

London Advertiser.

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Editorial Department 134
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LONDON, FRIDAY, OCT. 9.

Building Up Our Defenses.

Opinions may differ as to Canadian obligations in the matter of imperial defense, but all are agreed that Canada's first duty is to place herself in a state of efficient self-defense.

Sir Frederick Borden is the first Minister of Militia in many years who has tried to grapple with the problem in an adequate manner. In the House of Commons yesterday he outlined a comprehensive scheme which aims to repair long-standing deficiencies in the militia organization and create an irregular military reserve by encouraging rifle practice among the citizens of the country.

For years the militia force has not only been inadequate as to numbers and training but there have not been rifles enough to go round in case the companies should be raised to emergency strength. Much of the ordnance is ridiculously old-fashioned and would be useless against modern artillery. The new policy provides for an augmentation of the stock of rifles from 40,000 to 100,000 and modern equipment for the field and garrison artillery. The capacity of the cartridge factory has been enlarged from 1,500,000 to 13,000,000 and another factory will be erected to manufacture shells and projectiles for the large guns.

The active militia will number 40,000 or 45,000, of whom 22,000 selected men will be drilled annually. Twenty or thirty thousand acres of land in the interior will be set apart for a great central camp where representatives from every corps in Canada will assemble periodically for military evolutions on a warlike scale.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of the new scheme is creation of the citizens' reserve. It is proposed to enroll about 80,000 men, who will not be regular to drill, but will be given rifles and ammunition to use at home. In times of emergency, the Minister of Militia explains, these men will constitute the flesh and blood which will clothe the skeleton prepared in the planning times of peace. The organization of these rifle associations was a happy idea which must be credited to Sir Frederick Borden. They have already a membership of 20,000.

In preparing to take care of herself and render her own soil inviolate, the Dominion is making a direct contribution to imperial defense by relieving the mother country of the task of protecting her greatest colony. Sir Frederick Borden's plans may not reach their full fruition all at once, but he is inspired with the belief that it will give Canada in five years one of the best militia fighting organizations in the world.

The British Land Laws.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the British Liberal leader, in commenting upon Mr. Chamberlain's Glasgow speech, declared that "the existing land system is a greater drain upon the industry and well-being of the people than any conscription that can follow from the operation of tariffs."

The English land laws appear to Canadians to be an amazing anachronism, and it is not hard to understand why the doctrines of Henry George have taken so strong a hold in Great Britain, particularly in urban communities.

In Great Britain there is a small, almost nominal, land tax for national purposes, based on assessments which have not been altered since the reign of Charles II. Even a more glaring anomaly is the method of local or municipal taxation. In Canada we tax the owners of real property; in Great Britain they tax the tenants or occupiers. The ground-owner in Great Britain is nominally exempt from local rates, which are levied on rental values. In 1891 about 85 per cent of the rates were levied on houses and other buildings, and paid by the occupiers, whether owners or tenants. For more than a century a debate has raged around the question of the incidence of this local taxation. Adam Smith thought it fell partly upon the owners and partly on the occupiers. Ricardo thought it fell wholly on the occupiers. The claim is made that it reaches the landlord through the rent. For instance, when a man rents a house in England he figures on the amount of taxes he will have to pay and this becomes an element in determining the rental value. If the municipal tax rate, however, is afterwards raised, the tenant has to pay the whole increase, since he cannot collect it from the landlord, his rental being fixed. The tendency of municipal taxation in Great Britain, as elsewhere, has been upward and the burden has fallen with special severity on leaseholders. A yearly tenant in England, if the tax rates are raised, can demand a corresponding reduction in his rent, when he bargains at the end of the year for another year's occupancy. A person leasing property for a term of years bears the whole brunt of the increase during the term of his lease, as his contract is not subject to revision.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman points out that according to Sir Robert Griffith, house rents in England have doubled within twenty years. This indicates a proportionate increase in the "unearned increment" of land values. It certainly seems a vicious system under which uncultivated land goes not-free and only improvements are taxed. Prof. Bellman, one of the

where so many reforms have been made in the national revenue, the system of local taxation, with its absence of special exemptions (i. e., for betterment), its exemption of non-productive realty, or land held for speculative purposes, and its impositions (in the first instance), on the occupier, means the relative overburdening of the poorer classes." Mr. S. H. Blunden, another great authority, says that "much of the excessive pressure of the rates on the poor and lower middle classes is due to the unjust exemption which the owners of urban ground values now enjoy."

If the British Liberal party is faithful to its historic policy of sweeping away old abuses, it can find a great issue in land reform.

Russian and Japanese Fighting Strength.

In the event of war between Russia and Japan British sympathies would naturally be with Japan. It is not so certain that it would be a case of sympathy with the under-dog. There are about 45,000,000 Japanese, and among them some of the best fighting people in the world. The morale of the Japanese army is probably vastly superior to that of the Russian army, recruited from a mass of ignorance and misery. Japan's standing army on Dec. 31, 1900, numbered, according to the official figures, 167,829 men and her reserves, all of them trained and ready to serve, about 465,000, making about 632,000 available soldiers. Russia's peace strength is about 1,000,000 men and her total war strength 4,000,000. But these are scattered over a vast empire and the process of transporting them over the single-track Siberian railroad, poorly constructed and equipped, would take some weeks, during which Japan, if she retained control of the sea passage, could pour her entire army into the Korean peninsula, and perhaps establish formidable lines of defense.

The Japanese navy numbers 164 ships (most of them very modern) with a tonnage of 248,000. Russia has 267 ships of all classes with a total tonnage of 403,814; but the majority of her ships are in the Baltic and Black Seas, while Japan's are concentrated in Asiatic waters.

The Manchurian situation shows that Russia regards possession as tenets of the law.

If pig-iron is a barometer of industrial conditions, as many affirm, the drop in the price is an ominous sign.

A general treaty of arbitration between France and Great Britain, which is said to have been concluded, would be a great gain for the peace of the world. Canada extends her blessing.

The lioner war taught the world that a nation of good rifle shots, acting purely on the defensive, could hold out against overwhelming odds. The lesson is embodied in Sir Frederick Borden's new militia programme.

The new Canadian Associated Press describes Mr. Aylesworth as one of the Canadian counsel before the Alaska tribunal. Mr. Aylesworth is one of the commissioners, not counsel. He is reported as saying that the case was presented very weakly for the American side. That may be true, but surely Mr. Aylesworth did not so far forget his judicial position as to make such a statement for publication.

A Chance for Some One.

[Ottawa Journal, Ind.] Two dollars a word is what Conan Doyle is receiving for bringing Sherlock Holmes to life after seven years. But who can say what fabulous price per word would be paid to the campaigner who would do a similar service to the Conservative party, whose sleep has been equally long?

2,500,000 Miles at Sea.

[New York World.] Surgeon-Brice, of the White Star liner Germanic, holds a record which could never have been made by living man but for modern invention. He has crossed the Atlantic as ship's surgeon 804 times, traveling 2,500,000 miles, and hopes to make 900 trips. He may easily succeed. He is only 77 years old, fresh sea air has kept him hale and strong, and as ships now cross the ocean 24 times in a year it should take only four years to reach the next record number.

The lifetime of this not very old man great changes have occurred in sea matters. The 20-day boat has become the 6-day monster. Water-tight compartments and twin-screw engines have reduced the danger of shipwreck. The packet of 3,000 tons which used a full set of sails to help her steam power has become the bared Titan of 37,000 tons. The sailor-man has become a steamfitter and mechanic—except the few clean-looking imitation "tars" that swim liners' decks with an eye for small coins.

Dr. Brice sighs for faster ships that they might complete his record. They will also beat it. The young doctor of 25 or 30 who today begins sailing the sea may complete 1,200 trips and more and 4,000,000 miles even at present speed. A very slight acceleration of the record ship might give the record man 5,000,000 miles or even more at sea.

Canada's Retaliation.

[New York Sun.] When Canada in 1897 decided to give England a preferential rate on goods imported from the mother country, Germany set up a claim to a corresponding rate, on the basis of a "most favored nation" treaty effected with England in 1865. In reply to this claim England denounced that treaty at the request of her self-governing colonies. Germany thereupon penalized Canada by imposing upon Canadian imports into Germany the maximum German tariff rate. Canada's response to Germany went into effect at 12 o'clock on the night of Sept. 24. All German goods now entering Canada will pay a tariff rate one-third greater than that paid on the imports of any other country.

During the last fiscal year, Germany sold to Canada about \$12,000,000 worth of goods, and bought from Canada

promises to be somewhat more expensive for Germany than for Canada. But it is a fair guess that our cousins across the line would have done the same thing had the conditions been reversed.

The Strong Man of Britain.

[Collier's Weekly.] There is only one adequate adjective for Chamberlain; he is strong. Strong in a modern sense as the mechanics and the seamen of Kipling's stories are strong. Grover Cleveland's followers admired him for the enemies that he made; Mr. Chamberlain's admire him for riding to success on his reverses.

Amazing is the way in which he has made Mr. Balfour serve his present purpose. Two statesmen could not be more different. Balfour has the languor of an English gentleman of the old school that accommodated itself to the new. He is so fine a controversialist, with such a gift for feeling both sides, that the charming incisiveness which made him so excellent a party leader on the floor of the House is at one with his indecision and lack of robustness as Prime Minister.

While the Premier leans back in his seat on the Unionist side, Chamberlain is erect, with arms folded, head thrown forward—a swift armored cruiser always cleared for action, whose eye-glass may be as puzzling as a searchlight.

In a crowd Chamberlain will either become its leader or be trampled to death, while Balfour might send it forward—a swift armored cruiser always cleared for action, whose eye-glass may be as puzzling as a searchlight.

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night, Oct. 15. The London harpers will provide the music. Miss Libby, one of the high school teachers, has resigned, and her position is occupied by V. Simpson, B. A., of Whitechurch.

Chris McKenna, who has been engaged in a butchering business for some months with his brother John, is opening up in this line for himself in the place south of J. Hall's harness shop.

Mr. Thompson O'Brien returned from Detroit on Tuesday to meet her pupils in music and teaching.

HENSALL. Hensall, Oct. 8.—Olive Geiger, of the Molebank, Toronto, is spending his holidays here with his parents.

Miss Colwill, of White, returned home this week after visiting her uncle and cousins for two months.

Mr. M. Ellwood, wife and family, attended McGillivray fair the first of the week, and visited his relatives.

Rev. E. E. Gunn, rector of St. Paul's Church, was the preacher in St. Paul's Church, last Sunday, the occasion being the annual harvest thanksgiving service.

The church was appropriately decorated. Rev. Mr. Doherty preached in Clinton.

On Sunday, Rev. Mr. Nicol, of Pemberton, will preach in the Presbyterian Church.

On Wednesday afternoon there was a joint meeting of the Ladies' Aid of Bethesda and Hensall Methodist Churches. After the transaction of business the Hensall ladies supplied light refreshments.

On Sunday, Rev. Dr. Medd preached two thoughtful and instructive sermons in connection with the anniversary at Chisholm Methodist Church. Several from Hensall attended the services. On Monday evening the annual tea meeting was held, and addresses were delivered by Rev. Dr. Medd, of Hensall, and Rev. M. McLaughlin, of Kippick. Choice music was furnished by the Seaforth choir. Proceeds, \$68.

Rev. E. Shaw took Dr. Medd's work on Sunday.

A number of our citizens attended the fair at Staffa on Tuesday. Donald Burns got first prize on his team.

The charter for our new carriage factory arrived from Toronto last Friday. On Tuesday evening Rev. Dr. Medd lectured at the Bethesda appointment.

Mr. W. Steneman and daughter assisted in the musical part of the programme at the Community tea meeting, on Monday in connection with the reopening.

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CARPETS! CARPETS!

Unparalleled Offerings in English Tapestry Carpets...

Today we place on sale 3,000 yards of All-Wool English Body Tapestry Carpets, comprising 25 patterns of the latest and most desirable colorings and designs. These are neither Jute nor Hemp, but absolutely All-Wool in quality, and will be sold only for SPOT CASH.

This is beyond doubt the greatest opportunity in the history of the Carpet Trade. The stock is now at its best; at no point has quality or quantity been slighted. Only the price has been mutilated. Regular 50c, today for

35c.

P. S.—If you are not prepared to pay all down, a deposit will secure your purchase. They won't last long. Don't hesitate, come at once.

REORGANIZATION

GOES ON AT 500

New Proposition—The Sale of Properties Will Be Further Deferred.

Philadelphia, Pa., Oct. 8.—Directors of the subsidiary committees of the Consolidated Lake Superior Company met at the offices of the Consolidated Company here today to consider a new proposition looking toward saving the property of the company.

The proposition, it is said, involves no abandonment of the company.

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RAILWAY MAN

SHORT \$100,000

The Pensy Railway President's Accounts Look Badly—Under the Hammer.

Lancaster, Pa., Oct. 9.—Rumors current for some time affecting the relations of William B. Given, president of the Lancaster County Railway and Light Company, with that company, culminated yesterday in the announcement that Mr. Given has resigned as president, and that discrepancies amounting, it is alleged, to \$100,000, or more, have been discovered in his accounts.

He has been noted as operating on a very extensive scale in the stock market.

The recent unprecedented slump carried with it heavy losses. His operations were reported to be large in steel and Consolidated Lake Superior, among other stocks. The company, of which Mr. Given is president, controls all the electric railways of the county now in operation, as well as the electric light and gas companies of Lancaster and Columbia.

UNDER THE HAMMER.

Ottawa, Oct. 9.—The New York and Ottawa Railway will be sold by public auction at St. Regis Falls, on Nov. 20. Although the Ottawa and New York, the division which reaches Ottawa, is operating largely as a separate corporation, the fact that the other company owns the stock and bonds of both lines, means that the purchaser of the N. Y. and O. will take over both roads.

GREAT TRAFFIC ON G. T. R.

Toronto, Oct. 8.—The freight traffic being handled at the present time by the Grand Trunk in Ontario is, to use the words of an official, "simply enormous."

As an indication of this it was pointed out that within the twenty-four hours ending at midnight last night, 34 freight trains went west from Toronto on the Grand Trunk, and 30 came in from the west. Each of these trains would average 20 cars, thus making a total of practically 1,000 cars of freight handled each way in the course of one day. Under normal conditions of good average would be fifteen trains each way. The railway officials attribute the rush to the intense activity in business conditions throughout the province.

Accomplished Juanita Miller.

"I expect I shall soon be known as the father of Juanita Miller," said the veteran poet of the Sierras, Josquin Miller, once, with a touch of pride for his beautiful and accomplished daughter.

While the prediction has hardly come true, yet Miss Miller's gifts are bringing her into growing social and artistic prominence. In the fashionable cottage colony of Saratoga, she was a leader among the younger members last summer, her home being on Circular street in that city, where she lives with her mother and her aunt.

Though just a social bird, Miss Miller has the savoir faire of an older woman, and she plays the mandolin and piano with skill and feeling, has a sweet and rich mezzo-soprano voice.

Waitin' fur the Injun summer, When the haze is in the air, An' the scarlet of the sumac, An' the golden glory floats an' shimmers everywhere.

Waitin' fur the Injun summer, When the chestnuts patter down, An' the leaves so sure an' brown, When the woodland echoes loud To the joyous rattling crowd, An' the hunter with his herd dogs is comin' out from town.

Waitin' fur the Injun summer, When the atmosphere is alive, With a mellow, spicy something Sweet as honey in the hive, When the blood runs in your veins Like a colt that knows no reins, An' you've got a new ambition an' the energy to strive.

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