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NOTICE TO READERS.

THE ANGLO-SAXON goes regularly to Sons of England, lodges and branches of the St. George's Society in all parts of Manitoba, the British Northwest Territories of Canada, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island; to branch societies of the Sons of St. George in all parts of the United States, to Clubs, Reading Rooms, Emigration Societies and similar institutions in Great Britain and Ireland, and to British citizens generally throughout Canada, the States, Great Britain and the Empire.

TRADE AND THE TIGERS.

We have been under the impression that the British Empire League was formed at a conference held in London on the 20th July, 1894, and, indeed, that impression has been confirmed by a reference to a circular issued about that time by the organizing committee. Nevertheless it seems, according to the most recent advice, that the "inaugural" meeting did not take place until the 29th of last month, when the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Walter Henry Wilkin, presided. It thus appears that eighteen months' time have been taken up in "organising" the League, and that, after all was said and done, its officials at its last meeting had nothing definite to propose in the way of action for accomplishing its object. We are tempted to suspect that they "dunno" where they are, but this does not appear to be the case if reference is made to their proceedings in December last year. Those present at the meeting held in the first week of that month, spoke strongly of the hindrance to Anglo-Colonial trade, which results from the fact "that no legislation exists applicable to all the provinces of the Dominion of Canada providing for the realisation, administration and distribution of insolvent estates." It was even proposed to make representations at Ottawa on the subject.

The proceedings of this League afford a brilliant example of the process of "beating about the bush." At a time when the Imperial idea is spreading so rapidly, when inter-British preferential trade is finding so many advocates, when rumours of war teach the lesson of unification both commercially and politically, the British Empire League busies itself with suggestions about a Bankrupt law for Canada! This, too, happened at a time when the press in the mother country was engaged in pointing out the true hindrance to Anglo-Colonial trade. For instance, in a leading article in the Times of 5th December, the following expressions occur:—"It is a matter of common knowledge that the trade of the Colonies with the United Kingdom is not increasing in proportion to the trade which the Colonies are doing with foreign countries. In the case of some of the most important Colonies this disposition is very marked. Taking, in the case of Australasia, the comparatively recent period during which Mr. Chamberlain has asked for returns, it will be found that in 1881 the total external trade with British possessions amounted to £27,340,763. In 1892 it was £60,952,541, showing an increase in round numbers of little more than three millions and a half. The foreign trade of Australasia in 1881 was £7,213,916, and in 1892 it had risen to \$14,894,557, or very nearly double the figures of the earlier date. Had trade with the United Kingdom progressed to anything like the same extent the effect would have been of the utmost importance to British industry. The increase, on an examination of the detailed returns, will be found to have gone almost to the United States, Germany and France, and by so much has served to stimulate the competitive enterprise of those countries. An almost similar state of things is to be traced in the Trade returns of South Africa, where also mining enterprise has of late shown a tendency to pass into French, American and German hands. In Canada where, twenty years ago, the imports from Great Britain formed 55

per cent. of the entire imports of the Colony, the proportion has now sunk to 37 per cent., while in the same period the proportion of imports from the United States have risen from 35 to 46 per cent., and those from France and Germany have heavily increased."

This quotation serves to prove the correctness of the judgment of the Royal Commission on the Depression of Trade and Industry that "in neutral markets, such as our own colonies and dependencies, and especially in the East, we are beginning to feel the effect of foreign competition in quarters where our trade formerly enjoyed a monopoly." The causes and effects of this foreign competition are patent and might well have occupied the attention of the British Empire League when considering the subject of hindrances to Anglo-Colonial trade. Instead of proposing remedies for these evils they blame the absence in Canada of legislation regarding insolvency! Verily this League has not yet learnt the use of a rifle and prefers to blaze away with a shotgun. It reminds us of a story from far-away India, where at one of the back-country railway stations a tiger had emerged from the jungle and attacked the station master. The native operator at once sprang to the telegraph and wired the manager, "Tiger on platform eating station master; please send instructions!" Similarly the B. E. League proposes to make representations about bankruptcy in Canada while the tigers of unrestricted importation and foreign protectionism are preying upon the vitals of English and Anglo-Colonial trade.

THE DEFENCE PROBLEM.

While the new (B. E.) League busies itself about Canadian insolvency, the Imperial Federation (Defence) Committee continues its activity in publishing pamphlets, two of which have yet to be noticed in our columns. No. 7, is a re-publication of an article on "The Navy and the Colonies," by H. O. Arnold Foster, M. P., who has long been identified with the Imperial Federation movement, and who was in fact Honorary Secretary of the original League at the meetings which were held in July and November, 1884. Of course the article is largely taken up in setting forth the short-comings of the Colonies in the matter of Imperial Defence, and in advocating the Committee's proposal that the Colonies should be asked whether they are, or are not, prepared to share the burdens as well as to enjoy the privileges of the Empire. This naive demand on the part of the Committee has always reminded us of Madame de Staels proposal to Goethe, that he should explain his philosophy in a short and concise sentence. "Madame," replied the sage, "we don't do such things in Germany," and neither do we in Canada choose to answer such weighty questions in such a brief fashion. We are gratified to observe that Mr. Arnold has much improved upon the method of the Committee, and now proposes "that a friendly request should be forwarded to the various Colonial Governments, by the Imperial Government, inviting Colonial representatives to a conference for the purpose of discussing the question of Imperial Defence. At such a conference alone can the necessary question be fitly asked or adequately answered." No objection can be taken to such a proposal as this, and we trust that the Committee will be able to prevail upon the Imperial Government to carry it out.

The progress of events is, however, so rapid in these days that we may reasonably expect the question to be reached in a manner still more direct. In our own Parliament, Mr. McNeill has given notice of a motion which, in our opinion, will, if carried, effect the solution of the problem. It reads as follows:—"That it would be to the advantage of Canada and the Empire as a whole that a small duty (irrespective of any existing tariff) be levied, by each member of the Empire against foreign products imported by them, and that the proceeds from such duties be devoted to purposes of Imperial inter-communication and naval defence." We fear that this proposal is not likely to be approved of by the Committee, because in their programme "it is specifically declared that the objects of the Committee do not include any proposal involving an alteration of the fiscal policy either of the United Kingdom or any of the Colonies." The Committee are anxious to obtain contributions from the Colonies towards naval defence, but these are to be in the shape of hard cash, and to carry with them no commercial privileges whatever. On the other hand, we who approve of Mr. McNeill's resolution, maintain that if we are to stand shoulder to shoulder when necessary with the mother country against for-

sign nations, we must have precedence of them in time of peace. Like the citizens of the American Republic or the subjects of the German Empire, we demand that our sacrifices in war times for the good of the commonwealth shall be recompensed by the care and protection of our material interests when the conflict is over.

No. 7 of the Committee's pamphlets is a reprint of the Right Hon. Mr. Chamberlain's speech of the 6th November last, at the Natal Banquet, which has already been referred to in our columns. In the preface the Committee state that "in all that he has said, and all that he has done, Mr. Chamberlain has given evidence that, while he shares to the full the hopes of the Imperial Federation (Defence) Committee in the direction of Imperial unity, he is also in perfect harmony with the views of the Committee in regard to the principles upon which that great end can be effectively and honourably attained." In view of this very sweeping assertion, it becomes necessary to state that in a careful perusal of the speech referred to we have been unable to find anything to show that Mr. Chamberlain agrees with the Committee in their peculiar views regarding Colonial contributions for naval defence. Neither is there anything in Mr. Chamberlain's speech at the Banquet given to Lord Lansington on the 21st January last which would justify the Committee's assertion. Indeed it is of a similar nature to other unfounded statements which have been made regarding Mr. Chamberlain's utterances, and to which he refers in the following felicitous reply to the toast proposing his health:—

Sir James Garrick and gentlemen, nothing could be more grateful to me than that this toast should be proposed by the eloquent representative of a colony which we have met to honour as well as its future Governor, and nothing could be more agreeable than the kindly reception which you have given me. It almost emboldens me to think that there might be yet occasions upon which I shall venture to address my fellow-countrymen—(laughter)—a point upon which I admit I have had grave doubts since I have become acquainted with certain criticisms on my recent performances. (Renewed laughter.) When I became Secretary of State for the Colonies I accepted with that office certain duties, not the least pleasant being that of presiding over similar gatherings to this. I attended a meeting of the friends of South Africa on an occasion interesting especially to our colony on the 1st of July. I made a speech on that occasion in which I endeavoured to point out that this was, on the whole, a considerable empire, and that any true view of its perspective would take into account the greatness of the colonies, the magnitude of their resources, as well as the past history of the mother country—(cheers)—but thereupon I was surprised to read in the report of a speech of a minor luminary of the late Government, on the occasion of the recent raid into the Transvaal, that that unfortunate occurrence was entirely due to the spread-eagle speech which I then made. (Laughter.) It is extraordinary what great events spring from trifling cause. I had no conception that my words would travel so far, or that they would have so great an influence. To the best of my knowledge and belief I have never made a spread-eagle speech in my life. (Laughter.) I think I have been able to distinguish between patriotism and Jingoism, but in order that there may be no mistake I desire to say now, in the most formal way, that the few remarks which I have addressed to you to-night are not to be taken as an invitation to any individual to carry on war on his own account, or to make an invasion of a friendly country with which we are at present at peace. (Cheers and laughter.) But, gentlemen, this is not all, because this afternoon I read in an evening newspaper that this same speech, which I thought so natural and so innocent, was really the dictating cause of our difficulties in British Guiana—(laughter)—of the complications across the Atlantic. It appears that in speaking of Imperial unity, in endeavouring to popularise that idea amongst my countrymen, I am giving offence to other nations. Gentlemen, I cannot help thinking that Lord Rosebery was mistaken when a short time ago he said that Little Englanders no longer existed among us. (Hear, hear.) A pretty pass we must have come to if the Minister who is responsible for the British Colonies is forbidden to speak of their future, of their greatness—(Bravo, and cheers)—of the importance of maintaining friendly relations with them, of the necessity of promoting the unity of the British race. (Cheers.) I remember a story of a certain burgomaster in a Continental town, to whom complaints were made that naughty boys were accustomed to throw mud upon the passers-by. He was asked to intervene, and he issued a proclamation, which was to the effect, that all the respectable inhabitants were requested to wear their second-hand clothes—(laughter and cheers)—in order not to give offence. (Laughter and cheers.) I do not so understand the position that I hold. (Hear, hear.) I decline to speak with bated breath—(hear, hear)—for fear of giving offence to foreign nations. We mean them no harm. (Hear, hear.) We hope they mean us none—(hear, hear)—

but not for any such consideration will I be withheld from speaking on points which have for us the greatest interest, and upon which the future of our Empire depends. (Loud cheers.) Sir James Garrick has kindly attributed to me motives in seeking the office which has been conferred upon me. He is not perhaps far wrong in thinking that I have long believed that the future of the colonies and the future of this country were inter-dependent, and that this was the creative time, and that this was the opportunity, which, once let slip, might never recur, for bringing together all people who are under the British flag and for consolidating them into the great self-sustaining and self-protecting Empire whose future will be worthy of the traditions of the past. (Loud cheers.)

"COME OVER AND HELP US!"

Not unfrequently in these columns we have expressed the hope that Lord Salisbury's Government would in some way or other contrive to take a decided step in the direction of Imperial consolidation. The wish being father to the thought, we have anxiously scanned the Premier's speeches in the hope of finding some indication that he intended actively to promote the unity of the Empire. We must confess that until very recently our search has been in vain, and we must also acknowledge that the programme unfolded in the Queen's speech does not contain much of interest for the imperialist. It is pretty much the same as was outlined by Lord Salisbury at Brighton, as far back as the 19th November, 1895. He then told his audience that "in the present prosaic commercial age most measures are measures of money," and stated that in dealing with such money as might be at command it would be expended in the following order of importance:—The first claim is the Naval Defence of England; Next, "A sincere effort will be made to bring some mitigation to the suffering which we see around us in respect of agriculture." And, in the third place, Lord Salisbury said, "after we have defenced the country and relieved its agriculture, I do not know how much will be available to deal with a question in which we all feel the keenest interest,—I mean the education of the country."

There is nothing in this prosaic programme to fire the patriotic heart, and yet, on the 31st January, only twelve days before the opening of Parliament, Lord Salisbury had made the following remarkable statement:—"Surely the lesson which has been taught us by these recent times, is that all parts of the Empire must draw together. If we are in trouble in the new world and the old, it is not because we have thought of any domestic interest attaching to England. It is because we have been anxious to defend the rights and the security of our Colonial brethren, and the colonists have answered in the spirit in which we have acted. They have sent us back assurances of sympathy and support which have been of the greatest encouragement in the troubles that we have had to deal with. We all know how difficult it is to find any formula or statute for the federation of the Empire, but we yet feel that something greater than formulas or statutes is driving the Empire together; is forming a federation which will be a reality before the expression to denote it has been invented."

The contrast betwixt these words and the unpromising sentences in the Queen's speech is very striking. The latter no doubt describes all the business which the government is capable of undertaking, while Lord Salisbury's glowing words indicate his own aspirations and those of the nation. It is difficult to conceive of any words better calculated than these to stir up those lethargic leagues of London, which have been expressly formed to advance the cause of Imperial unity. Yet we do not hear of any special effort on the part of the British Empire League, the Imperial Federation (Defence) Committee, the Navy League or even the United Empire Trade League. One would have thought that if they had anything in the way of an advantageous course of action to suggest they might have made very effective representations to Lord Salisbury just about the time of the delivery of this speech.

From a recent cable message it appears that Sir Howard Vincent was asked what the United Empire Trade League proposed to do respecting a tariff of preferences within the Empire. The reply was, "I cannot say definitely, but we shall march forward day by day and stage by stage in accordance with Sir Charles Tupper's views and those of the Canadian Government." Now, since both the Canadian Parliament and the Colonial Conference pronounced long ago in favor of Preferential Trade as advocated by the League, it is not very clear what more the League wants from Canada or what Sir Howard Vincent is waiting for. All the leagues and their leaders seem to be waiting, like Micawber, for something to turn up that will bring on Imperial Fed-

eration without any positive action on their part.

Divergence of opinion and want of purpose on the part of the friends of Imperial unity in England sometimes finds relief in the suggestion that the Colonies should make the first move. This, indeed, was done by the Ottawa Conference of 1894, but its resolutions were condemned by Lord Rosebery's Government, who had nothing to offer in the shape of counter proposals. Nevertheless, in spite of all this shuffling with great interests, it cannot be denied that the great heart of England yearns for her children, and there seems to be standing now on her shores the grand form of Britannia herself looking across the ocean towards Canada and calling out to us, like the man of Macedonia in the vision, 'Come over and help us.'

REINFORCEMENTS.

It is with great pleasure that we notice that some of our contemporaries are becoming more decided in their advocacy of measures tending to closer British union. We observe leading articles indicating this in the Mail and Empire, the Hamilton Spectator, and the Toronto World, which have mostly reference to the resolutions brought before Parliament by Mr. McNeill during the present session. We reprint in this issue one of these leaders from the Toronto World, on "Mr. McNeill's second motion," and strongly recommend its perusal by our readers. We welcome these expressions on the part of the daily press as reinforcements for the cause which the Anglo-Saxon has so long advocated.

ENGLISH NEWS FOR ENGLISHMEN.

The Venezuelan question has simmered down, the Yankee eagle has flopped, and the work of Cleveland's Commission will result in nothing. The German Emperor's letter to Kruger was only gas, and that bee-in-the bonnet and hair-brained creature Bill took old Bismarck's advice, and cooled off. The world, and the great British Empire know that England has a man—yes, a statesman, at the helm, who spends his days and nights looking after, and working for, the Empire's best interests. Veteran Salisbury made a good beginning when he took hold of the reins, when he said "that God rules in the affairs of nations." He has also in his Cabinet men of intellectual calibre and pluck. He put into commission the Flying Squadron on short notice. This squadron has wings and fins, and the propelling power cannot be surpassed, and the admiral in command is like the Donnellybrook Irishman, "just spoiling for a fight," and it may be truly said, "God help the unfortunate ones who may come in contact with that flying squadron."

THE LIQUIDATORS. Just think of the stupidity of a deputa- tion of temperance people inter- viewing Lord Salisbury in regard to the temperance society's bill for a reduction of licenses, especially at a time when the Premier had other more important matters of the Empire to look after. The Premier wisely let them know that the question could not be entertained this session.

THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT. The Queen's speech is devoted mainly to foreign and Imperial questions, and no attention will be given to domestic legislation this session. Salisbury meets Parliament without any forebodings of trouble. He has at his back a strong government and following, a United Empire, an army of lions, and a volunteer force that surpasses in drill, discipline and pluck, the regular army of any other nation. He has also a surplus of £6,000,000 in the treasury, and

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