

THE HULL FIRE.

Later dispatches make it clear that the calamity which has overtaken the town of Hull is far more serious than was at first supposed. Not only have thousands of people been rendered homeless, but the mills and workshops in which they earned a livelihood have also been swept away, and contributions from outsiders may be the only means of preventing actual destitution. All Canada is responding most generously to the calls for aid, even our much-maligned Chinatown setting an example that is worthy of emulation by the Caucasian portion of the city. The governments of the Dominion, of Ontario and a great many of the large financial and commercial institutions have responded with an alacrity which is timely considering the urgency of the need and the suffering that may be averted by giving quickly. No doubt the government of this province will also do its share in the good work, as the public do not desire to see the reputation we have gained for generous donations to the distressed suffer in the slightest degree. It seems the City Council is debarred by legal obstacles from contributing anything, and the calls upon the citizens have been so numerous of late that it is hardly to be expected the private subscriptions will amount to the usual goodly proportions, but still it is hoped that something may be done of which no Victorian need be ashamed.

The people of Hull will not depend long on the generosity of the community for the means of existence. The merchants and manufacturers are enterprising and the workmen industrious, and in a short time it will be once more one of the busiest towns in Canada.

The loss of life is deplorable, but it is awful to contemplate what might have happened if the fire had occurred at night. The unfortunate town has suffered more, than once from disastrous fires, but never before has the destruction been so great as in the present instance. Being one of the largest manufacturing centres of wood products in the world, the danger from fire must always remain unless something can be done to guard more effectively in the future than has been done in the past against such catastrophes. The insurance companies will be heavy losers as a result of the latest disaster, and they may insist on greater safeguards and more effective precautions against occurrences of a like nature.

A BAD COMBINATION.

There is a feeling abroad that there is some sort of an understanding between the remnants of the Turner party and the Conservatives to combine their forces in an effort to defeat the government and get control of affairs in this province. The action of the party liners in Vancouver and of the rump of Turnerism in Victoria in placing their ticket in the field has tended to strengthen this suspicion almost into a certainty, and it now looks as if there might be a coalition of the forces opposed to any such combination to circumvent the consummation of such a design. There are differences of opinion as to the practicability of certain planks in the platform of the Premier, and as to the qualifications of the Hon. Joseph Martin as a leader, but there can be but one belief respecting the fitness of any part of the Turner party to regain power in British Columbia. It may be contended that the presence of some good Conservative leader might have a tendency to raise the old ideas to a higher level, but it will be a difficult matter to impress the electors with a conviction of that sort. The province suffered too severely under the old regime to readily forget the part which the Turner party played in it. It was merely a degenerated form of Conservatism, and, judging from the past, one more term of such rule would leave British Columbia as bare of resources as the veldt in the Orange Free State. The gentlemen who are working the oracle may think that they are very astute and masters of diplomacy, but they are likely to find when they come to count heads that those against them are more numerous than those that are with them. The people want no more Turnerism, even in diluted form.

CROW'S NEST LANDS.

The Premier has sent by mail to every voter in Victoria a copy of his platform and a summary of the measures generally which he purposes to enact and enforce if returned to power. In this document it is announced that efforts are to be made to recover on behalf of the province certain coal lands which passed as a grant into the hands of the British Columbia Southern Railway Company. The history of that notorious transaction is now well known. The Times strongly opposed the bargain at all stages, for it was perfectly apparent that it was likely to prove an extremely bad one for the province. It was not generally known at the time that the land was likely to prove of such great value, and probably if the property in question had turned out to be of the ordinary quality of British Columbia lands nothing would have been heard of it. However, we now know that if the government were criminally ignorant or culpably negligent, certain of their supporters and friends were perfectly well aware of the potential wealth of the region, and they exercised their influence to such evil purpose for the province that a heritage worth many

millions has been lost to the people forever. The Premier says he purposes taking advantage of a technicality to recover this property for the province, and he quotes the opinions of high legal authorities to prove that this is possible. He says that the weight of legal opinion is with him in his contention, and that the company are not legally in possession of this land; but the question arises if it would be the proper thing for the province to take advantage of a quibble to repudiate its obligations and deprive a company, which came in possession of the property in a perfectly legal way, of its lawful possessions. We do not think the people of British Columbia desire to repudiate their obligations; if we have sinned against ourselves and our children through choosing incompetent advisers, we and they must bear the punishment that follows all wrong-doing. There should be no repudiation.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION.

The temporary difficulty which has arisen in regard to the Australian Federation Bill will no doubt be adjusted satisfactorily despite the pessimistic remarks of the press of the United States, which affect to see in the present temporary disagreement the germs of rebellion. The relations of the Empire and her colonies were never at any time in the history of Great Britain of a more harmonious and cordial nature. The war now going on has had a most potent influence in drawing the remote parts of our possessions into closer touch with the central parts, and we are not drifting towards disintegration but towards closer union.

The London Chronicle says the law officers of the Crown object to clause 74 of the bill now before the British House of Commons, and explains the reasons as follows:

"The clause in question confers on Australia the sole right of interpreting the constitution unless the point happens to affect some portion of the Empire outside Australia. Taking exception to this, the legal advisers of the Imperial government have proposed that there should be added to the Privy Council, sitting as a court of appeal, a department in which British and Australian judges should alike have places. A measure bringing this about would be introduced into parliament by the government, and no doubt it would be passed. Under such a system, it is argued, appeals from Australia would come before a tribunal adequately representative of that country, while at the same time the Imperial link implied in the Privy Council would remain unimpaired. That, stated briefly, is the proposal which is being submitted to the Premier of Australia."

The measure as originally drafted would certainly draw very fine lines that binds the Australian colonies to the Mother Country, leaving the Governor-General, the representative of the Crown, as the only remaining vestige of British suzerainty. A means of overcoming the present dead-lock is said to have been suggested to the Colonial representatives now in England, which may meet with the approval of the prospective Commonwealth. It is said to preface a momentous change in the relations of the various sections of the Empire, and the announcement of the nature of the new policy will be awaited with considerable interest. We are told that it is proposed to give Australia representation in an Imperial council, but the relations which this body may bear to the nation we have not yet been enlightened upon.

It is clear that if a council such as has been mentioned is to be created its membership will be representative of all the colonies, and it is not improbable that it may be empowered to deal with all questions affecting the welfare of the Empire at large, for instance, the most effective way of defending the colonies in time of danger. The great nations of the world have not yet beaten their weapons of warfare into agricultural implements, and if the nation should be unfortunate enough to have a dispute with a first-class power the weak point would undoubtedly be the colonies. They have not taken anything like adequate measures to defend themselves, and as the self-governing possessions contribute absolutely nothing at present to the British exchequer we cannot reasonably expect the Imperial government to do all that is required in case of international complications. Sir Charles Tupper's assertion that a federation such as may be proposed means the taxation of Canada to the extent of about \$46,000,000 a year is merely one of the Conservative leader's characteristic exaggerations. We are sure if the Laurier government, or any other government, should present the facts to the people of Canada and say to them that it was only reasonable that they should do their share towards the maintenance of the Royal navy there would be no hesitation on their part about supplying the funds. We know the value of the navy in Victoria. We realize the position we should have been in during the trying times of the Behring Sea controversy without the fleet to protect our sealing schooners and an experienced diplomatic service to guard our interests. Possibly opposition to such Imperial Federation as we have outlined above might be a popular move in some parts of Canada, but it is hardly likely that it would take well in Victoria.

OUT THEM SHORT.

There is a general complaint in all parts of Canada against the habit which has recently grown up in parliament and other public bodies of indulging in excessive prolixity in discussion. The disposition among speakers seems to be to es-

timate the strength of an argument as in proportion to the length of time taken to elaborate it, whereas the public who are expected to listen to or to read such harangues generally set down much speaking as proof of the weakness of a case. In any event, the public bore is a public nuisance as well as a source of expense to the community, and the general desire now is that he should be suppressed. Any member of parliament who deliberately stands up in his place and reads correspondence, talks for seven or eight hours, and moves resolutions which take up columns of newspaper space makes a public confession of his unfitness for a parliamentary career and should be relegated to private life until he learns the art of concision. In the Imperial parliament things are better managed. The leader of the House of Commons often disposes of matters of world-wide import in half an hour, and is noted for the brevity of his discourses. Mr. Chamberlain also recognizes the fact that "brevity is the soul of wit," and acts in accordance with his knowledge. These men might extend their remarks greatly every time they take the floor, and all they had to say would be read, we might almost say devoured, with avidity; yet they put aside the temptation and carefully avoid all danger of tiring their hearers. The same remarks apply to all the great speakers on the Liberal side in the Canadian House of Commons. Mr. Blake when in Canadian public life was wont to unduly prolong his remarks on nearly all subjects, and he did not strengthen himself in the esteem of his followers thereby. He has turned over a new leaf since taking his seat as representative of South Longford at Westminster, for he has added to his reputation thereby, for he could scarcely gain a patient hearing at the beginning of his career in Britain. Laurier and Cartwright deal briefly and pointedly with all subjects, and yet they, above all members of the present House, are sure to be listened to with eagerness and their printed speeches to be read to the last line. We were desirous of dealing with this subject entirely from a non-partisan point of view, yet it must be said, at the risk of seeming bias even on this question on which all should be of one mind, that the leading Conservatives are the great offenders in this important matter. Sir Charles Tupper is a Boanerges in debate, yet he is so carried away by the wealth of words at his command and the torrent of superlatives in his vocabulary that his arguments are lost in the surging flood of vituperation. His son is afflicted with the same weakness, but probably in a lesser degree, as witness his nauseating members so thoroughly with his alleged Yukon scandals that they shudder at the very mention of Klondike. Mr. Foster is a clever debater, and one follows for a time with wonder his artistic manipulation of statistics to demonstrate almost any point he desires to make, yet he seldom holds even his own followers to the end of his performance, and he would be still more popular and might yet beat all his rivals in the race for the Conservative leadership if he studied still more the art of "bolting down."

"This is an election year, and the deluge of talk is a trifle deeper than usual. To be sure, but the tendency to prosiness and dreamy drowsiness in public speaking in all kinds of assemblies seems to be increasing and the public would be deeply grateful to any ingenious individual who could devise some method of checking it. It is sincerely to be hoped the attention of all candidates at the coming election may be called to this and that the lucky ones selected to guide the destinies of the province will not forget it when they take their seats in the Legislature Assembly."

A TIMELY WARNING.

The Montreal Star affects to see an abundance of signs that Canada is to be afflicted with a great Conservative victory at the forthcoming elections. So confident is this great organ with alleged independent leanings that Sir Charles Tupper will shortly be Premier that it has warned him against taking any of the old guard into his visionary cabinet; that it is absolutely necessary that an improvement should be made in the personnel of the new administration as compared with anything the Conservatives have organized hitherto. The candor of our Montreal contemporary is quite refreshing when it says, for instance, that Sir John Macdonald, being a strong man himself, could afford to take weak men into his councils; which amounts to a declaration that as Sir Charles is not a political Hercules he must offset his own weakness by selecting strong men to help him out. It must be very gratifying to the Conservative leader to be told that victory is in sight, but knowing Sir Charles's tendency to bumpiness on the very slightest prospect of success, the Star took occasion to put a brake on his exuberance by pointing out the obvious fact that as he is personally weak it is absolutely necessary that his colleagues must be strong. Sir Charles is warned "that the very best material must be chosen if he wins and if he hopes to retain public confidence." There is not much comfort in this for those who were in the last Conservative cabinet. Under this decree where will Colonel Prior come in? There will be a tremendous demand for port-folios, and it will be a matter of considerable difficulty to please all individuals and all sections. Sir Charles the younger is now a resident of British Columbia, and, strong or weak, he will certainly be supplied with a seat. There

would be a tremendous fuss if British Columbia were given more than one representative. On the whole it looks as though there were a great disappointment in store for the chief member for Victoria.

But the Colonel may console himself with the reflection that the elections have not yet been won. 'Twas only a vision of a despairing organ.

The Conservative newspapers are greatly exercised just now about the probable date of the next Federal general election. They hint at the possibility of that important event being postponed until next year, as it is considered that the census might be taken and a redistribution bill introduced and passed before the expiration of the term of the present parliament. There is no doubt something in this point worthy of consideration, for it is intolerable that any party should be forced to appeal to the people with the graying province in the Dominion so gerrymandered as to place the Liberals at a great disadvantage. The temptation to deprive the Senate of the only excuse they are able to advance in favor of their rejection of the redistribution bill is not a very strong one, but there appear to be strong reasons against postponing the contest till the last moment. Any one who remembers the events preceding the last general election will realize what these objections are. In spite of the sage remark of our friend "the gallant Colonel" that the government is thoroughly discredited from one end of Canada to the other, there is not the slightest doubt its management of affairs has been so satisfactory that it may appeal to the people at any time with perfect assurance of success.

Sir Charles Tupper has made a strong point against the British system of colonial management. He says there is not a government on the face of the globe which has colonies—France, Germany, Austria, Spain, Holland—that pursues the same system as Great Britain; "that has not a different tariff within the empire to that of the rest of the world." Now that is undoubtedly true, but does the leader of the great Conservative party argue from it that we should resort to the colonial methods of these nations; have their colonial systems proved so successful as to be worthy of imitation by the greatest—in fact, the only—colonizing nation on earth?

Hamilton people have been in a tremendous state of excitement lately because four of their young men have beaten the pick of the youth of the United States in a 25-mile race. We do not see any necessity for such a furore. It has always been acknowledged that Canadians were swifter in all good, clean, athletic sports and after all things that are wholesome, pure and worth striving for than their American cousins, hence why so much pothee. The question arises, if such a fuss is to be made over these heroes in a small way, what will happen when a conqueror, say like Sam Hughes, returns to his native heath?

Many calls are being made on the generosity of the people of Canada at the present time. Large contributions have already been made to the various South African war funds; now we have the pressing claims of the Hull fire sufferers; and the millions of natives who are starving in India should not be forgotten. Our large-hearted neighbors to the south have given freely of their abundance to the famished Indians, and we of this favored land who suffer so little from such dispensations should not be absent-minded in such a cause.

As was anticipated would be the case, the Conservatives are circulating Mr. Foster's reply to Mr. Fielding's budget speech, clerical error and all. As the ex-Finance Minister acknowledged that he had made a miscalculation which destroyed the value of the criticism entirely, it seems as if common honesty would have impelled the leaders of the party to make corrections before circulating such a valuable treatise. But of course we all know that the supreme desire of the Tupperites is to deceive the people rather than educate them.

It is pleasing to be able to announce that the Dominion government have decided to advance the salaries of all post office employees receiving less than \$800 a year by \$5 a month. When this order goes into effect on the 1st of July the clerks will be in receipt of salaries considerably larger than those of their fellows in Eastern Canada, but even then, allowing for the difference in the cost of living, the allowance will be none too high.

Colonel Otter has been slightly wounded, but that other chibient Canadian, Sam Hughes, seems to have successfully dodged all the Manser bullets, which is extraordinary, considering the warm corners he has been in, according to his own veracious pen. Possibly the colonel's presence is more demoralizing to the morale of the enemy than the fire of a pom-pom would be.

It begins to look as if Great Britain will never become the great nation that nature intended her to be until her statesmen call Sir Charles Tupper and Col. Prior into their councils.

It looks as if the Boers have slipped out of the net General Roberts had so carefully prepared for them, but it is hard to say. The censor's blue pencil is evidently very busy.

PICKED A PIMPLE
Died From the Results.

Blood poisoning is a frequent result of picking pimples, a practice as common and so dangerous.

Only a few days ago a young man in Toronto picked a pimple on his face. Some deadly germ was given entrance to the blood, the sore became worse, he was removed to the hospital, and in spite of all the best physicians could do for him, he died within a week.

Nearly everybody has had the experience of a small and aggravated sore because of being picked, but it seems to need a death occasionally to warn people of the danger of picking pimples and sores.

The only safe way is to apply an antiseptic, such as Dr. Chase's Ointment, which at the same time kills all germs that may exist, and heals promptly any and every form of pimples or other skin diseases, such as eczema, salt rheum, tetter or rash.

Mothers frequently say that they could scarcely keep house without Dr. Chase's Ointment, because it is used almost daily by some member of the family for pimples, blackheads, itching eyelids, barber's itch, chilblains, scalds, burns or bruises, ulcers or poisoned flesh. It prevents much suffering by instantly relieving itching of the skin and curing every form of piles.



Dr. Chase's Ointment

60 cts. a box, at all dealers, or EDMANSON, BATES & CO., Toronto.

SONG OF THE CAMP.
Byard Taylor.
"Give us a song!" the soldiers cried,
The outer trenches guarding,
When the heated guns of the camps allied
Grew weary of bombarding.

The dark Redan, in silent scoff,
Lay, grim and threatening under;
And the tawny mound of the Minikoff
No longer belched its thunder.

There was a pause. A guardsman said,
"We storm the forts to-morrow;
Sing while we may, another day
Will bring enough of sorrow."

They lay along the battery's side
Below the smoking cannon;
Brave hearts from Severn and from Clyde,
And from the banks of Shannon.

They sang of love and not of fame;
Forgot was Britain's glory;
Each heart recalled a different name
But all sang "Annie Laurie."

Voice after voice caught up the song,
Until its tender passion
Rose like an anthem rich and strong—
Their battle-ave confession.

"Dear girl, her name he dared not speak,
But, as the song grew louder,
Something upon the soldier's cheek
Washed off the stains of powder."

Beyond the darkening ocean burned
The bloody sunset's embers,
While the Crimean valleys learned
How English love remembers.

And once again a flare of fire
Rained on the Russian quarters,
With scream of shot and burst of shell
And howling of the mortars!

And Irish Nora's eyes are dim
For a singer dumb and gay;
And English Mary mourns for him
Who sang of "Annie Laurie."

Sleep, soldiers! still in honored rest
Your truth and valor wearing—
The bravest are the dearest—
The loving are the daring.

UNSETTLED PRESBYTERIANS.
Montreal Gazette.

There is a seemingly considerable demand in the United States for a new creed for the Presbyterians. There are things taught by the Presbyterian church that many good people find it hard to accept. It has been a remarkable fact, however, has been tried in the furnace of persecution as few have been, and boasts of a succession of great and good men without whose work and testimony much that is inspiring would go out of the record of modern Christianity. It will be interesting to see what Parkhurst and Hills would substitute for what Calvin and Knox were inspired to teach.

WILL INSPIRE THE COLONIES.
Lytleton, N. Z. Times.

War, notwithstanding all its carnage and scenes of desolation, its passions and its miseries, has in all ages been one of the chief fountains of national inspiration. Evil in itself, and evil enough in many of its effects, it yet has the power of rousing men from mental sluggishness, from absorption in petty and ephemeral details. This is especially true of people like our own, who, until the present crisis, had never felt themselves one in the great movements of an Empire; and had never before sunk the lesser cares and griefs of individuals, or towns, or districts, in the mightier sentiment of Imperial loyalty and devotion.

A FRIENDLY WISH.
Minnepolis Tribune.

Let us hope that it will be followed by such just reform legislation by the British parliament in reference to Ireland as will lead to a complete and permanent reconciliation. The people of the United States have no interest in the matter save one of sympathy and good will. We hold it to be better for civilization and freedom that the people of the British Isles should be united and harmonious, for they, with the people of the United States, stand as the only exponents of really successful representative government in this world of ours.

LIVING ON A FARM.

While sitting down one evening
In the quietness to muse,
The thought just flashed across me—
"What profession shall I choose?"
Should I study for a doctor?
"Would my dear old mother charm,
But somehow what I fancy most
Is living on a farm."

There a man's so independent
He can do just as he pleases;
He can stay at home on wintry days,
When all the landscape freezes.
With his children playing round him,
And the baby in his arm,
Surely he's a happy soul who spends
His life upon a farm.

Let his family be a large one,
He is independent still,
For he knows the soil will raise enough
Each little mouth to fill.
With apples from the orchard,
And fresh milk from the barn,
How healthy little ones should be
Who live upon a farm.

There's the wife to do the milking,
And the butter making too,
And the children—"would surprise you,
What the little ones can do!
For the boys will carry wood in
"Till you'd think each little arm
Would break, but then it won't, for they
Were raised upon a farm."

The girls will tend the poultry,
For you know 'tis work they love;
And even washing dishes
Is work they're not above.
They will climb the tree for cherries,
And in this I see no harm;
Such exercise is good for them,
When taken on a farm.

Young men who care to settle
And to live a peaceful life
Just take a piece of land, but take
As well a peaceful wife;
For the two, well kept together,
Will work just like a charm,
And you'll never regret the day when you
First settled on a farm. C. H. B.

NAPOLÉON ON WELLINGTON.

The April Century quotes from Dr. O'Meara's unpublished "Tales of Napoleon" at St. Helena this judgment of the imprisoned Emperor on the general who finally overthrew him:

"I asked him if he thought Lord Wellington merited the reputation he had gained as a general. He said: 'Certainly! I think he does. He is a very excellent general, and possessed of great firmness and talent, but he has not yet done as much as some others. He has not conquered upon so large a scale.' I observed that he had shown great judgment and caution lately, but that at first he had been too precipitate in advancing into Spain. He said that he had shown a great deal of ability in the campaign of Spain. 'It is impossible,' said he, 'for man not to commit some faults. We are all liable to it, and the general who commits the fewest in number is the greatest general, and he has certainly committed as few as any one.' I then observed that still he was severely to be equalled to himself. 'Why, certainly,' said he; 'he has not done so much as I have done. He has not conquered kingdoms in the manner I have done, but he is an excellent general. His operations have not been upon so great a scale.'"

SUPERSTITIONS.

There are many superstitions about the egg. In Scotland and Ireland children are taught by their nurses to crush the shell after eating an egg, or to push the spoon through the bottom in the form of a cross, showing a lingering relic of the once general superstitious belief that witches lived in egg-shells and made boats of them, casting spells upon the household.

In Italy it was believed that an egg laid through the bottom in the form of a cross, showing a lingering relic of the once general superstitious belief that witches lived in egg-shells and made boats of them, casting spells upon the household.

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