

successes at Scinda, Auringabad, and Argrun, and the magnificence of the immortal victory at Assaye—a victory which was glorified many years after by the genius of the great Irish orator Shiel—all return with realistic vividness in picture to the mind. And too returns in not less splendid colours the sublimer picture of the rapidly unfolding genius of the young but gifted commander, who, after extending the territories of Great Britain into wildernesses which were almost impenetrable to the tiger, was at length required to return to his country to save from the impending calamity of alien subjection the nation which his genius had made great.

Wellesley's return to England in 1805 was contemporary with his future foe's great undertaking of leading the army of France across the Rhine and into the central fastnesses of Germany. Not yet had the French general's continental successes discomposed the ardour or subdued the spirit of even the weakest among Englishmen. In the following year Wellesley entered the Imperial Parliament and was a member of that body when the tidings of the tremendous defeat of the allies by Bonaparte at the battle of Austerlitz hurried the younger William Pitt, broken-hearted, to an unexpected and untimely grave. In 1807, Wellesley became Chief Secretary for Ireland—a position which even then had acquired that unfortunate and hated notoriety which, at a later day, impelled a band of assassins to terminate the office of one of its occupants by a cruel murder. For two years he continued to discharge the difficult as well as despised duties of his position, but even this brief term was on two occasions interrupted—once by the outbreak of hostilities in Denmark and once by the commencement of war in the Peninsula. When the two years had expired, he resigned the Secretaryship to enter upon that undertaking which was to terminate but with the vanquishing of a conqueror whose vast designs were compassed alone by the impenetrable barriers of physical impossibility—the only obstacles which were incapable of being overcome by even the myriad resources of human genius.

ALBERT R. J. F. HASSARD.

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The Statistical Year Book.

TWO works lie before me, one a pamphlet of less than thirty pages, the other a goodly volume of a thousand; both deal with Canadian statistics and bear upon Canada's future; their inspirations as unlike as their bulk: fitted for notice in one article by their very contrast. The one is entitled "Our Best Policy," which is defined as "by constitutional means, involving the consent of the Mother Country, to bring about the union, on fair and honourable terms, of Canada and the United States."

The larger volume is pitched in a far different key, and is "The Statistical Year Book of Canada for 1895," full as its predecessors of valuable information and permeated by the imperial spirit. For purely census returns there is nothing to add to that which appeared in the issue of the previous year, and to which attention was then drawn in these columns; the opportunity offered by the present issue, and the reception by the same mail of the pamphlet referred to, will be taken to note a few thoughts on our Canadian interests. And first some considerations of "Our Best Policy."

Let it be frankly stated at the outset, standing on the broad platform of a common Christianity, and recognizing universally the brotherhood of man, we should hail with delight the union, on fair and honourable terms, not only of Canada with the United States, but also of the entire Anglo-Saxon-speaking world at the same time. Yea, we would welcome as a reality the time when

—"the war drum throbbed no longer, and the battle flags were furled in the parliament of man, the federation of the world."

And our little endeavour is to that end. We only feel that that end is not to be accomplished by severing the union that already exists. To our view the way is along the line of closer federation of the British dependencies and not by the course urged in the pamphlet. The one fault we have with the pamphlet is that it is venal in the presentation of motive. Great and pressing as commercial interests are, desirable as freedom from European entanglements in the event of war may be, to the noble mind they are higher considerations; and we should deeply regret the growth of

a spirit that would barter the memories of old, the ties that bind us to a national past, for enhanced commercial privileges merely, or immunity from the responsibilities of war should such be forced upon the nation. It may be true that geographically there are difficulties all but insuperable in consolidating the Dominion; but the endeavour to surmount develops a character which even on the low plane of survival of the fittest will not be hindmost in the achievements of life. Nor is it by any means established that in stable prosperity and true manhood we should even hold our own by severing the ties that bind us still in loyal love to Victoria's peerless throne. We gladly turn to the "Year Book" as less pessimistic, and more true to prevailing sentiment; and supplement in part our notes of February last.

Our loyal statistician has corrected what may be well deemed an unfair comparison as to Canada's trade and commerce. The British Empire is an unity in its diversity, and should for purposes of comparison be so considered if one would see how far trade follows the flag. To this end the different parts of the Empire are grouped together, as they should be, and not separated as they are by our good friends across the line and their sympathizers. We may thus learn who are our best customers. Our exports in round numbers to the United States for 1895 were 41½ millions; to Great Britain, including her possessions in the various parts of the world, 66½ millions; over 61 to Great Britain proper. And yet we only imported from our best customer under 34 millions as against 59½ from our neighbours. It is, of course, to be assumed that this disparity was to our advantage, and yet it may appear to those who desire to draw the widespread parts of the empire more closely together that much remains to be done in the cultivation of closer trade relations under the flag, in other words, among ourselves.

Perhaps some side light may be thrown on the free silver coinage question by the fact that of 157 million dollars' worth of gold supplied to the world's market, 89 million came from under the British flag; the United States supplied 40 million. On the other hand, the latter country produced 64 million dollars' worth of silver as against 24 million from the Empire, and 60 million from Mexico. The possession by Britain of so large a proportion of the gold fields of the world may account largely for the warmth attached to the question of free silver and the Venezuela boundary. Canada appears to be developing in the production of the precious metal, her average for the past four years being little under a million; we have only to husband our resources, make haste slowly, and patiently develop; our future will be assured, our present ample.

There are many other items of interest in our "Year Book," but who can condense a condensation of a thousand pages? This item, however, may have interest and suggest enquiry. In the event of prohibition becoming law the question presses a practical statesman, from what source shall the deficit to the revenue from excise be supplied? If we can credit statistical returns, Canadians smoked over 100 millions of cigars in 1895. We are in doubt whether the 11 million pounds of tobacco given in the Inland Revenue report is to be in addition to this or inclusive. Giving my smoking friends the full benefit of the doubt, the question suggests itself: How many advocates of prohibition are smokers? And how many of them are sufficiently earnest in their endeavours to throw in their tobacco bill as a contribution towards making up the deficit? As the writer uses neither tobacco nor alcoholic drinks (not even in the form of Blood Bitters), he can calmly await reply.

"Let the galled jade wince; our withers are unwrung."

A land that can, with a population of five million, chronicle an export and import trade of 225 million dollars, boast of fisheries worth 20 million annually; forest and mineral wealth untold; with a hardy population; unrivalled systems of education, and a generally Christian tone of morality; may well be considered a favoured spot, and infuse in the hearts of the people a loyal love for "Canada our home." Nor is that home the less sacred and secure, nay, the rather may its hearthstone be esteemed the more hallowed, as over all waves the flag that is kissed by the breeze of every clime, the bond of brotherhood—the Union Jack.

Gravenhurst, Oct. 20, 1896.

JOHN BURTON.

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There are no fewer than 11,000 rooms in the Papal palace, and many of them never receive a ray of sunlight.