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The German Emperor in Jerusalem.

The much-talked-of pilgrimage of the German Emperor to the Holy Land is now in progress. The royal party reached Jerusalem on Saturday, October 29. The Emperor, accompanied by the Empress Augusta Victoria, entered the city by the Jaffa gate, their entrance being heralded by the firing of guns at the citadel and the playing of a German anthem by a Turkish band. According to the despatches their majesties were received with enthusiastic demonstrations. From the Tower of David the Emperor and the Empress proceeded on foot, amid wild cheers, to the church of the Holy Sepulchre, where they were received by the Catholic, Greek and Armenian clergy, whose patriarchs presented addresses eulogizing the Emperor, who returned their compliments by conferring decorations upon the patriarchs. After their majesties had been presented with an address by the pastor of the German Evangelical church, there was a reception at the German Consulate, and later in the evening a general illumination of the city and a display of fireworks. It is reported that the royal party has suffered considerably from the extreme heat prevalent in Palestine, which has proved fatal to a number of the Emperor's horses, and that, owing either to this or to present political complications in Europe, his majesty will probably not prolong his stay in the East and visit Syria as he had intended. It appears, too, that there is a good deal of feeling in Russia in reference to the Kaiser's friendliness with the Sultan and this visit to the East, which is interpreted as having a significance inimical to Russian interests.

Favorable Word. At the close of an appreciative article on Canada, in which allusion is made to the enlarging trade of the country, the increase of immigration, the deepening of the great water-ways, the developing of improved communications with England and with other parts of the Empire, the New York Outlook alludes to the work of the International Commission and says that "it will be strange if the Commissioners who now have the commercial and certain political interests of the United States and Canada intrusted to them cannot come to some agreement for reciprocal trade. For a good many years reciprocity treaties with Central and South America have been an object of statesmanship with us, but their exaggerated importance may be judged by the fact that Canada, with its population of less than 5,500,000, buys from us nearly as much as all Central and South America put together. Canada ranks third among foreign countries as a buyer of our products, and the average purchasing power of a Canadian exceeds that of ten Latin-Americans."

France and Fashoda. What may come out of the Fashoda incident is for us a question of much more than speculative interest. Considering the large French element in the population of Canada, and the strong race feeling which exists, there is no part of the Empire more interested in the maintenance of friendly relations with France than is this Dominion. It is unquestionable that the relations between the two countries have become rather severely strained, and the British Government has undoubtedly come to regard war as a result of the difficulty by no means impossible. There has been unusual activity in military circles, especially in the navy, and the recent speech of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Chancellor of the Exchequer, indicated that the British Government had taken a position in reference to the Fashoda incident from which it would not recede. But France, even if she could count on the active aid of Russia—which she probably cannot—cannot afford to go to war with Britain. Such a step would at once bring her navy into conflict with a greatly superior naval force, and would inevitably result in great destruction to her commerce. And if France does not desire war with Great Britain it is difficult to see what there is in the present situation to force her into conflict with her more powerful neighbor. The presence at Fashoda of a force composed of a

dozen Frenchmen and a few hundred natives under Major Marchand, employed on an expedition for which the French Government had previously disclaimed any responsibility, cannot be regarded as constituting a title which France could consistently maintain in the face of a long-standing British claim, and especially in view of the fact that Marchand's little force was doubtless saved from destruction by the presence of the Anglo-Egyptian army then engaged in breaking the power of the Khalifa and occupying the country with an effective military force. One is prepared, therefore, to give full credence to the statement contained in recent despatches to the effect that France will retire from Fashoda unconditionally and without asking any compensation. It is quite evident, however, that France is in a very bad humor over the affair. It has served to intensify her jealousy of Great Britain on account of the latter's continued presence in Egypt, for England has not only remained in Egypt in spite of France's protests, but has employed the advantages thereby gained as a means of strengthening her position in Central Africa and of securing a line of communication between Egypt and the Cape. This galls France by interfering with her own schemes in Africa, and it would appear that she is seeking to revenge herself by preventing Great Britain obtaining from Portugal Delagoa Bay on the east coast.

Ominous Outlook. The presence of Major Marchand and his small military force at Fashoda did not from the first appear to constitute a standing-ground which France could reasonably hold against the Anglo-Egyptian claim, and any apprehension that France was disposed to find a *casus belli* in the incident has been set at rest by the intimation of Lord Salisbury, in a speech delivered at a banquet given to General Kitchener on Friday last, that assurance had been received from the French Government of its abandonment of any claim to the possession of Fashoda. At the same time the political horizon appears by no means to be settled. Despatches during the week have told of remarkable activity in British military and naval circles. The naval forces of the Empire have been put in readiness for immediate action. This evident preparation for war must be taken to indicate an apprehension on the part of Great Britain that a point has been reached when the resources of diplomacy are in danger of being exhausted and when it may be necessary to assert her rights in sterner fashion. Just what it is that has roused the British lion to so belligerent an attitude does not appear to be well understood outside of diplomatic circles. Its explanation may be Russia's continually aggressive attitude in China, or it may be that England judges that the time has come when it is necessary for her to declare a protectorate over Egypt and be prepared for contingencies in that connection. It is said that the Khedive of Egypt has been showing an unfriendly disposition toward England, and that the Sultan, who nominally exercises a protectorate over Egypt offended by England's recent action in respect to affairs in Crete, has endeavored to retaliate by pretending to convey the title of the Bahr-el-Ghazel country to France. Whatever may be the immediate cause of the present warlike preparations, it seems evident that Great Britain regards the present situation as one in which her honor and her interests can be maintained only by being fully prepared for any contingency. It is altogether probable that if France could be assured of Russia's support in a conflict with Britain the dogs of war would soon be loosed. But, whatever Russia might do a few years hence, she probably does not want war with Britain now, even with France to bear the brunt of it. The British Government no doubt wisely thinks that the best way to maintain the rights of the Empire, and at the same time to avoid war, is to make it evident that if her enemies choose war they will not find her unprepared.

The Plebiscite. On Thursday last representatives of the religious and temperance bodies of Canada, to the number of above three hundred men and women, waited at Ottawa upon the Premier, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and a committee of his colleagues, composed of Hon. Messrs. Sifton, Fielding, Fisher and Sir Richard Cartwright, for the purpose of urging, in view of the expression of public sentiment in the recent Plebiscite, the intro-

duction at the next session of Parliament of a bill providing for the prohibition of the liquor traffic. The delegation was not only large in point of numbers, but influential as to character. Rev. Dr. Carman, General Superintendent of the Methodist Church of Canada, having been chosen as chairman on behalf of the prohibitionists, read a resolution which was passed by the Executive of the Dominion Alliance after the vote on the Plebiscite, expressing satisfaction with the substantial majority which had been secured for the abolition of the traffic in intoxicating liquors, and also arranging for a delegation to wait on the Government at the earliest opportunity to ask for the embodiment of the will of the people in definite and effective legislation. This resolution had been adopted by the delegation present. Dr. Carman then introduced Mr. F. S. Spence, of Toronto, as the first speaker. Other speakers were Major E. L. Bond, of Montreal; Rev. Dr. McLeod, of Fredericton; Rev. Dr. Hogg, of Winnipeg; Mr. Firman McClure, M. P. for Colchester, N. S., and Mrs. Rutherford, President of the Dominion W. C. T. U. Mr. Spence addressed the representatives of the Government at considerable length. He commended the Government for having acceded to the request of the prohibitionists not to complicate the question as submitted to the people with a reference to direct taxation and for the straightforward way in which, up to the present time, it had dealt with the question. Mr. Spence contended that the vote which had been polled was a remarkably large one to be taken on an abstract question. He summed up the result in this way: There was a majority for prohibition of 13,884. One hundred and twenty-four out of 205 constituencies, representing 128 members out of 213, were for prohibition. There was a majority of 43 members representing constituencies in favor of prohibition. Taking the prohibition majorities alone in these constituencies, and adding them together, it gave them over 125,000 majority to divide between their 128 representatives. Every member of Parliament who represented a constituency that had polled in favor of prohibition, represented a constituency that had voted for prohibition by an average of over 1,000 majority. Outside Quebec there were only 24 constituencies represented by 28 members, that had not given a substantial prohibition majority. He declared that it was the kind of vote upon which legislation might fairly be based with a certainty of its being made effective and being loyally obeyed. He recognized the difficulties in the way of prohibition, but he conceded the ability of the Government to deal with them. The other speakers followed, confirming the position taken by Mr. Spence and speaking of the force of the prohibition sentiment in the several provinces which they represented. Sir Wilfrid Laurier replied to the delegation at some length. He said that the Government appreciated the motives which actuated the delegation and the motives of those who, in the Plebiscite campaign, had striven to obtain a prohibitory law. He agreed with Mr. Spence that the vote recorded on the 29th September in favor of prohibition was a pure, clean and disinterested vote. He knew well that those who are seeking a prohibitory law had nothing else in view but the general welfare of the country. Though not himself a total abstainer, if yet he could be satisfied that there was a broad national sentiment in favor of such a cause, which in itself was a good and moral cause, he would have no hesitation in sacrificing his personal view, his education and inclination and submitting to the will of the majority. Sir Wilfrid agreed with Mr. Spence that, under the circumstances, the vote was a large one. Alluding to the vote in Quebec, he said that it was an important, though not the primary, consideration that the second province in the Dominion had declared against prohibition. Quebec was a part of the Dominion and its inhabitants were a law-abiding people. And if Quebec had gone against prohibition it was nevertheless a temperate province, for under the local option law nearly two-thirds of the municipalities of the province vote no licence. In conclusion the Premier said: "It will be the duty of my colleagues and myself to report to council the views that have been laid before us by the ladies and gentlemen who have spoken upon this occasion. I think this is too important a question to be trifled with. We shall take an early opportunity of communicating to the Secretary of your association the views of the Government upon the representations that have been made before us today." Dr. Carman expressed the thanks of the deputation for the hearing. "Of course," he said, "we expect large things from a strong Government."

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