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The Journal of Commerce

MONTREAL, CANADA

VOL, XLVII. No. 6

GARDEN CITY PRESS, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY, 11 1919.
Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que.

Price, 10 CENTS

The Journal of Commerce

Devoted to

CANADIAN INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND FINANCE.

Published every Tuesday Morning by

The Journal of Commerce Publishing Company,
Limited.

Montreal Office: Room 30-B, Board of Trade Building. Telephone Main 2662.

Toronto Office: 412 C. P. R. Bldg., Toronto. Telephone: Adelaide 3310.

Vancouver Office: 507 Board of Trade Bldg., Vancouver.

Printed at The Garden City Press, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que.

Telephone: 165 St. Anne's.

HON. W. S. FIELDING,

President and Editor-in-Chief.

Subscription price, \$3.00 a year.

Advertising rates on application.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1919.

Special Articles

The Adjustment of Wages.

By J. W. MACMILLAN.

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The Dominions and the League of Nations

THE movement for the creation of a League of Nations capable of preventing war so bristles with difficulties that one is not surprised to find in some quarters a strong conviction that it cannot be successful. A few years ago it seemed a dream only. Tennyson gave the world a beautiful picture when he wrote of a time when the war drum would beat no longer, when the battle flags would be furled, when there would be a Parliament of man, a federation of the world; but few who read his words had any hope that his dream would be realized. The awful war through which the world has just passed must make everybody understand more fully how great a blessing a League of Nations to prevent future wars would be. The work of forming such a League, reconciling and harmonizing the interests and aims of the different nations, and devising ways and means of enforcing the League's decisions, is a tremendous one. That it has now been gravely taken up at the Peace Conference, that it has, in principle at all events, the support of the leaders of all the great nations of the world, is a situation for which everybody should be profoundly grateful. It is too soon to speak with confidence of the success of the movement. At any stage of the proceedings obstacles may present themselves that are insurmountable. But the fact that the statesmen at Paris, after discussing the whole subject from every point of view, are able to send out encouraging words as to the probable outcome is very gratifying.

A late despatch from Paris, not of an official character, states that the Dominions—presumably Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa—are claiming a right to be represented in the proposed League of Nations as independent nations. It is stated that the British Government are willing to endorse this claim. Whether the representatives of the other nations will give their assent remains to be seen.

There is a disposition on the part of some Canadian journals to regard with favor this proposal that the Dominions, as separate entities, shall become partners in the League of Nations. It is treated, as respects Canada, as an important recognition of the greatness

of Canada. On a question of such large importance it is well that conclusive judgments should be reserved until there is before the public full information of the constitution of the League of Nations, showing just what the League is to undertake, how the work is to be done, and who is to pay the cost. Meanwhile it will not be well for us to be carried away by the glamour of what is written respecting a recognition of Canada in the eyes of the world. There are forms of recognition which are worth contending for. There are others which may easily be more productive of trouble than of advantage. There is room for grave doubt as to the wisdom of any international arrangement which contemplates the treatment of Canada as a country apart from the British Empire. Canada has indeed become an important country. It is "getting to be a big boy now." But the big boy will have to be on guard lest he forget that he is still a youth, still a member of the family, who will not be improved by an artificial expansion of chest or swelling of head.

Let us see what is this big job he wants to take on before we rejoice over the prospect of it.

A Wise Solution

ONE of the many labor problems that are troubling the world seems to have been happily settled by the arbitrators who inquired into the grievances of the policemen and firemen of Montreal. It was fortunate that the men concerned were persuaded to refer the matters in dispute to arbitration. The arbitrators who undertook the task of inquiry were prominent citizens, of whose fairness of mind there could be no question. They spent much time in hearing all that could be said by the men, and then in deliberating as to the decision to be reached. The award made by them shows their earnest desire to be just to the men, and at the same time mindful of the rights of the employers, who, in this case, are the whole community. Liberal increases of pay are recommended. These will add materially to the cost of government, which the citizens have to pay. There will be few, if any, to complain of this. There should be—and happily here is—a general recognition of the fact that the workers in all branches of