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**AN EPOCHAL YEAR**

The three prospective great events of the present year are coronation of King George, the meeting of the Imperial conference, and the ratification of the reciprocity agreement between Canada and the United States with perhaps a fourth which, if completed this year, will be greater than these three. The overshadowing event if it takes place will be the ratification of an arbitration treaty between Britain and the United States.

The coronation is a great event, because the King is the symbol of the Empire. The crowning of the King will bring together all the representative men of the Empire. Besides that a great many representatives of other world powers will be present to do honor to the nation through the King. It is the associations that go with it that are important.

The Imperial conference which precedes the crowning of the King will be attended by representatives of all the self-governing parts of the Empire. It will be a step towards the unification of the Empire. Every conference that is held is one more link in the chain that binds the different British nations together. It is at the present time the only opportunity for discussing Empire affairs. Some of the members of the Conservative opposition in the Dominion parliament have threatened to prevent Sir Wilfrid Laurier going to that conference. The people of Canada would not tolerate that. They recognize the value of the conference and they also recognize, as does everyone else in the Empire, that Sir Wilfrid will be the most important figure there. His attendance is an absolute necessity if the conference is to be a success.

The reciprocity agreement is important from an Empire point of view, because it is the first recent movement towards free trade in the Colonial nations. It is a movement towards bringing the policy of Canada into line with that of the Mother Country. It is a step towards the breaking down of trade barriers and the upsetting of the plans of those who would build the Empire on such a shallow foundation as finance. This is apart altogether from the local view of the treaty. It is an Imperial view. The breaking down of the tariff wall is also a step towards that Anglo-Saxon alliance for which British statesmen have been working for so many years, and in the interests of which Canada's interests have in the past been often sacrificed.

Whether or not a treaty for the purpose of settling all grievances between Britain and United States by arbitration will be arranged this year no one can say. The seed has been already broken and the seed that has been sown may germinate within a comparatively short time. Both of the parties in Great Britain favor it. In the United States a somewhat similar state of affairs exists. It will now be for the statesmen on either side to adopt a plan which will be acceptable to the people of both countries.

If the above programme is carried out this year, as there seems every likelihood will be done, 1911 will be one of the great historical years. It will be a year to be remembered while the nations last.—Victoria Times.

Premier Asquith in the British House of Commons recently showed that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had been misquoted by Austin Chamberlain and accused tariff reformers of being sloppy in regard to their facts. The word sloppy is rather a good one, and would be very useful also in describing the statements made by certain politicians in this country who make misleading statements in regard to reciprocal trade with the United States.

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