

a navy which will be local rather than central, and both favour an All Red mail service which will be imperial in its origin and function. Whether Sir Wilfrid would adopt Sir Charles' suggestion that the two projects should be combined remains to be seen. Sir Wilfrid will probably reserve his decision until he hears from Mr. Deakin and Sir Joseph Ward, the premiers of Australia and New Zealand. Judging from their previous utterances and from recent despatches from New Zealand, the enthusiasm for the All Red mail service has seriously subsided. Whether it can be revived again sufficiently to support Sir Charles Tupper's suggestion is a question which Mr. Deakin and Sir Joseph Ward alone are in a position to answer.



#### OUR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SEVERAL Canadians are leaving this week for Buda Pesth to attend the International Medical Congress. It was only last year that Canadian medical men secured recognition by this body. Already, the privilege of going to the meeting in a representative capacity is considered an honour. The British Columbia Government is sending two representatives, the Manitoba Government one and the Militia Department one. The Ontario delegation either do not need official backing or are going without it because they needs must. Be that as it may, Canada will be well represented.

There is some talk of the Canadian delegation trying to secure the next meeting of the Congress for Toronto or Montreal. The British Association is this year holding its third meeting in Canada; the Quinquennial Congress of Women was held here this year; other international bodies have met here, and why not the greatest medical congress in the world? A few years ago we might have blushed as we asked the question, but not so now; we have gained much of self-confidence in the past two decades.

These international congresses meeting in Canada are a sign of our growing national importance and of our expanding international relationships. The immigration and trade agents which we send abroad are national advertisements. The capitalists, statesmen and tourists who travel abroad; the exports which bear the label "Made in Canada"; the Canadian red or blue ensign flying in foreign harbours—all these are national advertisements. The announcement that a great international congress will meet in Canada is just as great an advertisement and one whose value must not be overlooked.

Besides the national advertisement there is also a national benefit of a different kind. Our intellectual, social, scientific and industrial life is stimulated when we welcome to these shores the great men and women of other lands. They bring to us a message of encouragement and inspiration. They lead us out from our provincialism into a broader view of the needs and ambitions of mankind in general.

Our position within the Empire has improved by the Imperial gatherings which have been held in Canada, or which have been held elsewhere with Canadian representatives present. From the position of an insignificant colony, we have grown to be an important nation, united with other nations in imperial development. In the same way, international gatherings in Canada, and international gatherings abroad at which Canadian representatives are present will give us an international status which our forest wealth, our agricultural production and our famous silver mines cannot give. Our statesmen should recognise this and encourage all such movements. C.

#### FLAG FOOLISHNESS

THE first fortnight of July usually brings us those tactless outbreaks of misplaced patriotism which the press is likely to characterise "flag incidents." This year we have been generously favoured with this kind of red-white-and-blue folly. Some of our visitors from the United States were accused of driving about Toronto last week with the Union Jack trailing in the coal-oil-perfumed dust, of which that city is so proud, while the Stars and Stripes floated magnificently from the front of the tally-ho. This was truly awful and a number of good and loyal citizens sent in a protest, while the Mayor, himself, took up the matter with a zeal worthy of a great cause. Then a horrible tale was revealed concerning an hotel at Clifton where the orchestra failed to play "God Save the King" during the fish course but broke into "The Star-Spangled Banner" on the slightest provocation. All the way from Cottingham Street to the Bay, the blood of patriotic Torontonians simply boiled at the recital of these wrongs. Suddenly the papers fairly blossomed in explanations and the *Globe* published a neat, framed account on the front page which showed that the Clifton story was among the dreams of a

fevered brain, while other journals declared that it was mischievous Toronto urchins who had tied the Union Jack to the axle of the offending tally-ho. Toronto took a long, cold drink of ice-water, with a cherry for a touch of colour, and realised that it had made somewhat of a fool of itself and that there was no necessity for sending a *Dreadnought* across Lake Ontario to bombard the picturesque port of Rochester.

It is warm weather, but the thermometer is no excuse for hysterics over the flag flapping. Let us insist, by all means, on our flag being displayed on the proper occasions and being treated with due respect; but let us read with mental reservation the accounts of "insults" to the flag and, above all things, avoid accusing the United States of a desire to make a carpet of the meteor flag of England. Last week, this journal published an account by Rev. Ernest Richards of how Dominion Day was kept in the United States by Epworth Leaguers on their way to Seattle and next week will be published a photograph showing the Canadian contingent displaying their flag at Denver. Ask the Mendelssohn Choir of Toronto about their welcome in Buffalo, year after year, and their enthusiastic reception in Chicago last winter when citizens of the United States applauded "God Save the King" in a fashion which nearly swept Dr. A. S. Vogt off the platform. Let us recount some of the courtesies extended to Canadians by a people always genial to the guests within their gates. There are a few United States citizens of the *Jefferson Brick* pattern still in existence, but they make more noise than mischief. We should make our own holidays more picturesque and enlivening by a display of flags and bunting, repress any manifestation of disrespect on the part of foreigners and keep from exaggerating the insolence of a few hoodlums into an international affront. The Stars and Stripes may be displayed too liberally on Canadian waters and may float too readily from the staff of Muskoka hotels; but the decent United States citizen, who cheerfully spends his dollars in our north country, is not animated by a desire to buy up the Dominion or trample the Union Jack in the dust. FRITH.

#### WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

(*The Over-Seas Mail*, London.)

THE Imperial Press Conference, which has concluded its labours, represents a fresh advance—another milestone passed—on the road to imperial unity. From start to finish it has been a brilliant success, and its proceedings have been fruitful not only by reason of their indirect influence upon public thought but also through their immediate practical results. The fullest credit for the idea of holding such a reunion of the men who make and influence opinion throughout the Empire must be given to Mr. Harry E. Brittain, the able and energetic honorary secretary of the conference. He not only conceived the idea, but carried it through to a successful completion with marvellous skill, tact, and courtesy.

The practical work accomplished by the conference may first be considered. Almost the last meeting was rendered memorable by the intimation that the Pacific Cable Board had decided to reduce its rates for cablegrams by one-half. At the same time the New Zealand Government has promised to reduce its terminal charges, and this example will probably be followed by other of the Dominions. Thus the cost of cablegrams, which is at present one of the most formidable barriers to a free interchange of thought, opinion and news between the Dominions and the mother country, has been greatly lowered. Moreover, there is a prospect that before many years have passed cheap wireless telegraphy throughout the Empire will be established. A second practical result accomplished by the conference has been the election of a permanent committee to attend to the special interests of the Imperial Press and to maintain contact between its widely scattered journals. A third result has been the decision to hold further conferences at brief intervals. The next will probably assemble at Winnipeg, the capital of the Canadian Northwest, in the course of 1912.

As a result of the conference we in this country have learned much about the Dominions over-sea, and they have learned much of the mother country. For the best part of a month attention throughout the Empire has been concentrated on the most vital of imperial questions. That in itself is a great gain, as if we are ever to solve these questions they must be clearly stated and the public here and over-sea must understand them. The delegates have seen the British army at its work and now know how good it is—if also how small—for the tasks which may lie before it. They have looked upon the "prodigious but always inadequate armada" at Spithead. They have heard from the lips of our greatest statesmen the truth about the European problems which confront not only the people of the United Kingdom but also those of the Empire—since it is here, in Europe, that the fate of the Empire may be decided. They have visited our greatest manufacturing cities, our centres of learning, and last but not least our old English homes, which represent the labour and love of generations.