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SIR JOHN MACDONALD.

According to the reports, issued by the attending physicians, the close of the long and eventful life of the Premier of Canada is near at hand.

Political rivals are willing to shed tears over a dying foe—especially when it is the termination of a glorious career. The better qualities of human nature then have their chance, and memories of the good qualities and noble deeds of a life time—instead of its faults—are allowed to fill the heart and mind and impart their hallowing and softening influences—evoking tender sympathy and kindly word and action towards one who is on the threshold of the presence of the Majesty of Heaven, and whose virtues or faults—whatever they may have been—will be judged according to His Divine perfections.

We confess to a feeling akin to the above. We have felt, at times, disposed to think and speak severely of Sir John Macdonald's policy on some matters—but we gladly join in the chorus of voices, all over the Dominion, in bearing grateful testimony to the deep debt of gratitude Canadians, and every British citizen throughout the Empire, owe to his statesmanship.

We believe he was, to the full measure of his personal influence and abilities, ever loyal to Canada and the British Empire—and when his party may have wandered, in the judgment of his friends or opponents from strict fidelity to that path—it must never be forgotten that all party governments do but represent dominant influences and popular prejudices—good or bad—in and out of Parliament. Governments are but the reflection of the public will and character.

Our confidence in political party machines is of the weakest description, so that in speaking of this illustrious statesman we feel utterly indifferent about all he has been as a party leader. It is sufficient for us to think of the Canada he found it and the Canada he is leaving—and feel satisfied that to his great influence, talent and abilities, is to be attributed a large part of the marvellous progress and development which this country has made.

Whatever the mistakes of his life may have been we feel, even if we cared to listen to their recital, that in the stand his government took in the last Dominion elections—in refusing to discriminate against England in our tariff, and firmly standing up for the unity of the Empire—constituted a crowning glory to his political life, which should be gratefully remembered by every Englishman. For his devoted wife and family we feel a heartfelt sympathy, and hope that He who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb will mercifully supply consolation in their sorrow—sorrow lovingly shared by the whole British nation. We will conclude these remarks—still hoping his life may be

prolonged—with the following quotation from the Montreal Star:—

"There is no man in Canada whose death could strike so many persons with a sense of personal loss. The flag, which Sir John Macdonald long ago nailed to the mast was the flag of Canadian unity, British connection and Canada's commercial independence. Long may it wave and long may respect for the memory of Canada's greatest statesman tend to unite Canadians in defence of those principles, in loyalty to the throne and in patriotic devotion to the country he has ruled and served so long."

THE DEATH OF THE PREMIER.

Since writing the foregoing article—the valued life of Sir John Macdonald has peacefully ended. The daily press are full of generous praise for the deceased statesman and patriot. To every right minded Canadian it must be felt as a personal loss. His death makes a gap in the ranks of our political warriors not easy to fill. We confess to unfeigned sorrow and regret at losing his valued experience and judgment at this critical period in Canada's career—and only trust that his brave and loyal life struggles will increasingly find their reward in having their best impulses imparted to the young Canada he loved and served so well. We sympathize tenderly with his beloved wife and family in their sorrow.

THE BRITISH MONARCHY.

On the 24th ult. the Queen of England attained the 72nd year of her age and, in a month later, will have completed the 54th year of a happy and prosperous reign.

In common with all citizens of the British Empire throughout the world, it is a source of joy to us that Her Majesty has been spared another year to rule, so wisely and well, over the millions of mankind whose welfare has been subject to her beneficent government. Compared with other nations, we feel ourselves to be a happy and highly favoured people.

We rejoice that, in the Sovereign of the realm, we have one whose character, in all the relations of life, to this day, has been so exemplary, and whose graces have adorned and made doubly illustrious the high office it has been her lot to occupy.

We rejoice in the fact that our Queen has been loyal to the interests of her people, giving her a truly divine right to expect and receive a steadfast and loyal support from them to her throne and person. With a loyal sovereign and a loyal people, we see no danger to either, but every inducement in favour of the happy perpetuity of British institutions. Revolutions, under such conditions, can only appeal to the sympathy of madmen—the good sense of the nation would soon enable them to find their true level, as cranky theorists.

Nevertheless, the question is constantly recurring whether monarchy, as a remnant of the institutions of the past centuries, will be likely in the future to adapt itself to the altering conditions and requirements of modern times. In considering this question we must never forget that under the British Monarchy the temple of the world's freedom has been built up—so that today the measure of liberty which the world enjoys, if not compassed entirely within British territory, is directly traceable to the power and influence of Great Britain.

There was a time when foreign potentates claimed the power to determine who should occupy the throne of Great Britain, but since the Reformation time the Sovereign has personally typified the will and measure of intelligence of the nation. To a British constitutional ruler to-day, the rule for all laws is the will of the people, to which will the Queen and every officer of her government have to bow and register its decrees.

It is often flippantly maintained that our Queen is but a "figure-head" to the ship of State, that every prime minister can dictate her course on any question,—a statement with a basis of truth but wholly mis-leading. After any question has been voted on at the ballot box by the people, the Queen will call to her counsels those who have the confidence and mind of the great majority, that legislation may be shaped accordingly. It is altogether different in questions on which the public voice has not been given;—when a dominant faction in office—elected on other issues—strives to use the party majority to further inexpedient or unpopular legislation. Here it is that loyalty to the people demands from the monarch that wise influence over party factions—utterly waning in republican institutions—which will exert a gentle

pressure on statesmen, or still further, dissolve parliament and send them to the constituencies for approbation in case of any obnoxious legislation.

We see, in a constitutional monarch, the nation as a unit personified, not the accidental dominance of a faction. One whose interests are outside of those of any political party, and whose every material interest is bound up in having prosperous, contented and loyal subjects.

No one can question the immense social influence for good a wise monarch can and does exercise, nor the baneful effects from a bad one; but, as there are all degrees of wrong-doing so there is in the punishment: from the Cromwellian mode of decapitating the head to the mild form of censure of the public press. But whoever may occupy the throne, it is the office and not the person that we chiefly value.

As the worthy representative of the British nation, a good woman, wife and mother—faithful to the duties of her station, we join heartily in wishing her continued blessing and that indeed in the future, as in the past, "God will save our Queen."

THE S. O. E. SOCIETY.

As an association of Englishmen, the Sons of England Society will be an object of our warm solicitude for its welfare—feeling, as we do, that any form or measure of organized unity among Englishmen is better than none; at the same time it serves as an object lesson to them, teaching the great possibilities of general good to be obtained by more perfect organization. We are further assured, on the authority of some of the most widely experienced members of the Order, that a truly healthy national spirit is rapidly permeating the mass of the members, such as seemingly animated the founders of the Society. Certainly the Society has in its Constitution and Ritual—if carried out in their integrity—the essential elements of fraternal duty and noble patriotic action.

The S. O. E. must have the living spirit of a devoted patriotism to animate the clay of organized numbers, to form the living bond of membership into a united body. The dead branches must be pruned off and everything done to nourish the vital energies of the organism.

It will afford satisfaction to us to utilize the columns of the ANGLO-SAXON to keep the Englishmen throughout Canada in mental touch with one another, so that what is dear to us all, in our national heritage, may be defended by concerted action.

We have prefaced what follows with the above remarks because we learn, from the Grand Lodge Report, that it is or the carpet that the next Grand Lodge will be asked to sanction that all business of the Order should be carried on in the W. Rose Degree, and that the Red Rose degree shall only form one step in the Ritual of initiation into full membership.

To our minds this proposition has nothing to commend it, no practical good, but would only be making the Ritual of the Initiation tedious instead of simpler. One Degree is as good as a thousand to a practical society, where fuss and feathers count for nothing and active work as the all in all. Many now in the Order complain that it is an objectionable condition that office holders in Red Rose lodges should be compelled to hold the two degrees, and with that complaint we sympathize.

We have however thought that a higher degree in the Order, for the purposes of district work, is necessary now, and will increasingly be so in the future as the Order grows. The White Rose degree could be allotted this field of usefulness without in any way interfering with the liberty of the individual lodge.

The District Lodge need not, necessarily, cover very large districts as now; new districts, as became expedient, could be created, and in rural districts sub-districts could be established. These District Lodges could properly assume control of all questions of national importance, calling for unity of action of members of the District; of all questions and business not the special affair of one lodge; and in which all business concerning the duties of the District Deputy may be duly performed. A general purpose or contingent fund, at the disposal of such a District Lodge, should secure the interest of all lodges in its work and action, as from such resources, worthy Englishmen would be enabled to find timely succour, for trials to which the general fund of lodges cannot be applied.

Whatever is done regarding establishing District Lodges, we would venture a protest against doing anything to lengthen out the Ritual of the lodge proceedings. Forms and ceremonies, however important, must sooner or

later pall on the appetite of the regular lodge attendant and help to deaden interest and energy instead of developing it. More time is wanted for the social and intellectual exercises at meetings, and everything should be done to make a short and effective ritual lose none of its beauty by a clumsy or imperfect exemplification. For often, in most societies, the ritualistic ceremonies are performed in a manner calculated to make angels weep or to develop a degree of hilarity quite unbecoming the dignity of the ceremony. We fear the spirit that would ape the ways of other societies, instead of meeting the special needs of its own, is at the bottom of the suggestion to virtually abolish the Red Rose as a working degree in the order.

We further think that it would largely popularize the W. R. Degree if all initiation fees were abolished, except the charge for the collar of the degree; monthly dues of small amount, with a larger membership, would afford an ample revenue.

DIVORCE MANIA SPREADING.

The Toronto Empire under the above heading in a very sarcastic article relative to the United States being Canada's "Natural Market," and shewing the perverse tendencies of Canadian produce, as follows:—

"How can Canadian cheese hope to prosper when, 'in defiance of God and nature,' it dares to 'divorce itself commercially from the continent to which it belongs'? Of this wayward product not less than \$9,349,731 worth went to Britain last year and only \$6,425 to the United States. We thus publicly direct the attention of the Grit organs to this state of affairs in order that steps may be taken to prevent the setting in of the 'dry rot,' and the other Globe disorders that afflict those who fly in the face of natural conditions. It appears, also, that our cattle are addicted in a shameful degree to the same mania. Not less than 66,965 head, valued at \$6,565,315, applied last year for divorces from the continent to which they belong, while only 7,840 head, valued at \$104,023, remained true to domestic duty by bestowing themselves upon their own continent. And the saddest feature of the case is that our finest cattle, valued at nearly \$100 per head, were the very ones to wander afar into the paths of Toryism, leaving only the \$15 animals devoted to duty and principle. Even in the case of sheep—these usually sober, well-conducted members of animal society—no less than 57,006 of them valued at \$486,200, gave way to the craze in 1890 and divorced themselves from the continent to which they belong. Serious as are these wilful and flagrant lapses from virtue amongst individuals, the same sort of thing is rapidly undermining the morals of inanimate nature. For instance, but a few years ago Canadian apples were patters of domestic virtue, but of late they have become addicted to the insane passion of divorcing themselves from the continent to which they belong, and in the season of 1890 not less than 313,684 barrels, worth \$835,545 broke loose, and found vent for their evil dispositions in the English market."

We also observe that many other things besides Canadian produce and patriotism have a great respect for our southern boundary, we refer to cyclones and Dakota famines.

LORD MOUNTSTEPHEN.

The elevation of Sir Geo. Stephen to the British peerage, as Lord Mountstephen, is an event of no ordinary interest—being the first colonist of Her Majesty's dominions to be so highly honoured. We believe the citizen of Canada thus honoured, for his public services to the Empire, is worthy of the distinction. We are further glad to see in this act the unity of the Empire recognized; also we see no reason whatever why the inhabitants of the British Isles should enjoy a monopoly of such honors. We claim that by coming to Canada, as an integral part of the Empire, we have forfeited no right or privilege we had as British subjects; and the honor conferred on Sir George is a recognition of the fact. It is also a gratifying commentary on Prof. Goldwin Smith's attack on titular distinctions. As a British institution we have no desire to cultivate the spirit of aliens to it, nor are we willing to bow down to the aristocracy of money, as with our republican neighbors. We see no necessary connection between the bestowal of such honors on worthy citizens and a hereditary privileged class or body of legislators; we approve of the one but disagree with the other.

OUR MANITOBA LETTER.

Pleasant Weather and Grand Prospects

A Rush of Immigrants into Winnipeg.

NOTES OF WESTWARD HO! 98.

(Special for the Anglo-Saxon.)

WINNIPEG, May, 1891.

During the time which has elapsed, since my last communication, nature has upon the whole, continued most propitious in regard to the seasonable development of our agricultural staples for the present year. It is true we have had our frost of such severity as to cause disquiet and anxiety amongst the faint hearted portion of our community who here, as in most places, are always ready to make the worst of those threatened misfortunes which in so many cases never happen.

The fine weather appears to have settled in for good, and the ice once out of Lake Winnipeg there is little further fear of spring frosts of harmful severity. The late cold weather has in the opinion of several old Canadian farmers with whom the writer has conversed, been rather beneficial than otherwise, by reason of it having checked the too rapid upward growth of the wheat plant, thus giving the root an impetus to take a deeper hold upon the soil.

In regard to the mango, the banana and orange fruits which are so much known to be amongst Winnipeg's products, it is stated upon the most absolute authority that they remain entirely uninjured by frost.

Discoursing upon the subject of tropical fruits which, it is scarcely necessary to state, at this season of the year have to be imported, and consequently sell at very high figures, but any one knowing this fact, and seeing the number of stores, the proprietors of which pay high rentals for their stands, devoted exclusively to this one trade, their windows redundantly filled with the choicest and most costly of Columbia and California products in their line, must at once form the idea that Winnipegers delight in, and will have good living at any cost, and all the time crave for that which is most difficult to attain.

Such a state of affairs surely reveals a high ambition amongst our people.

One of the greatest and most remarkable changes which has taken place in the domestic economy of this city during the last ten years is, that the earlier portion of the decade just past, there was a great dearth of what some call the gentler sex; children were so scarce as to be objects of interest, almost curiosity. The hiring of an office boy, that creature not having been yet developed, was an unknown experience. But now! how changed. Almost all the boys of those days became benedicts, many to their grief, in respect to the first named, have imported mother-in-laws, grandmothers, sisters, cousins and aunts. At school, recess, or late in the evening the very air thrills with the shrill cry of children at play.

Main street, with its sixteen feet side walks, is choked with baby carriages, which often come trooping along in solid phalanx four or five abreast, remorselessly propelled by sturdy British and Scandinavian maidens. It seems likely that the manufacturers of these vehicles which are continually developing in width will soon have to adopt the ingenious device invented by those Britons of old time who are said to have finished off the ends of their chariot axles with a scythe.

This arrangement would certainly, if nothing else, be a very cute innovation, and tend to prevent the dear little cherubs, riding in state, from suffering any severe shocks caused by collision with clumsy pedestrians, and no one of the latter would dare, whatever he might think, give utterance to any complaint, even if his clothes were torn or his lower limbs bewn off, at the knee, by the effect of such a trifling contretemps.

The tide of immigration which was stated in the last communication as set in, has now become a rushing torrent. Delayed trains are of daily occurrence, the excuse being they are so heavy, no one engine can draw them and reach its destination on time.

The usual amount of lamentation is rife amongst late arrivals as to the deception practiced by agents upon immigrants in Europe. How they extol this country and induce people in the