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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1913.

AN "IMPERIAL MISSION."

The King conferred a fitting honor on New Zealand yesterday in visiting the battleship which the Island Dominion has contributed to the Imperial Navy. His Majesty's recognition of New Zealand's loyalty should bring home to the Liberal obstructionists at Ottawa a sense of their position in vainly attempting to prevent the Dominion of Canada from giving immediate and effective aid to Imperial Naval Defence.

Many months ago Mr. Churchill announced that as soon as the New Zealand, which is named after the Dominion, was in commission, it was the intention of the Government that the vessel's first duty should be to visit the shores of the people who had so loyally placed a battleship at the disposal of the Admiralty. In fulfillment of this promise, the new battleship is about to sail for New Zealand and will probably call also at Australian ports and at Vancouver before taking her place in the first line of the Empire's defence in the North Sea.

Mr. Lewis Harcourt, the Colonial Secretary, has well described the New Zealand's first voyage as an "Imperial Mission." He was presiding at an assembly of the Empire Parliamentary Association in London recently at which Sir Joseph Ward, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, was the guest of honor. It is worthy of notice that in his speech the Colonial Secretary gave an effective reply to the futile argument of the Opposition at Ottawa that the Admiralty never asked for battleships, and that such contributions were unnecessary.

Mr. Harcourt was referring to the fact that the Association had entertained Sir Joseph Ward on a previous occasion during his term of office. He said:

"No one present—no one in this country in fact—can forget the action of Sir Joseph and his Government in a time of stress in the Old Land, when an offer of a Dreadnought was made, and gratefully accepted. The vessel is now on the eve of departure upon what, it is no exaggeration to describe as its Imperial Mission."

The Mother Country possesses a sense of proper pride and has never asked, and never will ask, the Dominion for naval aid, but she gratefully accepts their help when it is freely offered. Moreover she can give a straight answer to a straight question. When Canada seeks to ascertain through her Prime Minister in what form any immediate and effective aid would be most effective, the Mother Country's reply is unhesitating:

"After a prolonged consideration of all the circumstances, it is desirable that such aid should include the provision of a certain number of the largest and strongest ships of war which science can build or money supply."

For obvious reasons, the Opposition at Ottawa avoid the last clause in the Admiralty's Memorandum as they would the plague. It makes no reference to "Fleet Units." It coincides exactly with the provisions in the Government's Naval Aid Bill.

TO DISFRANCHISE LONDON CITY.

In connection with the withdrawal of the Franchise and Registration Bill by the Asquith Government, it is of unusual interest to note that a danger of disfranchisement which threatened the prestige of the City of London has been at least temporarily removed. An official amendment had been introduced into the Bill by Mr. J. A. Pearce, President of the Board of Education, making residence the sole qualification for a vote. This amendment had been carried, the enormous financial and commercial interests of the City would have been cut from the lists. The City of London, which is admittedly the financial centre not only of the United Kingdom, but of the Empire, and of the world, would have been practically disfranchised.

It can readily be understood that politics found no place in the movement which was organized shortly before the Bill was withdrawn to obtain special treatment for the City. Business men of all shades of political color sunk their party feelings in a united stand to prevent the electorate of the centre of the Empire being reduced mainly to caretakers and bank messengers. The City covers a comparatively small area and no business men make their residence there.

The amendment in the Bill was based on the argument that people ought to vote on account of the place where they sleep, not on account of the place where they work. As applied to the City of London there was no hesitation on the part of all business men in the community in endorsing Mr. Balfour's description of the proposition as "idiotic." Mr. Balfour is one of the parliamentary representatives of the constituency.

At a representative meeting of business men, including many Lib-

erals, to protest against the Franchise Bill the following resolution was moved by Lord Rothschild:

"That this meeting of citizens of London hereby registers its emphatic protest against the Franchise Registration Bill now before Parliament, as having no principle whatever to support it; and earnestly appeals to Parliament to reject this cynical proposal which would among other evils reduce the electorate of the first City of the Empire from over 31,000 representing the highest interests to under 3,000 residents."

Five ex-Lord Mayors, the principal representatives of the Guilds and the great banking, commercial and other interests of the City attended. The resolution was carried unanimously and it was decided to send a copy to the Prime Minister. The withdrawal of the Franchise Bill, less than a week later, removed all danger for the time that the capital of the Empire would suffer the indignity of disfranchisement. The belief is generally entertained that should this Radical measure be reintroduced the Asquith Government will consider discretion the better part of valor and exempt the City of London from the residence clause.

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS.

An interesting review of "The Rhodes Scholarships," a volume by Dr. George R. Parkin, recently issued, appears in the Vancouver News-Advertiser, with some instructive reference to the distribution of the memberships. Canada has always twenty-seven Rhodes scholars at Oxford. About twice that number of Canadians have already completed their Oxford course and taken up some vocation. Hundreds of lads at school and college in this country have some hope and ambition to be found worthy of the proud distinction conferred by a Rhodes scholarship.

The effect of this remarkable trust upon the intellectual, political and social life of this country, the News-Advertiser rightly believes, is only beginning to be felt, and cannot reach its height until several classes of Rhodes scholars have reached the maturity of their powers and the culmination of their influence.

Canadians form only a small part of the Rhodes Scholarship community. The other Dominions and Colonies over the Seas furnish twice as many, and the United States more than all British countries together, while five are nominated each year by the Emperor of Germany. Already seven hundred students, chosen to represent their provinces, states, colonies or countries have appeared at Oxford.

At this fitting time Dr. Parkin's volume, "The Rhodes Scholarships," is published. Had the book been issued sooner it could not have reported so fully the manner in which this noble enterprise has begun to fulfil its mission. Nine years of operation have enabled the management to systematize the methods of selecting the scholars under the various circumstances of the communities from which they are drawn, to arrange for their distribution among the twenty colleges of Oxford; to ascertain how fully students so chosen and gathered adapt themselves to the life and partake of the spirit of the ancient university; to learn what impression they make upon Oxford and what work is wrought by Oxford upon them.

Dr. Parkin is well known everywhere, and especially in his native Canada, as the secretary and organizer of the Rhodes Scholarship Trust. For the purposes of this organization he makes the English speaking world his parish. At Oxford Mr. F. J. Wylie administers the trust and acts as the intermediary between the elected scholars, the colleges and the university. Mr. Wylie has written the two chapters of the book that deal with the academic and social life of Oxford.

Dr. Parkin begins with a brief but singularly comprehensive account of Cecil Rhodes. It is not a eulogy. The author does not seek to conceal or gloss over the mistakes and errors of Mr. Rhodes. But he follows his career through to show that it was marked by a lofty and patriotic purpose, that he chiefly desired influence and wealth in order to use them for large Imperial purposes. For these ends he used his power and means in his lifetime, and to them he devoted his wealth when he died. Dr. Parkin quotes freely from speeches and letters of Cecil Rhodes to point out that the Rhodes Scholarship Trust was in harmony with the aspirations of his lifetime.

The chapter describing the will sets forth the various conditions and suggestions by which Mr. Rhodes hoped to prevent his executors from giving his scholarships to mere bookworms. He desired them to go to good students, who should also be leaders in sports and athletics, centres of moral and social influence in their schools, and possessed of kindly human qualities.

Dr. Parkin explains how the Trust has endeavored to carry out the intentions of the donor, and his colleague testifies to the high character and excellent record of Rhodes scholars who have so far become members of Oxford University.

The volume will be exceedingly useful to all who are interested in the matter as an educational venture, or as a national and international influence. It is needless to say that it is an indispensable handbook to the prospective Rhodes scholar.

UNDERLYING CAUSES.

Discussion of social and kindred problems is taking thinkers below the surface to underlying causes. In a recent issue the Chicago Tribune says:

"We in America have been venting our feelings in the last ten or fifteen years against a number of national ills, such as child labor, divorce, the social evil. We have considered each of these as separate and distinct. As a matter of fact, they are all children of the same parents—unemployment and industrial maladjustment. This industrial maladjustment, with the resultant seasonal and cyclical periods of slack work, is now forcing upon the country an even graver issue. It is the 'dread home'—the home that we misjudged and the ones whom we grudge. Their moments of victory here would find in the grasp of our loving hands. More than penitents lips could explain. For what had been hardest we'd know had been best. And what had seemed loss would be gain. For there isn't a sting that will not be paid. When we've faced it and laughed it away. And I think that the laughter is most in the Land of Beginning Again."

So I wish that there were some wonderful place Called the Land of Beginning Again. Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches And all of our poor, selfish grief Could be dropped, like a shabby old coat, at the door. And never put on again.

CURRENT COMMENT

An "Inquisitorial" Method. (New York Herald.)

After years of argument and contention the constitutional amendment permitting the levying of an income tax by the federal government has been ratified by more than three-fourths of the States of the Union. The distinction we will not say the honor, of supplying the one needed State to the list belongs either to Delaware or Wyoming, both States acting yesterday. So at last an inquisitorial method of tax gathering, of prying into the private affairs of individuals, is to be enacted by Congress and forced upon the nation. The Herald has consistently opposed this measure for twenty years. It objects to it now as wrong in principle and un-American in spirit.

Rather One-sided.

(New York Evening Post.)

What Senator O'Gorman's position amounts to is that we must settle every dispute and interpret every treaty according to our view of what suits our own convenience, except when the result is quite indifferent to us; and that to take account of anything but our own interests in the case is to surrender our "integrity and national honor." This may be highly patriotic, but it must be admitted that it leaves very little standing room for international arbitration, or even for discussion here at home of the force of any treaty obligation that we may feel tempted to nullify.

Forerunner of Defeat.

(Regina Province.)

The decision of the Privy Council in the Great Waterways case may mean the defeat of the Sifton Government in Alberta. It is questionable which was the worse, the original deal or Premier Sifton's confederate legislation. The Alberta Government is badly discredited. It has only maintained itself in power by continual shifting. Unless it adopts the notorious Scott election law and election methods, it will be defeated when an appeal is made to the electorate.

Documentary Evidence.

(St. Thomas Times.)

The latest novelty in the way of matrimonial legislation is a movement to have all proposals of marriage declared invalid unless made in writing. Should the plan be enacted into law, no breach-of-promise suit could be brought upon a verbal proposal. Young ladies at summer resorts would have to carry with them blank forms that could be filled out as promptly as dance programmes. Otherwise they might lose the catch even after hooking him.

The Church Militant.

(Montreal Herald.)

The annual report of the Royal North West Mounted Police which is, by the way, much more fascinating reading than the latest "best seller," tells a story of how a warm-blooded and strong-armed French-Canadian priest, four hundred and fifty miles north of Prince Albert, once threatened a half-breed for an offence against a child. This is the sort of church militant which makes the church triumphant.

Enforcing Discipline.

(New York Tribune.)

Governor Wilson is going to make it a crime to organize a corporation "intended to be used in restraint of trade." This reminds us of another schoolmaster who used to tell his pupils: "They, you must be pure in heart. If you're not pure in heart I'll fog you!"

"THE POETS' CORNER"

BEGINNING AGAIN.

I wish there were some wonderful place Called the Land of Beginning Again. Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches And all of our poor, selfish grief Could be dropped, like a shabby old coat, at the door. And never put on again.

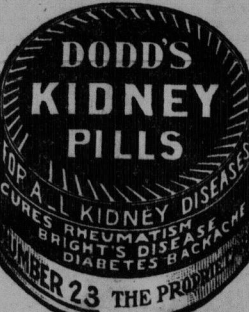
I wish, we could come on it all un-mises broken. Like the hunter that finds a lost trail; And I wish that the one whom our blindness had done The greatest injustice of all Could be at the gates, like an old friend that waits For the comrade he's gladdest to hail.

We would find all the things we intended to do. But forgot, and remembered—too late. Little praises unspoken, little promises broken. And all of the thousand and one Little duties neglected that might have perfected The day for one less fortunate.

It wouldn't be possible not to be kind In the Land of Beginning Again; And the ones that we misjudged and the ones whom we grudge Their moments of victory here Would find in the grasp of our loving hands. More than penitents lips could explain. For what had been hardest we'd know had been best. And what had seemed loss would be gain.

For there isn't a sting that will not be paid. When we've faced it and laughed it away. And I think that the laughter is most in the Land of Beginning Again.

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REST.

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Far, far beneath the noise of tempest dieth, And silver waves chime ever peacefully. And no rude storms, how fierce so'er it flieeth, Disturbs the Sabbath of that deeper sea.

So to the heart that knows thy love, O Purest, There is a temple sacred evermore! And all the babble of life's angry voices Dies in hushed stillness at its peaceful floor.

Far, far away, the roar of passion dieth, And loving thoughts rise calm and peacefully. And no rude storm, how fierce so'er it flieeth, Disturbs the soul that dwells, O Lord, in Thee.

O rest of rest! O peace serene, eternal! Thou ever livest, and thou changest never! And in the secret of thy presence dwelleth Fullness of joy, forever and forever. —Harriet Beecher Stowe.

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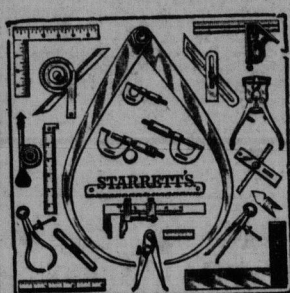
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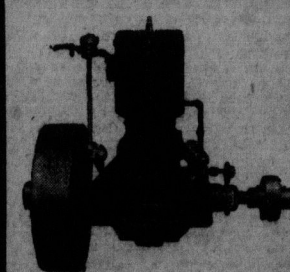
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MORE

S. L. Peters A posed to ing, of O

To the Editor of Sir:—I read with ary interest the W. Ludlow B. Plata, as publish of Feb. 1st. He and I have the routing of th two occasions, in I purpose it shall I fully appreciate, but really, no ap yield the right of ment to every m important public perfect right to express them p Now what we w though the Heavy construction of Railway as one works that was any New Brun the interests of will secure the of one of the province hitherto transportation fact heart and courage the St. John Val Had we had it 30 years ago, the conditions would be now. In my judg thing to play w to be interested in such a work give the best I h at in securing possible for its c then I plead guilt It should be e Valley Railway under part two of lature providing its construction distinct requirements sary. First, that exceed 4-10 of 1 the line when operated by the The first condition of competing in transcontinental condition establish fidence in its al requirements.

We have been for the coming of that great activi construction work at Centerville to G. G. us to see the cation for the ra to St. John. Few, if any of to realize his fa or the enormous sic conditions in its grade. The work to be locomotive power grades or those reducing the co and thereby im possibilities.

Besides the en I. C. R. will de reason to believ unethical and can asking for runn road, because of the shortest pos they can reach of Canada, where of the Courts and those of the way on the We in very truth, the America.

In view of su four trunk lines ter in St. John, ter port the w western heritage market in Euro South Africa, w advise a depart Rothesay to St. sideration of the Mr. Belyas was in his closing s making up our r trade and then route which is b I entirely concu it is right, and will shake a common platf to call Mr. Belya of the public a are beyond dispu of the different yeyed and recor book of the Pro wick for the y noted on page 7 the

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