

THE LEAGUE OF EMPIRE

The people of Victoria are to be told something about the League of Empire at a meeting to be held at the Empress on Thursday afternoon, when the Lieutenant-Governor will preside. Of late years, such a variety of organizations, having imperial objects, have been brought under public notice that it is not a matter of surprise that many people are not familiar with the aims and objects of them all. The League of Empire appears to be an organization intended to be educational and as everything educational ought to be of benefit, we hope that the meeting will be well attended, and in every way successful. Pending the full explanation, which Miss Ord Marshall, honorary secretary of the League, will doubtless give, it would be premature to make any more than a very general comment upon its objects and methods. We may say, however, that as an indication of the growing habit of the British people everywhere to think of the Empire as a unit, the League deserves very favorable consideration. As Colonist readers know, this paper is not very partial to cut-and-dried Imperialism. It is not very much concerned about methods, but it does care very much about results. It hopes that the cause of Imperial consolidation will advance rapidly, and it believes that the way to make it advance is to instill into the minds of the British people an intelligent, if only general, idea of what the Empire is and what it may become. We say "only general," because it is impossible for any one to foresee the full scope and direction of Imperial development. The most that the wisest of us can hope to be is to students of what is undoubtedly the greatest problem in nation building with which humanity has ever been confronted. Hence, when we read that the object of the Empire League is not a propaganda but educational, we are predisposed to feel very sympathetic towards it.

POULTRY RAISING

An increased interest in being taken in poultry raising on Vancouver Island, and the lectures of Mr. J. A. Jull, who is associated with the Department of Agriculture, poultry expert, will prove of very great assistance to those who are engaging in this pursuit commercially. Very much has appeared in print recently as to the profit in poultry, but, as a correspondent pointed out a short time ago in a letter printed in the Colonist, many of the claims made are ridiculously extravagant. It is not necessary to suppose that such claims are untrue for, in exceptional cases remarkable results have been attained. We have an item this morning in regard to some White Leghorns at Duncan that netted their owner each \$130 in three months. This also is very high. Last year we had a statement from a poultryman near Victoria, who said that he cleared \$200 a year from each bird. This is a high and very satisfactory average, and it is not beyond what any one, who goes into the business systematically and carefully, may reasonably expect. A statement, which attracted considerable interest in the East some years ago, placed the cost of keeping a flock of White Leghorns at a little under 72 cents per head for a year. The average yield of the fowls was 13 dozen eggs; therefore the average cost of the eggs was 7.2 cents per dozen. We should like to have a statement of the cost of egg production here. Can it be kept under 8 cents per dozen? If it can be, then there would be a profit of over \$2.00 upon each laying hen, which is a very fine return for the money invested and the labor entailed.

BARONETS

There is no class of titled gentlemen in the United Kingdom who have more troubles than the baronets. Baronet is not a title of nobility, and no special privileges attach to it in any way, except that of precedence, which gives its holder a place between a baron and a knight. It carries with it the title "Sir," but a baronet is not necessarily a knight. The title is hereditary, and is created by letters patent. For some years past the baronets have been much perturbed by claimants of the title, who are said to have no right to it. Indeed, so much uncertainty has prevailed on the subject that if anyone chose to call himself Sir—Bart, it was by no means easy to prove he was not entitled to do so. It has been said that very many of those claiming to be baronets cannot prove their contention. New interest attaches to the title from the fact that a Royal Warrant has been issued to establish a roll of baronets, and also that next year will be the centenary of the inauguration of the title by James I. That King agreed that 200 baronets and no more should be created, and that when the titles lapsed no new creations should be made. But Charles I. evaded this covenant by creating baronets of Nova Scotia, and this was what has given rise to all the difficulty. Originally a

baronet had to maintain 30 soldiers for three years. It has been claimed and conceded as late as 1874 that the eldest son of a baronet is a knight, but usually this right, if it is one, has been allowed to remain in abeyance. The issuance of the Royal Warrant is at the request of many baronets, who are anxious to have their status defined beyond a doubt. It will entail a great ransacking of pedigrees, and may lead to some very unexpected results.

POLONIUM

It is announced that Madame Pierre Curie and M. Debiere have succeeded in isolating polonium. Possibly this will not mean very much to you when you first read it, and you might read it over again several times and not be much the wiser; so, we will hasten to explain. Perhaps, also, you are not quite clear what a milligramme is, so we shall first explain this. A milligramme is the millionth part of a weight of a litre of distilled water. And a litre is the cube of the tenth part of a metre; and a metre is the ten-millionth part of the fourth part of a terrestrial meridian. Now, you surely know how much polonium Madame Curie and Monsieur Debiere have succeeded in isolating, and you will admit without argument that their task was as difficult as that at present occupying the attention of a certain Royal Commission. In order to accomplish this isolation, the accomplished lady and gentleman proceeded to treat five tons of pitchblende, which was very good of them, if pitchblende will absorb as much treating as some folk of whom we have heard. It evidently has a vigorous constitution, for it was with firm hydrochloric acid that they treated it. But their kindness did not stop at that. They proceeded to give it "a large number of reactions and extremely delicate manipulations." Most people would be likely to handle five tons of pitchblende which had been treated with warm hydrochloric acid, somewhat delicately. As a result of this generous treatment, pitchblende, which must be an exceedingly saggy thing, proceeded to give up its tenth part of a milligramme of polonium, which seems to be something like the millionth part of an ounce.

After reading above, if you have managed to live through it, you will be interested to know that after this polonium had been kept in isolation in a quartz receptacle for 140 days, half of it had disappeared, leaving in its place two substances, one of which is helium and the other is thought to be lead. You will, also, not be surprised to be told that polonium is five thousand times scarcer than radium, or that it is more active than radium, and disintegrates organic bodies with astonishing rapidity. Speaking seriously, we may say that this latest achievement of Madame Curie, who, it will be remembered, was, conjointly with her husband, the discoverer of radium, has created a great sensation in the scientific world. It seems to indicate that a new door has been opened for chemical investigation, and that the department into which it leads may be found to be filled with possibilities which are at present incomprehensible.

If the people of this good town had taken up the iron and steel business a few years ago, and had a plant in operation now, what a factor it would have proved in determining the location of a great ship-building plant.

Now that "an era of good feeling" has been inaugurated between Ottawa and Washington, is it not possible to devise a plan whereby the Puget Sound trap-fishermen can be induced to "play fair" in regard to the salmon run?

An Ottawa despatch from a Conservative source says that Mr. Borden has said that "there must be a complete and effective reorganization if he is to remain in the helm." There have been indications for some time of an approaching readjustment in the personnel of the Conservative organization.

Mr. J. C. Woods, of Vancouver, must be a candidate for the King's medal for heroism. In an interview in London he said that Vancouver is not as big a city as the real estate "boomers" claim. They announce that it has a population of from 126,000 to 150,000, he said. "It has nothing of the kind. The actual population is about 100,000." As Mr. Woods has left London for home, he can properly be classed among the bravest men of the time.

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It is now officially stated that President Taft did not regard the provincial regulations in regard to pulpwood and timber as "impost discrimination." This is another proof that the President has a level head. These regulations formed the piece de resistance of what popular demand there was for the application of the maximum tariff to this country.

One of the most revolting businesses now carried on in the trade in old horses between Great Britain and Germany. They are shipped by hundreds. Many die on the voyage across the North Sea, but it is stated that none of the latter are sold as butchers' meat. The traffic is said to be horrible in all its details, and the King and Queen are interesting themselves to remedy its evils as far as possible.

The storm centre has shifted from Cairo to Rome. It is not very difficult to appreciate the point of view of both parties to the incident mentioned in our despatches. Mr. Roosevelt seems to have forgotten the old maxim "What you are in Rome" etc. After the Farinakis incident it is easy to see that Mr. Roosevelt could not have done otherwise than he did, and it is likewise easy to see that Mr. Roosevelt could have only taken the course he did take.

We have not been accustomed to look to Mr. Winston Churchill for valuable utterances on constitutional questions, but he gave utterance to one in the House of Commons yesterday when he said it was no use for the ministry to approach the King and ask for power to force the veto resolutions through the House of Lords, unless the Commons were prepared to pass Supply, or in other words, the Budget. The one indisputable proof that the ministry possesses the confidence of the people is the acceptance by the House of Commons of the Budget, and the King is under no obligation to accede to the request of a ministry which cannot bring with it this proof. Mr. Asquith is too good a constitutional lawyer to take a position different from this.

Every day evidence accumulates that the Parliament Buildings need to be enlarged to meet the growing needs of the public business. A news item in this morning's Colonist speaks of the efforts to which the officials are put to provide accommodation for those, who come up for examination as engineers, to take charge of steam plants, and others who seek admission to the ranks of the land-surveyors. It is well known that the Buildings are taxed to their full capacity to meet the present needs of the Departments, which, indeed, in many cases, are badly cramped for room. When these structures were erected, even the most optimistic thought they would suffice for many years to come, but the development of the province has exceeded all expectations, and it is now clear that very much more room will have to be provided as soon as possible. We hope that, when the government takes up the matter of further accommodation it will do so on a scale commensurate with the certain expansion of all provincial interests.

Our friend Mr. Joseph Martin, has not required a very long time to get into collision with the Speaker of the House of Commons. The other day, when the revenue Bill was under discussion, Mr. Martin commented upon the action of Earl Grey, who, he said, had been interfering in Canadian politics by making certain statements in regard to the naval policy of the Laurier ministry. The Speaker drew his attention to the fact that as no salary was being voted to the General, his conduct was not a proper subject of criticism. To this Mr. Martin replied that the salary of the Colonial Secretary was under consideration, and this was therefore an appropriate time to discuss the conduct of the Governor-General, over whom the Colonial Office had control. The Speaker told him that he was simply making the Colonial Secretary a shield from behind, which he could not do. Mr. Martin returned to the charge whereupon Col. Seely said: "Though the hon. member represented St. Pancras he did not represent the people of Canada. The speech referred to was not fully reported; but, knowing the feeling of the Canadian people and the popularity of the Governor-General, he could not confidently say there was nothing in it and that Earl Grey had not said anything to forfeit, in any degree whatever, the confidence of the Canadian people," after which the incident closed.



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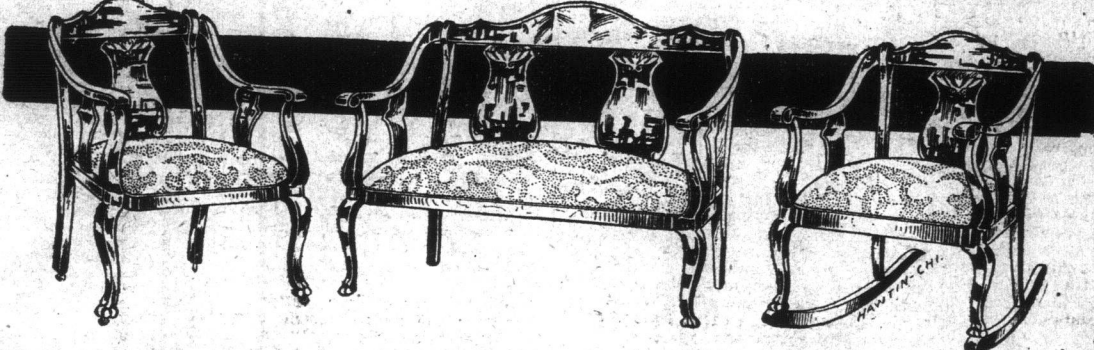
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Speaking of wedding gifts—what about a nice dinner service? Certainly the new couple will require one—more than one wouldn't be amiss. If you have a wedding gift to purchase this month, come in and see how well the appropriation may be used in the purchase of one of these stylish dinner services.

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Two carloads of linoleum and floor oilcloths just received—being now put into stock. This big shipment includes some very handsome inlaid, and also some exceptionally fine printed patterns.

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HAS NO AUDIENCE WITH POPE

Mr. Roosevelt Refuses to accept Condition Which Would Have Restricted His Personal Liberty in Rome.

INCIDENT CAUSES GREAT SENSATION

Cardinal Merry Del Val's Persistence that Former President Should Promise to Address the Methodist Convention.

ROME, April 4.—The determination of Mr. Roosevelt to forego an audience with Pope Pius rather than submit to the conditions imposed by the Vatican has created a sensation. The incident overshadows every other feature of the former president's visit to Rome.

Mr. Roosevelt sought an audience with the pope through American Ambassador Leishman and received a reply that the holy father would be delighted to receive him, but the ever was coupled with an expression of the hope that the audience would not be prevented by such a request. Mr. Roosevelt, in turn, stated that he could not accept any stipulation limiting his freedom of conduct. The latter message the Vatican made answer that the audience could take place excepting on the understanding that the audience would be the first made known. On March 29 Mr. Roosevelt sent Ambassador Leishman the following cablegram: "Proposed presentation is, of course, how impossible." Mr. Roosevelt insists that the incident be treated as purely personal and earnestly hopes that it will not give rise to any bitterness. He appreciates the attitude of the Vatican, but feels that he can not consistently take action that might be construed as involving a limitation of his personal conduct. He had made an engagement to address the Methodist or other religious bodies in Rome, but at the same time he thought he would not make promises as to what he would or would not do.

Vatican's Statement
Now that Mr. Roosevelt has made public the documents which the Vatican has considered confidential, Cardinal Merry Del Val, Papal Secretary of State, wishes the entire history of the negotiations for the audience which the former president sought of Pope Pius to be known.

Cardinal Merry Del Val is credited with the responsibility for the Vatican's part in the matter, and the following may be accepted as his version. Following the exchanges between Mr. Kennedy and American Ambassador Leishman and Mr. Roosevelt's decision not to be received under the terms imposed, John O'Loughlin, who was assistant secretary of state in 1909, and a personal friend of Mr. Roosevelt, called upon Cardinal Merry Del Val, bearing an introduction from Mr. Piacentini, apostolic delegate in the United States. Immediately after his introduction to the presence of the cardinal, Mr. O'Loughlin said: "I do not come in the name of Mr. Roosevelt, but on my own account as an American Catholic." Cardinal Merry Del Val said: "Then what are you for?" It is useless to discuss the matter. If you do not represent Mr. Roosevelt, you cannot make any arrangement or speak for him."

Mr. O'Loughlin replied: "What I consider important is to tell your Eminence that if the two despatches sent by Mr. Kennedy are retracted I can assure you that Mr. Roosevelt will accept an audience." Cardinal Merry Del Val said: "I will not discuss Mr. Roosevelt's rights; but give me confidential assurance that, de facto, Mr. Roosevelt will not go to the Methodists and the audience will occur."

Mr. O'Loughlin refused to give this assurance. The Cardinal then added: "Mr. Roosevelt is free to go to the Methodists and do whatever he chooses, but the Pontiff is certainly free not to receive a man who would claim the right to insult him on the day after having been received by him, or 'per haps on the same day, as, according to your own statement, he was in Rome on the same day of the Papal audience, thus having only between noon and evening on Tuesday in which to see the Methodists."

It is of little consequence whether the Catholic, Protestant, Israelite or Buddhist. All religious persons merit the same esteem. The important thing is to be honest and sincere. As far as the form of belief is concerned, I believe that all honest people will be always on good terms with each other.