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— Devoted to the interests of Englishmen —
and their descendants.

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E. J. REYNOLDS, Manager.

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THE MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.

SIR JOHN MACDONALD will require his adaptability to circumstances to meet the new conditions attending the assembling of Parliament. For the first time for many years there is an impression in the minds of the politicians that the country is seeking for a more business-like treatment of public affairs and that it will no longer be a sufficient excuse for lavish expenditure of money to urge that party interests have been subserved thereby. There must be a distinct necessity for each and every item, and in such cases as the Trent Valley scheme, the Quebec bridge or the Prince Edward Island tunnel, even the interests of large districts must be deferred until the fact is abundantly evident that the country can afford to consider them. Unhappily, the spirit of sectionalism is unabated and members will be looked upon as wanting in energy, or, yet more fatal, in influence, if they do not secure something for their own constituents out of the grab-bag. But, although this feeling is, perhaps, still as strong as ever, there has also grown up a notion in almost every constituency that while a lavish expenditure is still as necessary as ever in the one particular district, the requirements of all other localities are to be viewed with much regard to economy.

The financial position of the country is on the whole satisfactory. At least, we are told so. We confess to a difficulty in understanding the Public Accounts, a difficulty enhanced by the fact that a great many things appear as assets—canals, for example—that could not under any circumstances realize the value attached to them. We presume that if public works were undertaken for reasons of economic necessity only, and without reference to politics, and were contracted for on ordinary business principles, and that tolls were charged sufficient to cover interest, sinking fund and current expenses—then Assets would serve some other and more useful purpose than to represent a purely figurative reduction of the gross indebtedness. We make these observations with special reference to the Trent Valley Canal scheme.

We take a similar view of the Quebec Bridge proposal. Either the bridge is a commercial necessity or it is not. If the former, private enterprise must sooner or later undertake it. If the latter, we submit that the Government has no more right to provide Quebec with useless bridges, than it has to furnish the wives of the working class with sewing machines. *Mirabile dictu!* We should not be at all surprised, in these days of the Labour Vote, if that were actually suggested.

So, also, with regard to the Prince Edward Island tunnel. This undertaking, we are assured by the promoters, would cost only a trifle of six or seven millions; although equally competent and less interested persons place the figure at ten millions. It is asserted that under the terms of confederation we are bound to maintain a constant communication between P. E. I. and the mainland. This is true, and we do the best we can by means of the

steamer "Stanley," while navigation is open, and during winter by the ice-boat service. But because the "Stanley" sometimes gets stuck in the ice towards the close of navigation, it is averred that the contract is not being kept. As well might the people of Vancouver's Island, who have the same promise of constant communication, demand a tunnel under the Gulf of Georgia, because, forsooth, navigation is occasionally interrupted by storms!

We earnestly appeal to the new members of Parliament, whose ears are not yet accustomed to the sound of millions, to carefully consider the true interests of the country, and to pause before committing the House to a policy of reckless expenditure.

As bearing upon the question of Reciprocity, we would suggest that if the aim of the Government be to create freer trade relations (whether in natural products or otherwise is immaterial to our suggestion) with the United States, it can best accomplish this by adjusting the tariff so as to give preferential rates to English importations. Nothing would so quickly bring the Americans to terms as this. The recent election in Huntingdon is an evidence that the people, in that locality at least, are disposed to consider the expediency of opening our doors somewhat more widely to the trade of the Empire. MR. SCRIVER, it must be borne in mind, has not been returned to support the policy of Unrestricted Reciprocity.

Canada has survived that worst form of provincialism which surrounded each of the old colonies with a customs cordon, and no one now pretends that freedom of trade between the Provinces is hurtful to any one of them. The next step will inevitably be in the direction of greater freedom of trade within the Empire. We should not be at all surprised if MR. D'ALTON MCCARTHY, who is beyond question the coming man, were to advance an opinion in this direction.

There is a presentiment in many minds that the approaching session of Parliament will be more than ordinarily interesting and important. There are two dangers to which the Government is exposed, and it is difficult to see any mode of escape. It is expected that the French members on both sides of the House may combine in demanding first, "better terms" for Quebec, and secondly, a remedial act to restore the separate schools in Manitoba. In former and happier times, before this malignant influence of Equal Rights pervaded the political atmosphere and caused such a weakening of party ties, the Government would have solved its difficulties by bribing everybody all round. But it is realized that the country is in no mood just now for that sort of thing.

Should MR. TARTE bring forward his charges against MR. MCGREEVY, there are likely to be lively times in the House: MR. TARTE alleges that MR. MCGREEVY's intimate connection with the Minister of Public Works has enabled him to secure peculiar advantages from that department in the matter of contracts. MCGREEVY has certainly shown no undue desire to bring MR. TARTE before the courts on account of these charges. It is to be hoped that Parliament will have sufficient sense of its own interest and dignity to insist upon a thorough ventilation of the whole matter.

GRAND SECRETARY'S REPORT.

We publish on another page selections from the Report of the Grand Secretary of the Sons of England Society. We beg to compliment BRO. CARTER upon his Report which is full of the right spirit. The order is to be congratulated upon possessing so active and enthusiastic a secretary. BRO. CARTER states that 27 new lodges of the S. O. E. were opened in 1890; that both in that respect and in the matter of membership the Order had gained a higher record than for any previous year; that the

branch of the Order in South Africa was showing signs of vitality, and that in every other particular the Sons of England Society had prospered.

Very much of this happy state of affairs is due to the incessant energy of the Grand Secretary. Any one who has visited the head-quarters of the Order could not fail, however, to observe that the office work is rapidly becoming too great for the staff to handle. At least, two additional clerks are required in the Secretary's Office, and we should also like to see a fair salary paid to BRO. CARTER. His present pay is quite inadequate in view of the work performed by him.

The Report refers in guarded but not unfriendly terms to the ANGLO-SAXON. Doubtless an official organ would sometimes have suited the susceptibilities of the Executive Members of the Order rather better than the plain speaking in which the ANGLO-SAXON habitually indulges. Our object, however, is not so much to please individuals as to advance the interests of the Order at large. And it must not be forgotten that we pretend to deal with interests even more important than those of the Order. Our ambition is to be the Englishman's paper in Canada: our mission to point out to men of our Race the strength and weaknesses of their position in this country; the advantages of combination on the one hand and the danger of too complete an individualism on the other; to give the facts without fear or favour and to leave conclusions to our readers. In fulfilling this duty the ANGLO-SAXON has no doubt helped the Order of the Sons of England in many material ways. It has advertised the Society without stint (and, we may perhaps, be allowed to remark without any repayment); it has penetrated hundreds of households where the name even of the society was before unknown. Our interest in the Order is due altogether to the fact that it is a society of Englishmen, not at all because it happens to be at the same time a benefit society. We want to see Englishmen assume that position in the affairs of the country and in social life which their numbers and stake in the Dominion warrant. At present, in a contest for parliamentary or municipal honors, it is almost a disadvantage for a man to be an Englishman. It is certainly a disadvantage if one happens to be in the Civil Service, and our rulers are supposed to be shrewd enough in matters of patronage. It is not as though Englishmen were inferior intellectually, physically or in any other material respect to the other races: it is simply that their inability to combine has caused them to be less influential, whether for evil or good, than French, Irish, or in a minor degree, Scotch. The consequence is that almost every post of confidence in the Government service is occupied by a French or Irish Roman Catholic. Even poor MR. MCKENZIE BOWELL is saddled with an R. C. for Private Secretary, and both SIR JOHN MACDONALD's secretaries belong to that faith. The National Library is altogether under Roman Catholic control, with results that any literary man can readily imagine. We draw attention to these facts not with any desire to excite bad feeling, but simply that English citizens of an English country may know exactly how matters stand. We will not go the length of supposing how this state of things would work in the event of a race conflict, such as our French friends are in the habit of anticipating when matters do not go to their liking. It might be inconvenient to us for a time, no doubt, to have all the official channels in one set of hands—but a little energy on our part would soon put things right. In the meantime, we repeat, it is a disadvantage for a man to be an Englishman. How long this may continue to be true depends altogether upon ourselves.

Lord Salisbury has assented to a short extension of the *modus vivendi* with Portugal relating to South Africa.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The appointment of Mr. Justice Scott as Judicial adviser to the government of the Khedive has excited much resentment amongst that small but very noisy section of French politicians which seems unable to comprehend the force of accomplished facts. That somebody to perform the functions assigned to Mr. Scott was absolutely required is admitted. The whole system (we use the word for want of better) of law and order in Egypt has been based on Turkish ideas. Corruption had the place of argument. Equity was unknown. Judicial appointments were bought more or less openly, and as the tenure of office depended upon the caprice of a few powerful Pashas the judges made haste to recoup themselves at the expense of all justice. Crime ceased to be criminal when the culprit could purchase immunity. Only the very poor were punished (whether guilty or not was immaterial) and their sentence took the form in varying degrees of the bastinado, the thumb-screw and in extreme cases, crucifixion. Mr. Scott has been appointed to apply a remedy to these disorders, and backed as he is by the strength and influence of the British Government and by the good-will of the Khedive there is no doubt that in time he will bring about a better state of things. His task will, however, be a difficult one. When injustice has been rampant for centuries it is sometimes difficult to convince people of the value of justice.

The unusual step of allowing delegates from Newfoundland to appear before the bar of the Imperial House of Commons has been taken. Sir William Whiteway on behalf of the delegates made a clear and impressive statement of the view taken by the Newfoundlanders of the situation. It amounted in effect to a demand that the Imperial Government should endeavor to have the whole question as to the rights of the French on the west coast submitted to the arbitrators, and not merely those relating to the lobster fishing. There is hardly a doubt, however, that Lord Salisbury had already done what he could in that direction, but without avail. It is satisfactory to learn that Newfoundland will at least submit to the *modus vivendi*, pending a settlement either by arbitration or otherwise. The statement that the Imperial Government had agreed to aid the construction of a railway in Newfoundland has perhaps had something to do with the moderation into which the Islander's agitation has subsided.

In the meantime, it is certainly not in accord with the loyal and Imperial utterances of the Premier of Newfoundland while in England that Canadian vessels should have been denied the right to purchase bait. It is no use talking about Newfoundland as being a part of the Empire and having a right to Imperial protection and assistance while Newfoundland is treating another part of the Empire—Canada—not merely as a foreign country, but is actually denying to us privileges or rights that are conceded to the United States. And this in face of the fact that Canada has built and maintains several lighthouses, not to speak of fog horns and Syrens, on the Newfoundland coast, and grants an important subsidy towards steam communication between St. Johns and Halifax.

An article in the last number of the *Contemporary Review*, signed, "A Continental Statesman," is exciting a genuine sensation in Europe. The identity of the writer has not yet been discovered, but there can be no question that he is what he represents him to be and has, moreover, a profound knowledge of his subject. He endeavors to show that the Triple Alliance is ruining Italy, and urges that her natural ally is France. But while the fact is true that the Italian finances are in extreme disorder, brought about by the immensely heavy expenditure necessary to maintain the army and navy on a war footing, and secondarily to her abortive colonial policy, it is difficult to see what Italy is to do. The Italians have not forgotten 1859, neither do they prefer the Papacy to the Monarchy. Besides, were Italy to withdraw from the Dreibund, the prospect of war would be immensely increased, and she could not therefore afford to reduce her army and navy to any extent. Anything that would weaken the Triple Alliance would bring the prospect of a general European war much closer. At any rate, we venture to predict that if Italy does withdraw from the Triple Alliance it will only be to form another with Great Britain, and this, indeed, would be almost a great guarantee of peace as the

status quo. For Italy to join France means instant war. Germany would be compelled to take the initiative, and no one could blame her.

Liverpool is dealing with its congested districts in the most vigorous manner. As a commencement, some old rookeries have been swept away and replaced by a quadrangular building containing two hundred and seventy-one tenements of three, two and one rooms each, with shops on the ground floor. The three room tenements rent for \$1.44 per week; two rooms for \$1.08, and one room for 54 cents. It is estimated that the investment will yield a return of four and a half per cent. This great civic and sanitary reform was undertaken by the city, primarily because there was no other way of getting rid of a pestilential sore spot, and because private enterprise either could not or would not move in the matter. If the experiment turns out a financial success, it is proposed to continue it until everything in the shape of a slum has been eliminated from Liverpool. From what we can remember of the place, the corporation has undertaken a huge task.

The British Government has at last made a formal announcement that no future treaty of commerce will be entered into by the Mother Country which precludes preferential arrangements between England and her Colonies, and that any existing treaty (there are only two outstanding) having that effect will not be renewed. This is a step that we had long anticipated and in common with all Imperial Federationists we rejoice in the fact that the knowledge however tardily has been driven home to British statesmen that the time has come to put the relations of the colonies and the United Kingdom on a better footing.

It is understood that Mr. D'Alton McCarthy intends to continue in the new Parliament his efforts on behalf of civil and religious liberty. Those who affirm that the Equal Rights will take up, at least for the present, a purely negative position, are destined to find themselves mistaken. There is too much work to be done, not only as regards Manitoba and North-West legislation but also with reference to the school question in Ontario and the proper limitations to be set to the official use of the French language.

Correspondence.

While we give full publicity to the views of our correspondents, we wish it to be distinctly understood, we do not hold ourselves responsible for them.

French Canadian "Rights."

To the Editor of the ANGLO-SAXON.

SIR,—Your correspondent who signed as "A Manitoba S. O. E." last month, cannot be accused of not making a very pungent, not to say a virulent attack upon your editorial review of the proceedings of the Supreme Grand Lodge at Hamilton.

Whether your remarks on the racial and religious issues in Canada are justified by incontestable facts, I should imagine the bulk of the readers of the ANGLO-SAXON can fairly form their own conclusions after a very short residence in those localities chiefly affected thereby.

Your correspondent's letter teems with so many inaccuracies and vapouring sentimentalities that it is distressing beyond measure to think that an Englishman, with access to so many sources of knowledge can address his countrymen in such a manner. It makes one feel too tired.

I shall thank the Englishman who can point to any treaty with France whereby, at the cession of Canada to Great Britain the official use of the French language, and the endowment of the R. C. religion by the State was guaranteed to French Canadians? The free use of their language and exercise of their form of religion was guaranteed in the same way as those of any other foreigners who come daily and make Canada their home. Civil and religious liberty—not persecution—was to be their lot under British rule,—no more no less. What they are now claiming as "rights" are race and religious privileges, destroying the equality of all citizens before the law—privileges which with the aid of a solid column vote, directed by their clergy, were extracted from rival politicians at the period of Confederation and since. Their church or race, have not one particle of "right" to claim the power to collect tithes by process of law on Canadian citizens; to have separate schools paid for by the State, such as is allowed to no other creed, and to have their language made an official language, when Indian, German and other languages have not the same re-