

The Canadian Courier

A National Weekly

NEWS CO. EDITION

Subscription : \$2.50 a Year.

Vol. I

Toronto, April 6th, 1907

No. 19

Topics of the Day

MR. JUSTICE LONGLEY of Nova Scotia created a disturbance, according to press despatches, at Halifax the other evening by predicting the independence of Canada. As a reply to him, those present at the annual dinner of the Mining Society sang "Rule Britannia." The Hon. Mr. Longley is a thoroughly good Canadian but it was rather foolish of him to declare for independence at this juncture. Canada has almost as much independence as she needs, and when the treaty-making power in so far as Canadian interests are involved, is controlled from Ottawa, there will be little more to seek. Further, at a time when Great Britain is honestly seeking to promote colonial trade and emigration and just a few weeks before an important colonial conference, it is unwise to raise the cry of independence. In fact it is ungracious.

* * *

Mr. Justice Longley is a clever, able and ambitious man, with peculiar little traits which have tended to diminish his reputation. That he has been greatly overshadowed in Nova Scotia by the more fortunate Mr. Fielding seems to have made him sarcastic and pessimistic at times. Consequently, while highly respected, he has not been a popular hero.

The other day when he was in Toronto, he was introduced by a friend to a leading K. C. as "Mr. Longley." He turned to the K.C. at once and inquired if it were usual in Toronto to introduce a judge as "Mr." The reader can easily imagine the effect on the minds of the two men concerned. The K.C., being a noble chap, stood by his friend and answered that it was quite usual.

* * *

An interesting case involving the ownership of the Lawson Mine, Cobalt, estimated to be worth anywhere from three to five millions of dollars, was argued in the Supreme Court last week. In September, 1904, four men entered into an agreement to prospect in the district. Important discoveries were made and a lease secured in January, 1905 in the name of one of them, Thomas Crawford. In June, Crawford, without the consent of his partners, it is alleged, sold one-fourth of his interest to Mr. Lawson, who immediately began to mine. An injunction was secured against him, and the property has been in court ever since. A number of speculative people have bought portions of the various interests, and consequently many are now interested. A lawyer in Toronto, possessed of very little of this world's goods, blocked one settlement by refusing an offer of nearly half a million for his share. The case was adjourned at Ottawa to permit another attempt at settlement, and it may be taken out of court this week. The mine is quite valuable enough to make a dozen men comfortable for the balance of their lives. The shares will run from \$200,000 to \$800,000 each, while the largest investment will not exceed \$25,000.

* * *

When the Imperial or Colonial conference meets on

April 15th, Sir Wilfrid Laurier will be present. In the House last week, he gave a comprehensive survey of his attitude towards many of the topics to be discussed. The occasion was made the more notable by the presence on the right hand of the Speaker of the Right Hon. Mr. Bryce, British Ambassador to Washington.

As to whether Canada should have a navy of her own, Sir Wilfrid had nothing to say, so that it may be inferred that he is not yet prepared to pledge his Government either one way or another on this point. Allied to this subject is that of Imperial Defence, and on this the Premier was quite definite. He maintained, as he did five years ago, that Canada should avoid "the vortex of European militarism," which shows that he has not been greatly influenced by the brilliant speeches of a certain McGill professor. Sir Wilfrid believes that the "armed peace" of Europe should not be encouraged; the "unarmed peace" of this continent is much more to his liking. Thus did he blot out once more the dream of a Canadian contribution to the British navy.

With regard to the proposed Imperial Council, which would act in an advisory capacity to all the governments which are included in the Empire, Sir Wilfrid is sceptical. He will not favour it, because it might disturb the existing pleasant relations with the Colonial Office. Apparently he is not even in favour of an Imperial Commission to investigate the problems of Empire and make suggestions based on information gathered. Here he fears faddists who might recommend reforms and changes which elected governments would find inconvenient.

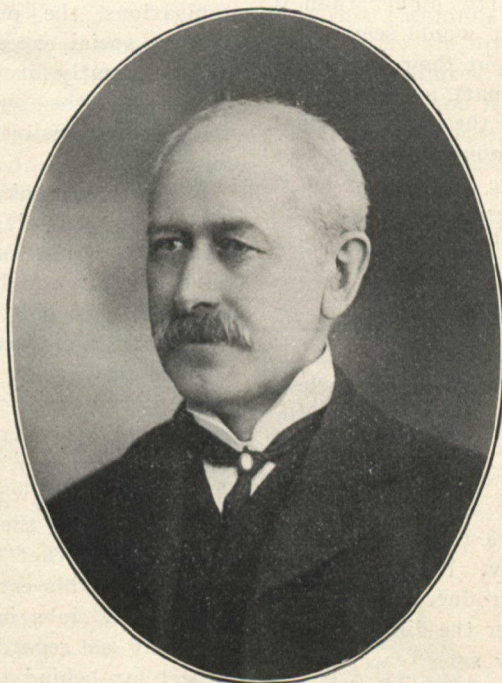
* * *

With regard to preferential trade Sir Wilfrid points out that he is in favour of it. Canada has proved that. It is for Great Britain to decide as to its further development. The Empire's pleasant relations can only be maintained by "allowing to every nation composing it, the measure of liberty that it has and also the free choice of the fiscal policy it is to maintain."

* * *

Western Canada is not greatly interested in foreign trade except as it relates to wheat. Ontario and Quebec are interested in foreign trade on both oceans. Nova Scotia is particularly concerned with the West Indian trade.

Three representatives of the Canadian boards of trade have recently visited the West Indies with a view to promoting trade with the British Islands. They urged that the West Indies give a preference to Canadian goods, and their visit will probably have an important effect. New York's influence in the Islands is necessarily very great on account of the steamship connection and the quick despatch of goods. For example, Ontario manufactures or Western flour have a long way to travel to the Islands via Halifax. New York has great stores of all classes of goods and can fill orders quickly. Nevertheless, Canada is wise in cultivating the trade. It is not large, but it is important that what we have we should hold.



Hon. Justice Longley
of Nova Scotia