

ESTABLISHED 1897.
THE
ANGLO-SAXON
OTTAWA, CANADA
P. O. BOX 298.

Ottawa, - - - Canada,
JANUARY, 1898.

NOTICE TO READERS.

THE ANGLO-SAXON goes regularly to Sons of England lodges and branches of the St. George's Society in all parts of Manitoba, the British Northwest Territories of Canada, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island; to branch societies of the Sons of St. George in all parts of the United States, to Clubs, Reading Rooms, Emigration Societies and similar institutions in Great Britain and Ireland, and to British citizens generally throughout Canada, the States, Great Britain and the Empire.

AMERICAN ASSURANCE.

If Lord Salisbury really instigated the visit of three Canadian ministers to Washington about two months ago, and really entertained the idea that by interviewing Mr. Olney, and being polite to American officials, a settlement of the Behring Sea claims might be hastened he must be rudely disappointed by this time. Instead of settling an old controversy President Cleveland creates another: invents in fact "a new way of paying old debts," and in such a manner as to furnish additional proof that the U.S. officials look upon British statesmen as fair game, and that they enjoy nothing so much as bluffing a Prime Minister.

President Cleveland has revived the Monroe doctrine, taken a new departure in diplomacy and endeavored to establish new precedents in international law. He has appointed a commission to investigate an international boundary question, without any invitation to do so from either of the countries interested. He does not take this action because Uncle Sam's navy is strong enough or his purse long enough to enforce the conclusions of the Commission, but because his assurance has heretofore sufficed to bulwark the powers of Europe, and because American brag is always at a premium there.

It is melancholy to observe how this insane project is approved and encouraged by the great majority of Uncle Sam's subjects. Like the French at the beginning of the war with Germany they are ready to "cry havoc and let slip the dogs of war." Instead of "on to Berlin" the favorite cry is "on to Canada," and the feeling is not so much against British action in Venezuela as against the existence of any British power on the continent of North America. It is hard to perceive what the better classes in the States have to gain in encouraging such a notion. If they do sow such seed they may expect to "reap the whirlwind." At the same time we cannot shut our eyes to the existence of this hostile feeling among our American cousins, and it is difficult to resist the conviction that war must come sooner or later. On the other hand we are justified in concluding from the past behavior of Great Britain that it will come later rather than sooner, and that nothing but a flagrant first blow by the United States, such as was struck in the Trent affair will ever provoke England to declare war. The United States will be treated like a spoiled child, or like a person who is not responsible for his actions. Their effervescences will be condoned, over-looked or ignored until quite past endurance; they will be allowed rope enough to hang themselves.

Already President Cleveland's action has injured his own country to a much greater extent than England, and the financial embarrassment has been such as to make us doubt whether the United States could carry on a war with any European power. They have no experience as to what that means under a modern condition of affairs. In the past they have failed to take their place and do their duty among civilized nations. If slave trading was to be put down, or pirates captured on the high seas American men-of-war were never active. If missionaries are killed in China or Christians in Armenia Uncle Sam is perfectly willing to leave the redressing of these wrongs to other nations, and heretofore his government has acted the part of a "dead-head." At the present time by refusing or delaying to pay its just debts, it has become a "dead-beat." In the future, in the event of its undertaking a first-class war, there is every probability that it would turn out to be "dead-broke."

IMPERIAL IMBECILITY.

In the well known patriotic song called "Rule Britannia!" there is one stanza which very aptly describes the feelings of "the nations around" towards England at the present time. It runs as follows:—

"The nations not so boast as thee
Shall in their turn to tyrants fall
But thou shalt flourish, great and free,
The pride and envy of them all."

We fancy that the feeling of pride here mentioned is common to all British communities throughout the world, while the nations who envy England are those whose credit is not quite as good, whose fleet is not quite so powerful, or whose dominions are not quite so extensive. Certain it is that at the present time a fit of jealousy has seized some of them, and prompted ill-natured interference in what does not concern them. The United States has something to say about the boundary line between Venezuela and British Guiana, while the German Emperor congratulates the president of a South African Republic, on having defeated a handful of misguided Englishmen. France has never forgiven England for having rejuvenated Egypt, and Russia dreads her interference in Armenia. All these difficulties seem to be crowding around England at the present moment, and suggest the thought that if she had, when there was opportunity, set her house in order, and especially invited her Colonies and possessions to stand shoulder to shoulder with her, she would not have found her present position so embarrassing.

"In time of peace prepare for war" is a practical motto which exactly suited the circumstances of Great Britain, but one which she has uniformly disregarded. It is also a text upon which Imperial Federationists have always been preaching. Ever since they started the agitation for closer union in the Empire, a main argument with them has been the danger of delay, of putting off the reorganization and consolidation of the Empire until war became imminent, and until these had to be carried out in the midst of confusion and violence. After ten years of talk it has to be confessed that nothing has been done, and that rumours of war and hostile threats find the Empire far from being well prepared for a conflict.

British statesmen seem, of all others in the world, to be least gifted with prudence or foresight. So it has been too often in British history. The statesmen have usually procrastinated, blundered and muddled, and then sent fleets and armies to correct their mistakes, or cure the consequences of their inaction. It is high time to begin another system. The blood of British soldiers and sailors is infinitely more precious than the brains of politicians, and it has become necessary for the latter class to make such a reasonable re-arrangement of the affairs of the Empire as will prevent much of the usual recourse to "blood and iron," and demonstrate to any combination of foreign powers the folly of contemplating an attack on its integrity.

Not only have British statesmen failed to do their duty in securing the safety of the Empire, but they have also, in deference to certain pet economic theories, done much to weaken Great Britain and much to strengthen her enemies. There is no doubt that the United Kingdom has been weakened by the destruction of her agriculture. Apart altogether from the tremendous loss of capital which her farmers have sustained, the nursery ground of the nation for soldiers and sailors has been curtailed. Where are these to come from if her broad grain-growing acres are to be turned into pastures? Nay more: what is to become of a nation which cannot feed itself? which depends for its existence on foreign grain grown on territory controlled by its enemies? If Russia and the United States declare war these supplies stop, and the direst consequences ensue in England even although her fleet commands the ocean highways. No stronger proof than this can be offered of the magnificent folly of the governing classes of the United Kingdom.

Why should they neglect to make use of Customs duties as means for raising revenue? They burden their own producers with direct taxation to pay for fleets and armies and at the same time allow their enemies free access to their home markets, where, owing to their immunity from taxation, they are able to undersell and ruin many a native industry. A righteous indignation seizes us at the thought of such blindness and, we feel that it fully deserves the title which forms the heading of this article.

More than a quarter of a century ago our Canadian rulers gave those of Great Britain an excellent lesson in statecraft and showed them how to consolidate a Dominion. Nevertheless when Sir

Bartle Frere attempted to consolidate the British possessions in South Africa he received little or no support from the home authorities and the project was abandoned. Since that time their policy has been one of drift, without any positive proposition for the regulation of the internal affairs of South Africa. It was a policy of indolence like that of the farmer who neglects his fields, and, as that infallibly produces weeds, so the policy of political indolence has resulted in the recent violence and bloodshed around Johannesburg. Mr. Chamberlain has faced the difficulties well and will no doubt succeed in regulating the legacies of mismanagement bequeathed to him by his predecessors. We heartily wish every success and are disposed to believe that under him the reign of "Imperial Imbecility" will come at last to an end.

HOW TO HELP ENGLAND.

Our readers will remember that, during the recent "war scare," the colony of New South Wales cabled to the home government an offer of material assistance in the event of the outbreak of hostilities. If the worst should come Canada would no doubt do likewise; but far better than such impulsive expressions of sympathy would be the organization, on a permanent basis, of a system for mutual union and aid, for commerce and defence, in peace and war, among all British countries the world over. We believe that the present is a most favorable time for attempting to establish such a system, which is nothing less than an Imperial Customs Union, and that Canada should take the lead in the movement, for reasons peculiarly her own.

The Dominion has recently undertaken to support two great undertakings, which are of an almost purely Imperial character and possess a common interest for the whole Empire. These are the fast Atlantic steamship line, which is to cause an outlay of \$750,000, and the Pacific cable, Canada's share in the cost of which may be supposed, for the sake of the present statement, to amount to \$500,000 annually. If to these amounts be added the steamship subsidies for the China and Japan line, \$73,000; the West Indian lines, \$97,000, and the Australian line, \$125,000, we have a total expenditure of \$1,545,000, which Canada is making not merely for her own advantage, but as an integral part of the Empire, and largely for its commercial advancement. This is equal to a duty of nearly 2½ per cent. on the value of the dutiable imports of the country (\$62,780,000), and no doubt the duties on some imports will require to be increased if the proposed undertakings are carried out.

Such an increase will be at variance with recent action as regards the tariff by the present government, and, since such increase of duties would affect British as well as foreign goods, it would also be at variance with the government's policy as declared at the Ottawa Colonial Conference. If the latter is ever to be carried out, the present would seem to be a very convenient time for taking a new departure, and inaugurating Inter-British preferential trade by levying the 2½ per cent. above mentioned not on the goods now dutiable, but upon goods from foreign countries whether dutiable or free. The imports from non-British countries amount to about seventy million dollars in value, and 2½ per cent. on this sum would yield about 1½ million dollars. But since the preference thus given to British goods would no doubt tend to increase their consumption in Canada, and correspondingly lower that of foreign goods, it follows that this extra duty of 2½ per cent. levied over and above existing rates on foreign goods, would not likely yield more than enough revenue to provide for the expenditure of \$1,545,000 above alluded to.

From this it appears that Canada would satisfy her financial requirements equally well by imposing this species of duty on foreign imports, while she would at the same time be carrying out the principle of preferential trade within the Empire. Therefore this country, which has in various ways assumed the leadership of the self-governing colonies, might with great credit to herself and advantage to the Empire, propose this change in the manner of raising revenue for Imperial purposes or for naval defence.

In the event of the adoption of such a policy by the Canadian government whereby a preference would be given to the produce of British countries, Canada would be entitled to ask that a similar preference on their part should be extended to the products of the Dominion, and no doubt in this way a system of Inter-British preferences could very soon be established. Since there are, in all likelihood, other steamship lines and submarine cables required in other parts of the Empire, it might readily be arranged that throughout the Empire the

revenue from such an extra duty on foreign goods should be applied to similar purposes. From this it would be but a short step to allowing this revenue to constitute a common Imperial Fund for common Imperial purposes.

Of course, the establishment of an Imperial Customs Union would be an impossibility without the consent and co-operation of the government of the United Kingdom, who alone are able to determine those unfortunate treaties with Germany and Belgium, which are the chief obstacles to the introduction of preferential trade relations within the British Empire. It seems to be quite certain, however, that the present time is extremely favorable for inducing the desired action on the part of the Home Government. Its members seem to be at the present moment, anxiously considering the best plan for realizing the Imperial idea, and would, no doubt, be glad to entertain a suggestion for financial assistance from the Outer Empire. No time could be better chosen than the present for action by the Canadian parliament and government. Without making any sacrifices beyond those which they already contemplate, they might make such an offer as would prove to be a decided step in the direction of Imperial Unity, and vastly increase Canada's reputation as the foremost possession of the Colonial Empire.

THE RECENT CRISIS.

Writing last August about the tight place in which the government was then placed, we expressed the opinion that "the crisis of July, 1895, is sure to reappear in January, 1896, unless some very energetic course is in the interval adopted by the government." That prophecy has been fulfilled. During the interval matters were allowed to drift. Nothing positive was done for the purpose of restoring harmony in the ranks of the Conservative party, and now it seems to be in still greater difficulties. Last year three ministers resigned, and two of them again resumed their portfolios; this year six ministers and two controllers resigned, and although six of them were persuaded to return, it is to be feared that the impression made upon the country by these changes will be anything but favourable. However, the agony is now over, and the reconstructed Cabinet, vastly strengthened by the accession of Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., will soon be in the front of the battle with their proposals for remedial legislation.

It is in the highest degree to be deplored that such a small affair as the Manitoba School Act should have been allowed to endanger the existence of the Conservative party and government. If the recent trouble and the forthcoming elections should result in the return to power of the Liberals, the blame will certainly rest with those ministers and members who have insisted upon remedial legislation at all hazards. The by-elections in Vercheres, Montreal Centre and Jacques Cartier did not justify them in doing so, and the Roman Catholic wing of the party might have been contented with the non-interference in Quebec which they secured in the matter of the Jesuits' Estates Act, and have abstained from demanding, as well, interference in Manitoba in the affair of the school act.

What is most to be regretted in connection with these dissensions is that they occur at a time which seemed to be so favourable for obtaining preferential trade with Great Britain, and in that way advancing a step towards Imperial Federation. What attention can Mr. Chamberlain's letter receive in the midst of such confusion, and how is it possible under the circumstances to take advantage of the good will which the Salisbury government evidently entertains toward Canada, and secure assistance for the fast Atlantic line and Pacific cable? The prospect will not brighten unless harmony is restored very soon, not only among the officers but in the ranks, and it seems idle to expect this, so long as those members of the Cabinet, who most strongly favor remedial legislation, insist upon exacting their pound of flesh from the body of the Conservative party which appears to be at the present moment entirely at their mercy. Shylock whets his knife and we look around in vain for a Portia to restrain him.

Past President Bro. John Newton, of Lydford lodge, Belleville, was presented with a beautiful P. P. Jewel suitably inscribed, on Monday evening the 21st inst. The presentation was made by Bro. Joseph Petty, the oldest member of the lodge. Mr. Newton made a suitable reply, thanking the members for their beautiful gift. Chief Newton was the first president of the lodge and in his honor it was named Lydford, after his birth place in England.

MR. CASTELL HOPKINS' AND COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT.

In commencing—by permission—the publication of a chapter from Bro. J. Castell Hopkins' "Life and Work of Mr. Gladstone," we do so because of our belief in the inherent interest of the subject dealt with, and because of the value of the views expressed.

Canadians as a rule do not realize the extent and strength of the anti-colonial movement which arose in England after the first successes of free-trade. Now railways and steam communication had spread abroad amongst the people the belief that Great Britain could and should stand alone, unincumbered by Colonies, or the limitations of Imperial responsibility. Trade became the Gospel of the Manchester School, and as Mr. Hopkins shows, the leaders of that school of thought were prepared, in the interests of a commerce not then dependent upon steadily decreasing markets or affected by world-wide tariffs, to sink every consideration but that of gold and its peaceful pursuit. Hence it was that about twenty-five years ago the Empire was on the verge of disintegration. From this it was saved by the development of Mr. Disraeli's Imperialism, and the reaction which so often comes after a time of dissipation—political or otherwise. And from 1872 onward the Manchester School decreased in power and popularity until it reached a membership of one—Mr. Goldwin Smith—and a degree of almost universal unpopularity, if not contempt. The Imperial Federation movement then began, and the Imperial idea has taken such possession of the people at home that no politician could carry a seat who to-day avowed the old-time principles of the anti-colonial school. The unity of the Empire is now the national motto, and not the least interesting chapter of Mr. Hopkins' work is this one in which he traces Colonial development, and Mr. Gladstone's connection with it.

A Great Country—Canada.

The attention of the commercial world has been drawn to South Africa by speculators in stocks, and recently by the war scare. Canada has been attracting the attention of the commercial world by the phenomenal crops and the recent discovery and development of gold in British Columbia. We see column after column of news relating to the wonderful resources we possess in Canada in the English papers, and all that is required to develop these resources, and bring them into the commercial market, is capital. Why do we not get that? We have all confidence in the future of our country. Now we want to get the English people at home to have the same confidence. Our close proximity to the United States has no doubt been the chief cause in detracting from us the natural importance which we should have enjoyed from closer interest with Englishmen. Some twenty years or so ago we well remember that Canada was mentioned as "America," and even to this day it is still remembered as such in many places in England. The cause of this can be attributed alone to the fact that the United States, for years after the close of the civil war, to attract immigration, flooded every spot in Great Britain with literature, booming the United States and designated it "America," to the detriment of our BRITISH AMERICA, which is now known to be larger and better adapted for general settlement for all classes of people.

The continual correspondence going on, and the commercial interest developing between Canada and England, we are glad to observe is bringing about a new era of thought, and enquiry is now made by the newspapers for more authentic news relating to British America. The leading papers of England have deemed it to the interest of the English people to be posted direct—a move which must be of the deepest interest to the commercial advantage of the Dominion—by appointing either special or permanent correspondents.

The London Times has our Bro. Ald. Fred Cook as its representative, and no better can be found. His reports home to England over the war scare have been highly commented upon, and the English papers consequently are applauding our loyalty to the Mother Country.

Oxford Lodge, Belleville, will have three delegates at Grand Lodge this year, Bro. J. W. London, S.G.V.P., goes by virtue of his office. The lodge will be represented by R. Croft Hulme, P.S.G.P., who held that honored position in 1884, and Dr. Tracy.

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