

real, since the country presumably received the value of the exemption privilege in the price of the bonds at the time of issue. This is, in a sense, true. Nevertheless, if well-to-do people who were shrewd enough to put their wealth into Dominion bonds are found paying little or no income tax at a time when their poorer neighbors are heavily taxed, there is certain to arise a feeling of discontent, a sense of injustice.

At no distant day the necessity will arise for the issue of another Victory Loan, and the Government will desire to make it as attractive as possible. The temptation will come again to attach an exemption privilege. That might be deemed a part of the easiest way. But a better policy will, we believe, be to resist the temptation, and make the terms—either by the rate of interest or the price of issue—such as will command support without exemption privileges.

A Clerical Experiment

SOME surprise has been created by the announcement that the Premier of Ontario has chosen Rev. Archdeacon Cody, of St. Paul's Anglican Church, Toronto, to be Minister of Education in the Government of that Province. Dr. Cody is recognized as a man of eminence in his profession, of fine scholarship, deeply interested in educational work and, indeed, in all that makes for the welfare of the country. In some respects he seems to be admirably qualified for the important duties assigned to him. It is the fact that he is a clergyman that makes the appointment unique. There have been many instances, in our own country and in Great Britain, of clergymen sitting in Parliament. There have been some instances of retired clergymen being chosen for Cabinet positions. We doubt, however, if there is any other case in which a man has undertaken to discharge at the same time duties of a Cabinet Minister and those of a pastor of a church. Dr. Cody announces that he does not intend that his acceptance of the position of Minister of Education shall in any way interfere with his position as Minister of St. Paul's, Toronto.

It is possible that Dr. Cody's high character and attainments may prove the very qualities that are needed to make him an efficient Minister of Education at a time when there are in view some troublesome educational questions that require delicate handling. Dr. Cody, his friends are assured, will take up his work with a high purpose to render faithful and efficient service. His clerical garb should not, perhaps, be deemed in any way a disadvantage. Nevertheless, it is likely, as the days pass, to bring him under a measure of criticism that might not meet him if he were a layman. The clergyman of any denomination, particularly if he is in active clerical service, is usually regarded as in a special manner representing and serving his own church. The broadest minded man can hardly hope to escape a suspicion of that kind, unjust though it may be. In any difficulty that may arise, in which people can possibly find the division lines between the different creeds, there will be a tendency among the clergy of other denominations to look with suspicious eyes on the Minister of St. Paul's Anglican Church. Dr. Cody's service as Minister may prove to be so efficient that such doubts, if they exist at all, will be swept away. Let us sincerely hope that it will.

The War

THE war news from day to day, just now, does not seem good, but perhaps it is fully as good as can reasonably be expected. The army which assumes the responsibility of the offensive has advantages as well as burdens. It has the privilege of selecting its points of attack, and a great body of men concentrated largely on well chosen points of a long defence line can always, if prepared to pay the heavy price in casualties, make progress for the moment. The Germans are paying the price and they are gaining some ground. If they can keep on doing so victory is theirs. But experience has shown that the gains thus made by them are usually temporary in their character and of little value as affecting the ultimate decision. A crushing defeat of the Allies, the destruction or disorganization of their forces, would of course be a very grave situation. But the pushing back for a few miles of an army which retires in perfect order, maintaining its line and strengthening itself for the next round, may mean the achieving of a small and unimportant gain at a tremendous cost. That time is on the side of the Allies probably the German military commanders know well, and with this knowledge they naturally desire to force the situation now, before the new army from America can come fully into the conflict. General Foch, on the other hand, seems disposed to avoid as far as he can battles in which, whatever might be the issue, would involve very heavy loss. Evidently he thinks it a better policy to yield some ground than to defend it at too heavy a cost. Meanwhile his reserves are being brought up, and every day is adding thousands to the American army in France. At the right moment, we may be sure, when there is less inequality of numbers at the chief points of contact, Foch will strike with the full force of the Allies, and the Germans will be driven back. And if this be the result of their present offensive movement, upon which they have been building high hopes, the moral effect on the German people will be important.

The Dominions and Treaty-Making

THE question of the rights of the Dominions respecting treaty-making occasionally arises for discussion among students of Empire affairs. The cablegrams inform us that Sir John MacDowell Quain, professor of comparative law, giving the Rhodes lectures at the University College of London, spoke on treaty-making and the Dominions, and how to reconcile, in regard to treaty-making, unity with autonomy of the Dominions and to continue maintaining the greatest example yet known of a true league of nations. It was a unique problem, he said, and he traced the history of the question, and dealing with the present aspect, said at each of the Imperial conferences the matter had been brought forward and at each concessions had been made. There remained, he continued, the difficulty as to political treaties. These great communities would assert their right to be consulted as to decisions which might call upon them to make supreme sacrifices. A deepening sense of the value of the Empire would probably ensure general uniformity of treaties. With vigorous communities there doubtless would be some friction, but experience of the last half century of moderation and practical wisdom of the

home Government and Dominions would show that a working system could be evolved.

The subject thus discussed by Sir John Quain is always interesting. The reader, however, would easily receive from his remarks an impression that there are difficulties between the Imperial and Dominion authorities respecting the making of treaties. So far as Canada is concerned there are none, and we doubt if there are any between Downing Street and the other Dominions. Australia and South Africa are evidently somewhat nervous about the fate of the former German colonies under the peace treaty that will one of these days have to be made. Apart from that, it is not likely that there is any friction between the Imperial Government and the Dominions in relation to the treaty making power. And whatever may be thought of ordinary treaties which affect the Dominions, none can deny that when this war ends and a peace treaty comes to be made, the Imperial authorities must have the chief responsibility of deciding for the Empire, though they will, of course, desire to meet as far as possible the wishes of the Dominions which have taken so prominent a part in the great conflict.

Apart, however, from conditions arising from the war the situation between the Imperial Government and the self-governing Dominions respecting treaty making leaves little to be desired. In older times the Colonies counted for little in the making of treaties. The Imperial authorities made whatever arrangements were deemed necessary from the Imperial point of view, and the Colonies, like good children, were expected to be content. There are treaties still in force that were made in this way, for the whole Empire, without any Colonial government being asked to say a word about them. But these treaties were made many years ago. The Dominions have grown to manhood since that time and their rights of manhood are now freely recognized in Downing Street. No treaty is made to-day affecting the rights of the Dominions without containing a clause reserving to the Dominions the right to assent to or dissent from it. In that fact, now firmly established in the practice of the British Foreign Office, there is a very large protection of the Dominions. If, in any case, Canada, for example, desires to make a treaty with any foreign country, respecting matters pertaining to Canada alone, the British Government will readily co-operate with Canada to that end, and will give Canada's representatives all necessary power and authority to make the desired arrangement. It is not easy to see how, for practical purposes, any better plan can be devised.

No Penny Post

PERHAPS nothing in the way of financial affairs is more likely to make the British citizen realize the burdens which the war creates than the announcement that from this time forward penny postage will have no existence. The great postal reform with which the name of Rowland Hill has been so honorably associated has been one of the most valued features of British public affairs. Some years ago, under the leadership of Sir William Mulock, Canada followed the British example, with very gratifying results. When the war came and more money was needed, we had to abandon our penny postage and adopt again the three-cent rate. Great Britain has clung to the penny post until now. Hereafter the common postage rate will be three half-pence, equal to our three cents.

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