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AND THE TERRITORIES.

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AN INTER-COLONIAL UNION.

A new solution of the problem of closer trade relations between the different sections of the British Empire has been brought forward, and one which is worthy of the careful consideration of those who are leading in the discussion of this subject. It is based on the right which the colonies have to make an inter-colonial fiscal arrangement among themselves, leaving out the mother country. This is, to be sure, only half a solution, as the mother country must be brought in before any entirely comprehensive and satisfactory arrangement of this nature can be made, but still it is a step in the right direction, and one which authorities regard as of vast importance. An arrangement of this kind could be made, in itself, of great benefit to the colonies and it would certainly greatly simplify the matter of a complete union of the Empire. The mistake made heretofore by those who are interesting themselves in Imperial union is to look only at the end sought, giving little or no attention to intermediate stages. They seem to want the "whole hog, or none." Experience is now showing that an immediate transition from a state of separateness to one of singleness would be extremely difficult and that by far the better plan will be to lead up to the desired end gradually.

It has been pointed out at divers times by old country statesmen in the course of speeches on subjects kindred to this that the colonies have the right at any time to form among themselves a league or union having for its object the improvement of their trade relations. These maintain that the treaty of 1862 with Belgium and the treaty of 1865 with the Zollverein, which have hitherto been regarded as prohibitory of all such arrangements, do not prevent the establishment of any kind of relations between the different colonies, although it does prevent certain arrangements between the United Kingdom and the colonies. In this new solution the ground is taken that if the colonies were to make preferential trade arrangements among themselves, they would not be violating any agreement which now exists; that they would reap as a result a portion of the benefits which are claimed for the complete union of the Empire; and would be able to very much simplify matters for the mother country in the time when she will find it possible to enter such a union. Lord Salisbury himself holds the view that only after some such steps have been taken by the colonies and their united in-

fluence brought to bear on England will it be possible to get her consideration of the matter.

Years will in all probability elapse before this idea of an Imperial Union will become a reality, years possibly before the first steps are taken, but it will come when the time is ripe, or these possessions pass from the hands of Britain.

MANITOBA'S NEGLECTED OPPORTUNITIES.

At various times from press and platform prominence has been given to the advantages which would accrue to the farmers of Manitoba were they to go more extensively into hog raising. There is no doubt that this province misses annually a large income through the failure of our farmers to take up this industry, especially in years when they have quantities of damaged grain left on their hands as unsaleable.

These remarks have been prompted by the perusal of the last annual report of The Dominion Swine Breeder's Association, in which we noticed several statements made by different speakers which might be used as arguments in favor of hog raising in Manitoba; arguments which would convince anyone that here is an undeveloped source of wealth for us, such as the people of any other country could not even dream of. Although the membership of the Breeders Association is almost entirely made up in Ontario and the industry is looked at in this report from the standpoint of the interests of its members, still there is much that can be considered as equally applicable to any other province of Canada.

One of the most striking points in the report was the following from a paper read by a member at the annual meeting: "The reputation which our Canadian pork has attained in the English market ought to stimulate us to produce a much greater quantity. Last year Great Britain imported over 560,000,000 pounds of pork, and of this amount Canada sent only 7,500,000 pounds against the United States 515,000,000 pounds."

If Manitoba was to enter the field with the definite object of getting a share of this immense trade, a few years would bring about a considerable change in those figures. Then again the same speaker said: "When we take into consideration the fact that Canadian pork realized one cent to one cent and a half more per pound than the American article we certainly ought to take advantage of our position." That brings out another important advantage which Canada has over the United States. We can produce a much better article than they can, one more suitable to the market which it would be our object to supply.

Still quoting from the same paper we would give the following which deals with a very important branch of the subject: "We are also importing annually from the United States over ten million pounds of pork, all of which might be profitably produced in Canada. Our market is practically unlimited if we produce the class of pork which the market demands, viz: hogs weighing from 160 to 200 pounds, and possessing a large proportion of ham meat."

All things considered, Manitoba appears to be blind to her best interests when she fails to go into business which has room for such expansion and development, and which offers such sure and steady returns for all investments as this one.

MILITARY AFFAIRS IN CANADA.

The visits of these military dignitaries although in reality of no very great moment to the people of Western Canada have still about them some circumstances which might be made the basis of a tale of future results of world wide importance. Canada has undoubtedly become since the construction of the C.P.R. a very important addition to the military strength of Great Britain and consequently a menace to those nations on which Great Britain may look as her probable opponents in the predicted approaching European war. She has supplied the missing link in the chain of communication which Britain has now around the world. She has provided the long sought for alternative route to India and the east. It is therefore of the utmost importance from a military standpoint that the route should be thoroughly inspected by competent officers and the various possible strategical points noted; these will be of use in enabling the Government to form estimates of the possibilities of the route. It has been said and with every appearance of truth that in the event of war the C.P.R. could comfortably transport men across the continent faster than the British Admiralty could land them at our seaports. That is enough to satisfy anyone.

As a result of the visit of Honorable Mr. Bowell, Canadian Minister of Militia and General Herbert, important changes are to be made in the military establishment at Winnipeg. The barracks at Fort Osborne in which the School of Dragoons is quartered have been declared unfit for use, and new buildings will in consequence be built at once. Many other improvements are to be made. While he was in Victoria the Minister was strongly petitioned to authorize the organization of a volunteer corps there. Whether he will or not is yet a question.

The advent of General Herbert in Canadian military affairs has marked a new era in their history. It is to be hoped that he will carry on the good work until the whole of the Canadian forces have been placed on an efficient footing and until the country is in this time of peace fully prepared for war.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND CANADA.

The latest developments in the relations between Canada and Newfoundland are of a much more friendly nature than any which have prevailed heretofore, and sanguine persons are beginning to hint at confederation as among the approaching probabilities. The recent St. John's fire has been the instrument which brought about this state of things, as the Newfoundlanders feel very grateful to Canada for the course she took towards them in their trouble. They are beginning to think that Canadians are not such bad people after all and that it is not unlikely the recent squabbles