

The Finger and Visitor

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Earl Grey
on Canada.

Replying to a toast at a banquet tendered him in Toronto last week, Earl Grey spoke in eloquent terms of the vastness of the Dominion, and the variety and excellence of its products, and said there was no reason why, before the end of the present century, Canada should not excel the United States in all that goes to make a happy, a prosperous and a high-souled nation. Alluding especially to the superiority of Canadian wheat, the demand likely to arise for that product in Japan and other Asiatic countries and the potentiality of trans-Pacific markets which Canada commands, His Excellency asked Canadians to reflect that the door to these markets and the ways thereto were kept open by the mother country and her fleet. Yet Canada did not contribute a single ship or dollar to this Imperial service. "Do not think I complain," said his lordship, "The people of the United Kingdom do not complain, and do not think when I state this fact that I am finding fault with the attitude of Canada. It is recognized in England that, although you do not as yet contribute to the cost of the Imperial fleet, you are contributing to the empire in many and different ways. It must not be forgotten that your population of six millions is spread over a country the size of Europe, and is busily straining every nerve in laying securely foundations of a magnificent future. That you should have reclaimed so large a part of this mighty continent from the wilderness, and by your spirited railway and steamship enterprise been able to make Canada the natural route between England and Japan and between England and her great Australian colonies, that you should have given the lead in your preferential tariffs, in your preferential postal arrangements and your cable subsidies, with the object of binding the component parts of the empire closer together, is to have done much, and to have given a lead of which any people may reasonably be proud. . . . I stated that I had not yet had an opportunity of making myself acquainted with more than a small portion of your great Dominion, but I have enjoyed the signal advantage of making the acquaintance of the greater number of your Senators and members of Parliament. Those I have seen have given me a most interesting and satisfactory account of the countries and territories and of the people they represent. They all tell me that they do not know, within the area of their constituency, of such a thing as real poverty, neither is there great wealth concentrated in undue proportion in individual hands, such as that which perplexes and alarms the people of the United States. Judging from the reports, there appears to be throughout Canada an evenly diffused prosperity and contentment, and I feel, after a morning's talk with your Parliamentary representatives, that Canada is the incarnation of the Arcadia which I had formerly believed had only existed in the regions of mythology. . . . But when we look into the crystal and try to forecast the development which the future has in store for Canada, it is well that we should guard against the danger of allowing the vulgarity of a swollen head to blunt the edge of our efficiency. How to add to the great blessing of material wealth with which we have been endowed is the problem which is before the people and the statesmen of Canada, and which they may be relied upon, with your assistance, I trust, to satisfactorily solve."

A Thinking
Horse.

During the past few months there have been quite numerous references in the newspapers to an educated horse in Germany, named Hans, which works problems in arithmetic and does many other things, indicating an intelligence hardly credible in a brute. In the May number of McClure's Magazine Mr. Edward Heyn tells the story of this wonderful horse in detail and in a way to interest all readers. The owner of Hans, we are told, has spent four years on the horse's education, working eighteen hours a day on his equine pupil, and using the same processes that are applied to the young children in the Prussian schools. Hans' preceptor, Baron van Osten, rejects all hypotheses involving training, suggestion, hypnotism, telepathy and so on. He will have it that Hans thinks, independently and of himself. To indicate numbers the animal stamps his forefoot once for each unit. When he wishes to say "yes" he turns his head to the right. A similar movement to the left indicates a negative.

"Now," said the Baron, addressing the stallion, "four multiplied by four equals seventeen, doesn't it?" But Hans was not to be deceived. He stamped sixteen times—no more and no less. "What is the Kaiser's birthday?" demanded the Baron (It is Jan. 27). Hans stamped twenty seven times. "What month?" inquired the Baron pleasantly. Hans stamped once and got a carrot. "Now, Hans," went on his instructor, "how much must be added to twenty-three to make twenty-seven?" Hans stamped four times unerringly. "What day of the month is it?" Hans announced by his usual method that it was the twenty-ninth. It was. Hans occasionally does something which, at the time, seems positively startling. For example, Mr. Heyn was present once when the Baron, indicating one member of the group of spectators, inquired: "How many fingers has this gentleman on his right hand?" "Four," said Hans, and everybody looked pained for the error. But Hans was right, as usual. The man had actually lost one finger in an accident. "I began the education of Hans," said the Baron, "by holding up before him red-and-white balls arranged on a wired frame—a contrivance familiar to all teachers in the primary schools—by means of which he was taught to stamp once for one ball, twice for two balls, and so on. "After that I taught him to recognize the signs that stood for the numbers, for which purpose I used figures cut out of zinc. The alphabet he learned by being shown the several letters written large, and at the same time repeatedly pronounced by myself, and the sounds of numbers in the same way. "Later on I taught him to recognize whole words by means of the letters composing them, care being taken to select only words spelled phonetically. Objects for which these words stood were shown him as I pronounced the words, so that he gradually came to identify the words with the objects. "Then came the more difficult process of teaching the stallion to express the impressions made upon his mind. To do this I would ask him, for example, 'How much is four plus three?' writing 4 plus 3 on the blackboard. Then I would say 'four' and raise his fore-foot four times. Then I would say 'three' and raise it three more times, immediately announcing the result, 'seven', and raising his fore-foot seven times. "In the same way he was taught to understand the value of four minus three, and so on through the list. Of course all this required an amount of patience almost inconceivable, and there were many disappointments, but his intelligence grew and grew until it reached the development that made the world hear of it."

Remains at
his Post.

The announcement that M. Delcasse Minister of Foreign Affairs in the French Government, had withdrawn his resignation may not have been gratifying to Germany, but by the nations generally it was doubtless received as good news. The facts leading up to M. Delcasse's resignation are perhaps as much matter of speculation as of knowledge, but there can be little doubt that the cause of the step taken was the knowledge on the part of the Minister that the Government did not unanimously support some of his positions and that there was an unwillingness to allow him a free hand in respect to the Foreign policy of the nation. It is understood that M. Delcasse has withdrawn his resignation on the assurance that the Cabinet is united in his support, and that his withdrawal from the department of Foreign Affairs at this time would be regarded by his colleagues as a serious peril to the nation. M. Delcasse's staying in the cabinet is expected to result in a firmer attitude towards Germany than heretofore shown. The Foreign Minister's policy has been to give Germany adequate assurances that her interests in Morocco would be treated the same as the rest of the world, but after making these approaches he did not desire to yield France's entire project concerning Morocco at the dictation of Germany. This appears to have excited fears in high quarters that M. Delcasse's courteous but firm stand against Germany might lead to dangerous complications.

It is said that some members of the cabinet shared the view that a grave issue with Germany might result from too firm an insistence upon the French Moroccan policy, and that M. Loubet is also credited with the desire not to have the Moroccan issue drift into dangerous complications. Only the Socialists and Radicals openly expressed this view in the Chamber of Deputies, but the more influential sentiment was that immediately surrounding M. Delcasse. He felt, therefore, that it was useless to proceed without the strong support of his colleagues representing the Government, and if a temporizing policy with Germany was desired, some one else should assume the responsibility. Consequently his offer to resign was everywhere interpreted as a triumph for Germany, whereas his determination to remain is interpreted as a check to German designs. The feeling over Germany has naturally become much more acute as the result of the incident. Many deputies who have been interviewed on the subject say M. Delcasse's resignation at this time would be equivalent to France making an open and humiliating concession to Germany. The semi-official Temps says: "Our situation after M. Delcasse's resignation has been offered and withdrawn will be clearer, than before the incident occurred. It affirms that in the presence of eventualities which are serious, but not desperate, the Government is united. It will also testify that a campaign of a foreign country, no matter how ably it may be conducted, is without effect on our internal affairs. These are two essential points which the incident makes perfectly clear."

Dissatisfied
Immigrants.

It would seem that the numerous complaints made by immigrants, to the effect that their experience since coming to Canada has been very different from the representations made to them by agents in the old country, cannot be wholly groundless. There is a report of the arrival at Belleville, Ont., of thirty heads of families, the party having been sent out by the Self help Emigration Society of London. Most of the men are mechanics, they are accompanied by their wives and families, and claim that they were promised work on their arrival in Canada, and also an advance of \$30 to tide them over until they were settled in their new situations. It seems these promises were illusive, and the immigrants, being without money could do no better for themselves than to sign an agreement to work on farms for \$100 a year and board, and it is said that both husband and wife are required to work for this wage. This may be as much as farmers could afford to pay for inexperienced help, but under such circumstances, mechanics who were receiving fair wages in England would not be likely to think they had improved their circumstances by emigrating. One of the party is quoted as saying that it would take a hundred years to save enough to pay his debt to the Self help Emigration Society.

France and
Japan.

The Paris correspondent of the London Times believes that the Franco-Japanese incident caused by the presence of the Baltic fleet in French territorial waters promises to leave no ill-feeling behind it. Representations on the subject on behalf of Japan to the French Government were conducted by the representative of the Mikado in an exemplary spirit of friendly firmness. He made no attempt to conceal the consequences of a prolonged stay of the Baltic fleet in Kamranh Bay, but took care to perform his difficult task in such a manner as to convey the impression that Japan did not entertain the slightest doubt of France being guided by a sense of justice and duty towards a friendly power. If there is any difference in the relations between Paris and Tokio since the incident, this correspondent thinks it is a favorable one, that is an increase of mutual regard.

The Plague
in India.

Some idea of the ravages of the plague in India is conveyed by the published figures. From September, 1896 to end of 1902, the reported deaths from plague alone in the whole of India were one and a quarter million, and to these must be added a large percentage (perhaps 50 percent) of unreported mortality. In 1903 there were 853,573 deaths, in 1904 there were 1,021,643, and in the present year the weekly reports indicate a still greater rise in the death-rate. There are still greater areas and vast numbers of towns almost or quite free from the scourge, so that the death rate in the afflicted area is proportionately higher. The early measures of the Government, which ran counter to popular feeling, are now regarded as having fostered the spread of the disease by causing the people to scatter themselves.