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One Empire. A report of Mr. Chamberlain's notable speech, delivered at a dinner given in his honor at Fishmonger's Hall, London, on October 25th, has been published in Canadian newspapers. The keynote of the speech was Imperialism. He spoke of the growing strength of the bonds now drawing great Britain and her colonies together in one great imperial union, bonds which had been made stronger and more effective by the war in South Africa. Speaking of the new century and the new chapter in British history about to open, Mr. Chamberlain asked? What is to be the heading of this new chapter, and answered: "If I dare to speak for my countrymen, I think that they have already answered the question. I think the new chapter of our history will be rightly entitled: The Unity of the Empire." Speaking of the older imperialism which implied the establishment by conquest of tributary countries that were exploited for the sole and exclusive benefit of the home government, and of the opinion which for a time largely prevailed in England, that the colonies were a source of weakness rather than of strength to the nation, the Colonial Secretary dwelt upon the contrast to these ideas presented in the policy of imperialism which now obtains.

"Now a great change has come over our people. I think myself it came over our rulers and now it has come over both. We are all imperialists and we have at last abandoned the craven fear of being great, which was the disgrace—I call it no less—of a previous age (cheers), and now we find that our people—the democracy—understand the nature and the extent of the possibilities of this great empire of ours. Think of it, gentlemen, an Empire such as the world has never seen. Think of its area, covering a great portion of the globe. Think of its population embracing four hundred millions of people of almost every race under the sun. Think of the diversity of its products. There is nothing that is necessary or useful, or profitable to man that is not produced under the Union Jack. Think also, gentlemen, of the responsibilities and the obligations which the possession of such an Empire entails. We have to bring to all these dependent races—to all our kinsmen abroad we have already brought—freedom and justice and civilization and peace. (Cheers). And we recognize now that all these varied peoples have become one family. We recognize that their good is ours, and our strength is theirs (cheers); and we see that we are bound to them by interests, as they are bound to us. What should we be without our Empire? Two small islands with an overcrowded population in the Northern Sea. What would they be without us? Fractions at present—nations, indeed—but without the fulness of national life, without the cohesion that enables them to look the world in the face. We are bound together, also, by something which in international and national affairs is, perhaps, even stronger than material interests—by sentiment, by common ideals, and common aspirations. And, therefore, it is that from them, from our kinsfolk, from our fellow-subjects, we crave their affection, we invite their sympathy, we delight in their support."

China.

It is stated, on the authority of Dr. Morrison, the Pekin correspondent of the London Times, that the foreign envoys have finally agreed to the following conditions to be presented in a conjoint note which, subject to the approval of their governments, will be pressed upon China as the basis of a preliminary treaty.

China shall erect a monument to Baron von Ketteler on the site where he was murdered, and send an imperial prince to Germany to convey an apology.

She will inflict the death penalty upon eleven princes and officials already named, and suspend provincial examinations for five years, where the outrages occurred.

In future officials failing to prevent anti-foreign outrages within their jurisdiction shall be dismissed and punished.

Indemnity shall be paid to the states, corporations and individuals.

The Tungkai Yamen shall be abolished, and its functions vested in a foreign minister.

Rational intercourse shall be permitted with the Emperor as in civilized countries.

The forts at Taku and other forts on the coast of Chihli shall be razed and the importation of arms and war materials prohibited.

Permanent legation guards shall be maintained and also guards of communication between Pekin and Tsinan.

Imperial proclamations shall be posted for three years throughout the Empire suppressing Boxers.

The indemnity is to include compensation for Chinese who suffered through being employed by foreigners.

but not compensation for native Christians. The words "missionary" and "Christians" do not occur in the note.

Reports from other sources indicate that good progress has been made by the representatives of the powers in coming to an agreement as to conditions of settlement to be presented to the Chinese plenipotentiaries. It is expected that the joint note of the allied powers will be ready to submit in a few days. Upon certain minor points, respecting which there is not unanimity, the ministers expect instructions from their Governments before Nov. 20, which is the date of their next meeting. There have been persistent reports of the death of the Empress Dowager, to which, however, no credence appears to be given in official circles. The correspondent of the London Times states that a telegram from the Empress Dowager, dated Nov. 10, has been received by the Chinese peace commissioners at Pekin, censuring their failure to prevent the despatch of foreign punitive expeditions into the interior. Some at least of these expeditions appear to be necessary for the protection of European interests and the suppression of incipient Boxer uprisings, but it seems evident that they are also provoking suspicion and jealousy among the Chinese to a degree which may involve serious consequences. It is reported that Chang-Chih-Tung, the viceroy of Kan-Su, regarded as one of the ablest and most liberal-minded men among the Chinese, is raising 100,000 troops and has proposed to the viceroy of Nan-Kin that they should combine forces to oppose the allies.

It Touches the Tax-payer.

One common result of "glorious or inglorious war" is the additional burdens it involves for the tax-payer, and the disinclination of the people to suffer an increase of burdens which already seem too heavy constitutes, in countries where constitutional government prevails, one of the most powerfully restraining influences upon the warlike spirit of the nations. War is a terribly expensive business, even if no more is taken into the account than the material wealth consumed. And the tax-payer must settle the long bill for ammunition and artillery, and all the various accoutrements and equipments of the army, for soldiers' pay and pensions, for transport ships and coal and commissary supplies, for cavalry horses, and mules and oxen for transport trains, for medical and hospital service and for all the various and costly services which must wait upon an army. And sooner or later in one way or another the bill must be paid out of the pockets of the tax-payers—out of the earnings of the people. No wonder if Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, the Chancellor of the Exchequer for Great Britain, feels his present task of providing the means for the nation's military operations in South Africa and China to be an ungracious one. Sir Michael is indeed able to assure the British tax-payer that they will not have to shoulder the entire cost of the South African war. The conquered country will have to bear a part of the expense. But the amount that can be assessed upon the Transvaal is limited. "We must not spoil the future of the country," says the Chancellor, "by imposing upon it a burden greater than it could reasonably bear." If the whole cost of the war were assessed upon the Transvaal, it might make the Uitlanders, as well as the burghers, wish that Oom Paul and his oligarchy were re-established at Pretoria. It is most desirable that matters be so arranged that there shall be a manifest improvement in the condition of the country. Therefore the British tax-payers must necessarily bear a large part of the cost of the war. Moreover Sir Michael has to tell the people of Great Britain that the maintenance of a strong army and navy, which under present conditions is deemed indispensable, must involve increased expenditure.

Newfoundland Politics.

The issue of the recent general election in Newfoundland, turned upon the relation to the govern-

ment of the colony of Mr. R. G. Reid, the millionaire railway and steamship magnate of the Island. Under the administration of which Sir James Winter was premier and which was succeeded by the present Bond administration, an arrangement was made with Mr. Reid, which has been described as being "virtually a farming out of the administrative functions of the Government or many of them to a private corporation, to be conducted by it for its own profit." This arrangement had its origin, and, as many contend, its justification, in the financial embarrassments which the country was suffering. Mr. Reid was the contractor who had built the trans-insular railroad with its terminal docks, etc., at a cost to the colony of \$10,000,000. These were Government works, but owing to its weakness financially, the Government was not in a position to operate them satisfactorily. Accordingly in the spring of 1898 a contract was made with Mr. Reid, under which he was to control and operate and at the end of fifty years become the owner of all the railroads in the Island. He was also to control and operate the terminal docks and all the telegraph lines. In return he was to pay the Colonial Government a royalty, which, it was supposed, would transform the chronic deficit of the budget into a surplus and restore financial ease and comfort to the colony. No doubt but that this contract made with Mr. Reid has secured for the Island a much more efficient railway service than otherwise would have been possible, and likewise a greatly improved coastwise steamer service. It has also made favorable conditions for the investment of capital for developing the resources of the country. But when Mr. Reid proposed to convert his personal undertaking into a joint-stock limited-liability company with a capital of \$25,000,000, with a view to carrying on pulp and paper making, mining, agricultural operations etc., on a great scale, the Bond Government refused its sanction, and the result of the appeal to the country shows conclusively that the position of the Government has the hearty endorsement of the people, Mr. Morine who is Mr. Reid's solicitor and the leader of the party favorable to the Reid syndicate in the Legislature being left in a hopeless minority. Rightly or wrongly the people of the Island evidently believe that they have less to fear from an impoverished public treasury than from the domination of a joint-stock company.

Russian Barbarism. The indignation and horror which have been expressed at the methods of warfare employed by Russia against the Chinese, and especially in respect to her military operations in Manchuria, are certainly fully justified if the testimony coming from apparently trustworthy and unprejudiced sources is to be received. The London Globe last week published a letter from a Belgian gentleman who had travelled to Pekin by way of the Trans-Siberian railway. This traveller's account of what he saw in the Amur river exceeds in horror all accounts previously published. "The scenes I have witnessed during the three days since the steamer left Blagovestchensk," he says, "are horrible beyond the powers of description. It is the closing tableau of a fearful human tragedy. Two thousand were deliberately drowned at Moro, two thousand at Rabe and eight thousand around Blagovestchensk, a total of twelve thousand corpses encumbering the river, among which were thousands of women and children. Navigation was all but impossible. Last week a boat had to plough her way through a tangled and mangled mass of corpses lashed together by their long hair. The banks were literally covered with corpses. In the curves of the stream were dark, putrid, smelling masses of human flesh and bone, surging and swaying in the steamer's wake and wash. The captain vainly ordered full speed ahead. The sight and smell will be ever with us. From Blagovestchensk to Aigun, 45 kilometres, numerous villages studded the bank, with a thriving, industrious population of over a hundred thousand. That of Aigun was twenty thousand. No one will ever know the number of those who perished by shot, sword and stream. Not a village is left. The silence of death was around us. The smoking ruins of Aigun on the right, with broken down, crumbling walls, and shattered, roofless houses."