

and Colonel Denison, of Toronto ; Professor Adam Shortt of Queen's University, and the late Sir Robert Thorburn, formerly Premier of Newfoundland.

It is interesting to note, by way of illustration, the views expressed by some of these gentlemen. Their testimony on such a matter is too valuable to be confined to a parliamentary blue-book. Thus, His Honour the Lieut.-Governor of Ontario, writes :—

"The dissemination of more information regarding each other among the Colonies than at present prevails, is a condition precedent to any successful effort being made for a closer Imperial union. I may venture to say that the people of the Motherland require to be educated regarding this subject quite as much as do the Colonies; the ignorant indifference of apparently intelligent persons in Britain regarding the vast interests involved in the unification of our Empire is lamentable.

"The plan you advocate for the telegraphic transmission of intelligence among our various dependencies must commend itself as one which will do much to prepare the minds of the people for at some future time adopting some plan for carrying out a closer union between the numerous nationalities which form our great Empire."

Monsignor Laflamme writes :—

"You are right in saying that before trying to unite the various national elements of the Empire, it is prudent and even necessary to make these elements acquainted with each other. I imagine that by going too fast we might reach the opposite extreme. A solid public opinion, the only kind on which one can safely count, is not a thing that can be improvised ; still less can it be imposed. It can only be reached by long and patient effort.

"Evidently the first step to take, is to circulate abundantly all information calculated to spread knowledge throughout the Empire and make known the mind of the various populations. Then only we may be able to say what scheme is fit for realisation, and in what measure.

"Allow me to say that the Province of Quebec would be specially glad of the creating of such a Bureau of Information."

M. J. G. Garneau writes :—

"I believe that it is in the common interest of England and her Colonies to draw as closely as possible the ties of commercial relationship, which give a practical basis for that feeling of interdependence and solidarity which is the best safeguard of the common weal. As the glorious constitution under which we live was gradually evolved from the teachings of experience, so must the idea of Imperial unity be arrived at by the aspiration of the component elements, united by the comprehension of their common interests. In order to arrive at this comprehension, it is essential that ignorance and prejudice be dispelled, and any means tending to this end must be a step in the right direction. The British Empire embraces many races and languages, and the spirit of loyalty to a common Crown and Government must be fostered by a broad and just tolerance of the individual characteristics and legitimate aspirations of its component races.

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