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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,

Manager and Editor

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 8, 1909.

It is scarce proper that one man's
life should so seriously affect business
affairs. Mr. Harriman is seriously ill,
and Wall street, New York, as well as
other financial centres, stand by in ap-
prehension as to what effect his death,
should it occur, will have on stocks.
Surely the world's business can go on
just the same without Mr. Harriman.
The apprehension is, we fancy, largely
the result of speculative operations.

Canada's great railways are not to
enjoy all the transcontinental trade. A
new route has just been opened by way
of the trans-Mexican railway. A quan-
tity of freight was shipped from Mon-
treal to Halifax, thence by steamer to
Puerto, across Mexico by rail to Salina
Cruz, then by steamer to Victoria and
Vancouver. As water carriage is cheap-
er than by land the charges are less,
notwithstanding the numerous changes,
than by rail all the way. It will hardly
become a passenger route. How condi-
tions change in the present day.
Facilities for transportation afford one
of the world's greatest civilizers.

The loss caused by industrial strikes
is much greater than many are aware
of. During July there were 15 indus-
trial disputes in Canada, involving 4,338
employees, who lost 118,000 working
days. This is a serious loss of time and
of wages, and must entail great suffer-
ing to someone. During the same
month 358 met with accidents, of
whom 100 died. The accidents did not
always happen to those engaged in
what are considered the most hazard-
ous callings. Seventy of them occurred
to metal workers, 55 to farmers, 54 to
railway men, 30 to builders, and 29 to
miners. These statistics, which come
from the Labor Department, are inter-
esting and important.

**THE IMPERIAL DEFENCE CON-
FERENCE.**

The full significance of the Imperial
Defence Conference which recently met
in London is only beginning to be fully
realized. The conference was one of
the most significant events in the history
of the British Empire. It was a
recognition of the fact that the defences
of the empire regime to be strength-
ened and that the colonies are bound
to bear a larger share of the burden
than they have hitherto done. The
conference was the outcome of the dis-
closures in March—call it war scare if
you will—and to the response made
by the colonies when danger was
threatened. New Zealand offered to
present a war ship or two, Australia
took steps to provide a local flotilla,
and also other assistance, including if
necessary a war ship, and Canada,
through its parliament, passed a resolu-
tion in favor of organizing a naval
service to co-operate with the imperial
navy, and expressing a readiness,
whenever the need arises, as she did in
the South African war, to help in pre-
serving the honor and integrity of the
empire. South Africa has no parliam-
ent yet, but it will soon have, and the
delegates to the conference expressed
a wish to co-operate with the other col-
onies.

The proceedings were of course con-
ducted behind closed doors, but suffi-
cient is known to indicate that while
there was, as might be expected, dif-
ferences of opinion, there was the ut-
most harmony and good feeling. A
general plan of action was outlined,
and further negotiations will take place
with the governments of the different
colonies for perfecting the details. Pre-
mier Asquith has just given in the
House of Commons, an indication of
the policy agreed upon, which is in
effect that which meets the views of
the government of Canada. Each
member of the world-empire group of
nations is free, retains control of its
own forces, reserves the right to say
when and for what cause its fleet shall
leave its own waters, and, yet all
the members are bound in a unity of
interest and sentiment and life
stronger than compulsion could secure.

Mr. Haldane, the Secretary of War,
in a speech the other day, said:—I am
glad to be able to tell you that we are
within sight, and indeed, something
more than within sight of common
plans which will unify the forces of
the crown throughout the whole em-
pire.

Lord Kitchener is going to Australia
and New Zealand, and Sir John French
coming to Canada to work out the de-
tails of the plan agreed upon. The
steps taken, and to be taken, will have
the effect of binding together closer
than ever the different parts of the
British empire. The conference and its
outcome may sound somewhat war-
like, but its ultimate effect will be for
peace and the extension of that civil-
ization and advancement for which
Great Britain always stands.

The loss by fire in the Ontario Leg-
islative Buildings is estimated at
\$750,000. Public comment is given
great praise to the Premier and the
ministers for their plucky work as
fire fighters, and severe criticism to
the city firemen. Rebuilding will be
proceeded with at once; and efforts
will be directed to making not only the
new portion but the old as well, entire-
ly fire-proof. The loss of the library,
with its priceless treasure of rare
books, is well-nigh irreparable.

BALANCED LIBERALITY.

Whatever abstract opinions may be
entertained as to the relations of
Church and State, the only practical
method of supporting the cause of re-
ligion is that which depends on the in-
telligence, affection and good will of
the people. The current of opinion,
growing in force and volume every day
is in this direction. To many this
may seem the most desirable, because
they believe it to be the Scriptural
course; to others it may be a
matter to be deplored. In any
case it is what modern society is com-
ing to. Men may protest against it;
they may seek to obstruct the move-
ment that will result in assigning
Church and State two distinct spheres
of activity. These great co-ordinate
powers will have mutual relations.
Their tendencies may sometimes coale-
sce, they may sometimes diverge,
but the relation will in the future be
in no wise a peculiar one. Though in
particular instances the issue remains,
and for a time may remain undecided,
there is little doubt as to the ultimate
result. The principle enunciated by
Count Cavour, a "A Free Church in a
Free State," will be the condition of
modern national existence. On this
continent at all events the separation
of Church and State is complete, and
however vigorous the efforts made in
the past to secure their alliance in
Canada, they belong to a finished page
of our national history.

It is easy to see that the cause of
religion has gained largely from the
severance of the tie that does so much
to hamper the cause of Church exten-
sion and the various forms of Chris-
tian activity. However much some in
these days may affect a haughty eccle-
siastical exclusiveness, all sections of
the Christian Church are on a level
so far as privilege is concerned. The
State as such—it may be otherwise to
some extent with politicians—knows no
distinction between the Prelatist and
the Hornerite Methodist. They enjoy
the same tolerance. Every branch
has what it is justly entitled to—a
fair field and no favor.

The Church in Canada depends on
the voluntary liberality of its people
for the maintenance of its ordinances,
sustaining its efforts to supply the
means of grace to destitute localities,
engaging in benevolent and philan-
thropic work, equipping and maintaining
institutions for the training of its
ministry, and meeting all legitimate ob-
ligations. This dependence in the
past has not been misplaced. The
stream of Christian liberality has
been constant and is steadily
becoming broader and deeper. In
this one department of Christian
activity we have a striking evidence of
the power of faith working by love.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada
has no reason to make general com-
plaints of the want of liberality on
the part of its members. The amount
of work done, the churches built all
over the land, the educational insti-
tutions established, the missionary en-
terprises at home and abroad, and
many other schemes of a religious and
benevolent nature originated and ably
sustained by her pecuniary aid are evi-
dences that in the grace of liberality
she is no laggard.

In this respect as in others the most
devoted congregations, as well as in-