not? Perhaps the true note has been struck and its reverberations suppressed by an Associated Press ever ready to feed the public opinion of the United States upon flattery. We have heard no echo of it, and certainly the irritation apparently displayed by Mr. Aylesworth at the Pilgrim's banquet would lead us to believe that Canada did not bulk as largely in the British official mind as it ought to bulk. Canada as a sacrificial lamb upon the altar of Anglo-American friendship is a role which we disclaim and decline to play. If it is forced upon us it will arouse the liveliest and most justified resentment.

### EXONERATED.

The commission appointed to investigate the circumstances surrounding the tragic death of the late Sir Hector Macdonald has entirely exonerated him from any imputation of a dishonorable or criminal character. It has gone further, it has declared that in the opinion of the commissioners he was "cruelly assassinated by vile and slandering tongues." We hope the English speaking community of Colombo where the assassination was done, has enjoyed the proceedings of this commission as much as the rest of the British Empire has welcomed its report. The commissioners say: "We firmly believe the cause which gave rise to the inhuman and cruel suggestions of crime were prompted, through vulgar feelings of spite and jealousy in his rising to such a high rank of distinction in the British army; and, while we have taken the most reliable and trustworthy evidence from every accessible and conceivable source, have, without hesitation come to the conclusion that there is not visible the slightest particle of truth in foundation of any crime; and we find the late Sir Hector MacDonlad cruelly assassinated by vile and slandering tongues. While honorably acquitting the late Sir Hector MacDonald of any charge whatever, we cannot but deplore the sad circumstances of the case that have fallen so disastrously on one whom we have found innocent of any crime attributed to him." That is almost the strongest language of reprobation we have ever read. "Deplore the circumstances," we should think so. Here was a soldier, modest and unassuming, who had risen to the highest honors by the most severe tests of his profession, a man to whom, it is quite possible, the British Empire might in some grave crisis have owed the debt of its honor and prestige, assassinated by the snobocracy of a wretched little Crown colony, seething with intrigue and miserable notions of social precedence, killed, actually killed, by the scullions and lickspittles of the very British Empire of which he was himself a gallant defender and prop. The honor of his name is something and we are glad that it is vindicated, but the loss of his services is more bitter than his death. What is to become of an empire where the sound limbs are destructible by parasites, in which the ivy has come to be thought of more importance than the tree-trunk that supports it? Sir Hector MacDonald preferred death to facing the malignancy of Anglo-Ceylon society. His weakness it may have been, but it is that society's disgrace. It has done the empire disservice and has heaped plentiful dishonor upon its own head.


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### A GOOD MOVE.

Last night a most important amalgamation was perfected between the Board of Trade and Chamber of Commerce. The two bodies are henceforth one under the charter of the Board of Trade. Separate bodies dealing with the same range of subjects and having the same general objects in view are always apt to drift into antagonistic positions with the result that the efforts of both are nullified. As between the Board of Trade and the Chamber of Commerce in Victoria this has not occurred up to the present; but the danger always existed that it would occur. This danger is obviated by their union into one powerful and representative body. A Board of Trade is much better employed dealing with small matters in a large way than in dealing with large matters in a small way. The commercial progress of a city is bound up in a great number of matters which are small individually, but very important in the aggregate. A city lives and grows by being able to adequately minister to the needs of the community from which it draws its own sustenance, and by the extension of the area of that community. These two things appear to us to define the scope of a Board of Trade. It will be seen at once that a very large number of matters judged by that criterion come within the purview of the Board of Trade, but they are not matters wherein the interest of the city can be advanced by general discussions on the part of the people who know nothing about trade and commerce except in a theoretical way. Practicality is the first, last and only thing necessary to give a Board of Trade the authority which is necessary to enable it to accomplish valuable results. We have no doubt that the Victoria Board of Trade with the accession of strength it has received will be able to make itself even more powerfully felt than in the past for the advancement of the city.

The following telegram appears in the Nelson News:

It is said that the ultimatum which John Houston, the member-elect for Nelson, has issued to the government is, that he is to receive the portfolio of chief commissioner of lands and works or he will precipitate a crisis during the first week of the approaching session, which opens on November 26th.

It is untrue in every particular. This sort of thing is being circulated throughout the country from Liberal sources with the object of injuring the Conservative party, the government, and Mr. Houston, all three of whom deserve well of the country. From the time that Mr. Houston became president of the Liberal-Conservative Union in the province, he has been as unflinching in his loyalty to the party in British Columbia, as he has always been true to its general principles. The Liberals are naturally sore at Mr. Houston because he is a tower of strength to the Conservative cause in Kootenay. But it is unnecessary to slander a man because he is a strong and successful opponent.

We observe that in the Times' report of the proceedings of the School Board that Trustee Boggs is made to say that he wrote a letter to the Colonist which we refused to publish. We hope he said nothing of the kind because it is incorrect in fact. The Colonist does not refuse to publish letters signed by responsible people, containing nothing of a libelous nature. We presume the report in the Times is in fault.

### THE V. T. RAILWAY.

To the Editor.

Sir,—So many residents in Victoria have occasion to travel by the Victoria & Sidney railway that the protest of Mr. Kitto against the irregularity of the service, and the disregard of the comfort and convenience of the passengers will meet with approval. There were many complaints against the old management, but since the present owners took over the line, matters have become worse.

There does not appear to be any reason why this little railway should not be a most useful asset to Victoria. The connection it gives with New Westminster and Vancouver is a splendid one naturally, but so much remains to be done upon the line itself and in the working of the service that neither the city nor the line reap the benefit they should.

It is satisfactory to learn that a petition is being circulated for signatures which should bring public opinion to bear upon the matter and induce the company to do tardy justice to their own undertaking.

CIVIS.

### POLITICS IN THE SCHOOLS.

Sir,—As the details come to light of the recent canvassing and voting at the public schools, just prior to the election, there is good reason to believe that the purpose and effect was much more serious than generally supposed. There is little doubt that but that the machine was at work, directed and controlled by political pedagogues, who, owing to the general apathy of the public, have been allowed to assume an improper influence over the pupils.

What could be more objectional, or more opposed to the spirit of the age than the inquisitorial questions publicly submitted by the teachers to our children when arranging for taking these votes? What right have they to inquire of them how their fathers intended voting? and then instruct them to vote the same way, and thereby (as the individual handwriting could be easily identified) secure just the information that the political teachers and heelers wanted. As a parent, I resent this insidious attack on the privacy and sanctity of home life. It is all very well for the trustees to make a spectacular exhibition of their holy horror at this state of things, but it savors of hypocrisy, while staff appointments are made, and retained, because of political activity and service.

PARENTES.

### CONDUCTORS' JOYS.

The Man on the Platform Gets Used to Criticism.

On the corner kerb they were waiting; sixteen strong, for the coming of the car bound for the suburbs. Three cars had passed down, and they seemed to have also passed out, for none came back—like the cat. The men fumed and the ladies fretted. All made remarks. At last the car came trundling along shrved by its trolley. The conductor helped all hands aboard; he had instructions to make up time, but who ever saw a delayed car that had not to let off a passenger every twenty feet?

At one of the crossings a crusty old gentleman and a peppery young miss signalled to get off. The conductor thought they had changed their minds they were so long getting up. Just as he tantalized the motorneer to mote again, up got the old chap, gontlly groaning, and the startling car piled him and the high-spirited damsel up against the rear entrance in quite an undignified way. Both glared at the conductor, too hopping mad to say a word; they swept the platform passengers young lady alighted she threw an angry look at the unfortunate conductor and off with their fiery glances, and as the snorted as she tossed her head:

"Pity they couldn't show as much hurry down town, huh!"

The conductor shrunk up perceptibly under his helmet, and yanked the bell rope like the father of the victim at a lynching bee. The passengers chaffed him, but he had his revenge as the car came within six blocks of the suburban terminus.

"Hi, there," yelled a man dressed up for a tea fight or a conversazione or something stepping out from a group of ladies in gay party attire waiting on the sidewalk. "When will this car get back again from the end of the road?"

"Half an hour," laconically bawled the irritated conductor.

"Half an hour!" shrieked the horrified enquirer rushing back to the ladies, waving his arms and invoking the wrath of the powers on the whole transportation service of the Pacific Coast.

"You had him that time," conductor," commented the delighted hind-end passengers. And the conductor smiled passively and said he always liked a safe margin.


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### HARDY NAVIGATOR.

Foolhardy Atlantic Seaman is Sighted by an Atlantic Craft.

Queenstown, Oct. 17.—The Cunard liner Etruria, which arrived here today from New York, after a stormy passage, reports that the British steamer Greenbrier, bound for Jamaica from Manchester, England, spoke, September 17, to the sailing boat Columbia II. (19 feet long) Capt. Ison Brown, which left Boston August 11 and Halifax, N. S., August 26, for Marseilles, France, in latitude 37.21 north, and longitude 42.45 west. The captain of the Greenbrier invited Captain Brown to abandon his small craft, but Brown determined to persevere. He had been upset once, and had only righted the boat after some hours of severe struggle.

### SHAMROCKS WON.

San Francisco, Oct. 17.—The Shamrocks, of Montreal, and a team from Vancouver, champions of British Columbia, played here today for the lacrosse championship of the world. The Shamrocks won, 7 to 3.

### STATE BANQUET.

Vienna, Oct. 17.—A state banquet was given at the Hofburg tonight in honor of the visiting sovereign, at which complimentary toasts were exchanged. King Leopold visited United States Ambassador Storer today.

A report that the King suggested the intervention of the United States in the Congo dispute, is denied by Mr. Storer.