

The Colonist.

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AND THE TERRITORIES.

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WINNIPEG, MAY, 1893.

IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

Sir Charles Tupper seems to be at present a little out of joint with the Imperial Federationists, judging from recent events in connection with that movement. In another column we have a copy of a letter written by him which has aroused considerable feeling among the exponents of the Federation scheme, and to which several rather sharp replies have been made. Among these was one by Lord Brassey, who was chairman of the Special Committee which drew up the report to which Sir Charles Brassey makes reference. Lord Brassey maintains that the Imperial Federation League was established for a much higher and nobler object than Sir Charles has suggested. Of this object he says: "It was established to bring the 'Mother Country and the Colonies closer together, and to unite them by the bonds of mutual affection and good-will, while also seeking to form political ties which should associate the colonies more directly with Great Britain in the control and maintenance of a common Imperial policy, and to furnish a permanent guarantee against the risks of separation."

In this connection he further says: "We are proud of our colonies. We desire from our hearts that they may grow with the elasticity of youth. We seek no sordid advantage for ourselves from the colonial connection. Our desire is, on the contrary, to give them every help which is in our power to afford for the development of their resources and the advancement of their social and political condition."

Lord Brassey's letter then gives the reasons for the appointment by the League of the Special Committee to draw up a practical scheme by which it was thought the preliminary steps towards Imperial federation could be taken. The Committee was the outcome of a suggestion from no less a personage than Lord Salisbury, the then Prime Minister of Great Britain. This was, in fact, stated in the report itself. In drawing up the report the Committee was particular to make it plain that they recognized fully all that the self-governing colonies have already done in providing for local defence, and to state that these local efforts should be regarded as constituting a direct contribution to the Imperial defence.

This matter of contributing towards a common defence fund seems to be what is sticking in the throat of the colonies, though there is no good reason why it should. The amount

they would have to contribute towards their defence under an Imperial defence arrangement would certainly not be as much as they would have to expend on an independent system, and they would enjoy a vastly greater security. The power of the whole would be pledged for the defence of each under Imperial Federation. With the planning and establishment of the system as a whole under the supervision of such eminent military scientists as would be placed in charge of it by the Federated countries infinitely better plans would be worked out than any one of the interested colonies could arrange for themselves. Those who make this phase of the question the ground of their objection to the adoption of the scheme show very poor judgment.

It is to be hoped Sir Charles Tupper will say something further on the matter dealt with in his letter, so that his meaning can be perfectly understood.

THE WEATHER.

Manitoba is experiencing the inconveniences resulting from a backward spring. It was hoped during the earlier months of the year that to compensate for the steady severity of the winter, the spring would open early and permit the farmers to get their seeding done in good time, and business generally to brighten up. This hope has not been realized and there is grumbling in consequence. April has passed and the snow is not all off the ground although we have had several balmy, spring-like days. Seeding is behind, that is behind the time it is usually done, but the most experienced farmers say that it will be all the better to be done at the time that it will have to be done this year, because the ground has retained its moisture better and will send up a stronger and more vigorous growth when the seed does sprout. Experiments carried on at the Experimental Farm, have shown that seed sown as late as the end of May yields almost as good a crop as seed sown at earliest dates. On the score of lateness of seeding, therefore, we have nothing to fear.

The lateness of the spring has been a good thing for the city of Winnipeg, and for all points along the Red River, as it has graduated the melting of the snow and ice, and kept back what would almost certainly have been a flood in the valley of the Red; permitting the body of the water to run off gradually.

The principal inconvenience suffered has been in the retarding of business and the wear on the patience of the people.

THE SMALL-POX SCARE.

Winnipeg had a small-pox scare last month from which the citizens have only recently recovered. The disease came in in a car of European immigrants which arrived from the east on a Friday morning. There were only two cases in the car at the time of its arrival, and the disease was of a very mild type. The party was sent into quarantine immediately on the discovery of the sickness, and steps taken to prevent its spread. Buildings were erected on the prairie to the west of the city, and all in the quarantine sent out to them. Subsequently a case was discovered in the residence of one

of the citizens—a newly arrived servant girl whom he had taken in only a few days previously—and this also was sent to the quarantine. At the time of writing only two further cases had developed, and these were among the isolated persons, so that it is pretty sur that the danger of the disease spreading is over. All these cases are directly traceable to the passengers of a single steamship. The most regrettable thing about the whole business is that the authorities and daily papers of the city should have adopted the policy of concealment, which they did for the first few days. That is the very thing that was strongly condemned last year in the conduct of the authorities and press of some cities when a more dread disease than small-pox had made its appearance, and yet the trouble no sooner comes home to us than the same plan is adopted. If the plain facts had been published in a straightforward manner nervous people would have been saved a great deal of worry, and, what is of infinitely more importance, there would have been none of those alarming reports sent by irresponsible parties to distant parts of the continent, which so nearly resulted in serious hurt to the trade and traffic of the city.

Editorial Notes.

THE World's Fair was formally opened by President Cleveland on May 1st, in the presence of a vast gathering of people.

MR. A. J. McMILLAN the agent of the Manitoba Government in the British Isles, is now in Manitoba, conferring with the Premier regarding further plans of working and obtaining by personal study, additional information regarding the condition and prospects of Manitoba. Mr. McMillan is very well satisfied with the outlook for immigration to the province this year.

A LETTER circular was received by THE COLONIST last month all the way from Hanley, England, advertising a new invention in portable closets. The invention is a good one, and will no doubt meet with the favor of the public. The owner of the patent certainly deserves credit for sending his advertising matter to such distant points as Winnipeg. Any of our readers who may desire further information as to this invention can get it from the patentee, Mr. John C. Daniel, 18 Pall Mall, Hanley, England.

THE European press is roasting the United States Government rather severely over the Behring Sea arbitration business. The evidence which has been submitted in support of its claim is pronounced by all who have studied it to be utterly useless as evidence. It abounds with contradictions and impossible statements. Aside from the part of the evidence gathered by the dishonest special agent of the Washington census bureau, which was subsequently found to be a tissue of interpolations and errors and thrown out in consequence, there are a great many other documents which can never be received by the arbitrators as evidence because they contain palpable errors. Some of the affidavits directly contradict the declara-