

The Prince of Wales on the Empire



THE annual dinner of the Royal Colonial Institute took place at the Hotel Cecil, London, the other evening. The Prince of Wales, president of the institute, was in the chair, and there was a large and distinguished company, which included the Lord Chancellor, Lord Crewe, the Duke of Argyll, the Archbishop of Sydney, Lord Dudley, Lord Jersey, the Duke of Marlborough, Lord Annaly, Sir Gerald Strickland, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Percy Girouard, Lord Glasgow, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Arthur Bigge, the Hon. Thomas Price (Premier of South Australia), Lord Alverstone, Lord Tennyson, Mr. W. Runciman, M.P., Mr. Sydney Buxton, M.P., Lord Lamington, General Sir W. Nicholson, Mr. A. Lyttelton, K.C., M.P., the Hon. Sir R. Solomon (agent-general for the Transvaal), Dr. G. R. Parkin, Sir J. West Ridgeway, Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. B. Seely, M.P. (Under-Secretary for the Colonies), Sir Somerset French (agent-general for the Cape of Good Hope), Sir Horace Tozer (Agent-General for Queensland), Admiral the Hon. Sir E. R. Fremantle, the Hon. J. W. Taverne (Agent-General for Victoria), Sir W. Arbuckle (Agent-General for Natal), the Bishop of North Queensland, Sir T. Fowell Buxton, the Hon. Alfred Dobson (Agent-General for Tasmania), Mr. T. A. Coghlan (Agent-General for New South Wales), Sir E. L. Samuel, Field-Marshal Sir George White, Admiral Sir A. Douglas, Sir Montagu Ommanney, Sir Albert Hime, the Hon. J. M. Davies, Sir Francis Faussett, Admiral Sir N. Bowden-Smith, Sir Frederick Young, Major-General Sir R. B. Lane, Sir Lesley Probyn, Sir Charles P. Lucas, Mr. E. W. Wallington, Captain R. M. Collins, Sir E. Montagu Nelson, Major-General C. W. Robinson, Mr. G. E. Buckle, Mr. C. F. Moberly Bell, Colonel Sir Gerard Smith, Sir Charles Bruce, Sir F. R. Saunders, Colonel D. Bruce, Colonel Sir John Young, Colonel Sir W. Bisset, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Donald Robertson, Mr. Hugh Chisholm, Sir Alfred Bateman, Mr. J. G. Colmer, Sir J. Clifton Robinson, Sir Hubert E. H. Jerningham, Sir Godfrey Lagden, Mr. H. Birkenough, the Hon. C. H. Rason (Agent-General for Western Australia), Sir Henry Kimber, Sir R. B. Llewellyn, Sir W. Baillie-Hamilton, Sir Arthur N. Birch, Sir William Treacher, Colonel Sir J. H. Hayes-Sadler, Mr. H. W. Just, Sir George S. Mackenzie, Lieutenant-General Sir J. Bevan Edwards, Sir Walter Lawrence, Major-General Sir Henry Green, Mr. C. Czarnikow, Rear-Admiral H. Stewart, Mr. V. Gabriel, Sir E. Sinclair Stevenson, M.P., Sir H. D. McMillan, Mr. Walter H. Harris, Mr. H. J. Sparks, Mr. S. Vaughan Morgan, and Mr. J. S. O'Halloran.

The Prince of Wales, who was received with loud cheers, proposed the toast of "The King." He said: "The first toast I have the honor to propose is one which needs no words from me. It is always received with respect and affection throughout the British Empire. I give you the health of his Majesty the King. (Loud cheers.)"

The Hon. Thomas Price proposed the toast of "The Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the other members of the royal family." He said it was altogether a new thing for him to stand in the presence of gentlemen who had done service for the empire, but no more loyal or truer subject and servant of his Majesty was present than himself and those he represented. (Cheers.) If it were a matter of territory that he represented that night, his country was as large as England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, with France and Germany, Spain and Portugal—all tied together they could be comfortably put inside the territory he represented. The great continent of Australia was being prepared for white men to come and live there, and the people of Australia anticipated that before very long the tide that was now flowing to Canada would find a way to Australia. Men would be wanted to carry out the railway construction which was now in contemplation. After referring to the development of South Australia and the engineering work proposed to be carried out on the Murray river, the speaker said that at one time there had been a little friction between the States of the Commonwealth, but it had now passed away, and they were beginning to understand each other and work together for the good of Australia. (Cheers.) He concluded by proposing the toast, referring to the great love which was everywhere entertained for the Queen. Of the Prince of Wales, he said that of the many men of high position to whom he had spoken in England there was none to whom he had had the privilege of speaking who had shown more interest and more knowledge of the affairs of Australia than His Royal Highness. (Loud cheers.)

The Prince of Wales, in reply, said: "My Lords and Gentlemen—The very kind words with which Mr. Price has just proposed this toast, and the hearty manner in which you have received it, is indeed most gratifying to me. While thanking him for his far too generous allusions to myself, you will, I know, join with me in expressing our keen appreciation for his most interesting and instructive speech. (Cheers.) I first had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Price in New Zealand seven years ago, and since then I have followed his career with interest. Tonight we congratulate him on his now occupying the distinguished position of Prime Minister of South Australia,

and cordially welcome him amongst us. (Cheers.) As President of the Royal Colonial Institute, to which office I had the honor of being appointed on the resignation of the King after his Majesty's accession, it is most gratifying to find myself supported here tonight by so many distinguished persons, some of whom I had the pleasure of meeting in different parts of the world. For I see around me citizens of our over-sea dominions; others who have in the past directed the government of those dominions; some who now occupy, or have occupied, the highest positions in the colonial service. And we welcome with pleasure tonight a future governor-general of the Commonwealth of Australia, my old friend Lord Dudley. (Loud cheers.) He takes with him our heartiest good wishes on his appointment to that high and responsible post, in which he succeeds Lord Northcote, whose departure from Australia is, I am well aware, most deeply regretted by its people. (Cheers.) With our thoughts for the moment on the Commonwealth, I cannot refrain, even at the risk of striking a note of sadness, from alluding to him who was chosen as the first governor-general of federated Australia, Lord Linlithgow, whose loss we, who knew and loved him, so keenly deplore. (Hear, hear.) During the time that has elapsed since I first went to sea in 1879, I have been able to visit almost every part of our empire. (Cheers.) I am deeply sensible of my good fortune. And without boast I may claim that probably no one in this room has landed on so many different portions of British soil as I have. (Loud cheers.) Under the circumstances, it would be strange indeed if I had not acquired some of that knowledge of Greater Britain with which Mr. Price so kindly credits me (cheers); still more, if I did not take a deep and continuing interest in the progress and welfare of these dominions beyond the seas. (Cheers.) And there is, moreover, the lasting impression of the loyal, affectionate welcome, the generous hospitality, which, whether to my dear brother and me, as boys, or to the Princess and myself in later days, was universally extended to us. (Cheers.) Nor shall we ever forget the many kind friends made during those happy and memorable experiences. (Cheers.) This summer I shall again cross the Atlantic in order to represent the King at the celebrations of the first colonization of Canada by Champlain, 300 years ago. (Cheers.) Though time, unfortunately, will not permit of my visit being extended beyond Quebec, I look forward with much pleasure to revisiting the Dominion for the sixth time, and joining with its people in this great national commemoration. (Loud cheers.) Such experiences have, of course, only afforded glimpses and impressions, but sufficient to gain, at all events, a slight acquaintance with these countries, with their people, and institutions. They have enabled me to form some idea of our empire, to realize its vastness, its latent strength. They have brought home to me the fact so well expressed in a recent article in one of our reviews, "that today by England we do not mean these islands in the western sea, but an England which is spread over the whole surface of the world." (Loud cheers.) In the name of the Queen, the Princess of Wales and other members of my family, and on my own behalf, I beg to thank you all most sincerely for the generous manner in which this toast has been received. (Loud cheers.)

The Prince of Wales, again rising, said: "My Lords and Gentlemen—I have ventured to introduce a toast which has not been hitherto proposed at these annual gatherings; it is the toast of 'The British Dominions Beyond the Seas.' (Cheers.) It does not seem to be out of place when we consider that one of the first objects of this institute is to develop the true spirit of empire, and to strengthen those links of kinship which will bind for ever the vast and varied portions of the over-sea dominions with the Mother Country. (Cheers.) Events move so quickly that we are apt to forget how much has been achieved in this direction. Modern science has done wonders in making time and distance vanish. It is astounding to realize what has been accomplished in securing quick, constant, and continuous communication between the different provinces of the empire since, say, the accession of Queen Victoria. At that time there was only one small railway in the colonies, and that was in Canada. The first steamer from England to Australia did not run till 1852; it is only 50 years since the first submarine cable was laid between Great Britain and America; telegraphic communication was only established with Australia in 1872, with New Zealand in 1876, and South Africa in 1879. But in this short space of time how marvellous has been the progress! We have seen how the Canadian Pacific railway has helped to make a nation; how railways have transformed South Africa and spanned the Zambesi at the Victoria Falls. (Cheers.) Today, thanks to railway development, we are opening up fresh and important cotton-growing areas in Nigeria and elsewhere. Mr. Price has told us of the great scheme of the Murray navigation, with its enormous possibilities. We also hear rumors of the promotion of similar enterprises in other parts of the world. Electricity now carries in a few minutes messages between every portion of the empire, and even keeps us in touch with our fleets, and with those powerful steamers which have brought us within a few days of the great continent of America. (Cheers.) But though we have been successful in many,

ways, we must not lose sight of our common interests, aims, and objects, in the fulfilment of which there must be mutual efforts, mutual self-sacrifice. (Cheers.) Does such co-operation as we would desire really and fully exist? Undoubtedly there has been a great improvement in this direction. We earnestly hope that progress may be made in thoroughly grappling with imperial defence and in strengthening military organization in time of peace no less than in war. (Cheers.) I also commend to your consideration the importance of reciprocity in educational matters. As Chancellor of the University of the Cape of Good Hope, I trust that the old universities of these islands will always maintain sympathetic relations with those of younger portions of the empire. (Cheers.) We know what has been done through the Rhodes scholarships. Oxford four years ago chose for her Regius Professor of Medicine Dr. Osler, one of Canada's most distinguished sons (cheers), while Professor Bovey, though born in England, has been brought from McGill



university to be rector of the important Imperial College of Science and Technology now being established at Kensington. (Cheers.) A new means of intercourse and interchange of thought between the members of the Anglican church throughout the empire has been initiated in the coming Pan-Anglican congress, which assemblies in London next month, and I believe that every preparation is being made to give to its members a hearty welcome throughout the country. (Cheers.) Is there not much to be accomplished by strengthening these social relations—by the Mother Country making it clear to her children that they are always certain of finding her at home, not in name only, but in reality, and the same warm-hearted hospitality as is always extended to us in every portion of the globe where the British flag flies? (Cheers.) I have endeavored to touch lightly on the vital necessity for reciprocal action between those at home and our brethren beyond the seas. (Cheers.) We must foster now and always the strongest feelings of mutual confidence and respect. (Cheers.) By methods of education, by unity of action in everything that leads towards the noblest ideals of civilization, by utilizing the great powers of science, and by means of defence by sea and land we must strive to maintain all that we esteem most dear. (Cheers.) If we hold hands across the seas we shall preserve for future generations a noble heritage, founded upon the highest patriotism and knit together by the ties of race and of mutual sympathy and regard. (Loud cheers.)

Lord Crewe, Secretary of State for the Colonies, proposed "Prosperity to the Royal Colonial Institute." After paying a cordial tribute to the administration of his predecessor, Lord Elgin, he said that in taking up an office

of that kind it was a certain consolation to feel that nobody really knew the British empire, except, to a great extent, by hearsay. Perhaps he ought to except his Royal Highness their chairman, who had said, with perfect truth, that from the days when, as a very young officer in her Majesty's navy, he went round the world till these later days, when, in company with the Princess of Wales, he had made official progress as the heir to the throne, there was probably no man who had landed at so many different places within the confines of the British empire. (Cheers.) Yet no one really knew the whole of the British empire except by hearsay. They meet a man who had been much in India, who knew something of South Africa, had been in Canada, and, perhaps, also in Australia, but they found that he had never been to the Falkland Islands or to Papua, and perhaps he had never been either to Glasgow or Belfast. (Laughter.) His Royal Highness had dwelt with great force upon the changes that had taken place in the empire, and in the relations of this country towards the empire, within the last 50 or 60 years. It was 40 years since that Colonial Institute was founded, mainly, he thought, through the instrumentality of an old friend of his own and of many in that room, the late Lord Albemarle. During those 40 years what an expansion there had been. (Cheers.) He knew not how many hundreds and thousands of miles had been added to the British empire within those years. But what was more important than expansion—how much more closely, during those 40 years, had the ties been drawn between the Mother Country and the other dominions of the crown! (Cheers.) During those 40 years he thought that the whole world had been picked out. Except the region of eternal snow and of eternal sand, there was probably no part of the world which was not now under some definite occupation. The age of expansion, therefore, had given place in some ways to the even more important and more interesting age of development. Lord Crewe proceeded to glance at the development of Canada, of Australia and of South Africa. Of South Africa he said it was entirely composed of self-governing communities. It had difficult problems to face, but he believed it would face them with the same determination and the same grit with which other parts of the empire had solved their problems. (Cheers.) We hoped it might not be a very distant day before the different units of South Africa were fused together. (Cheers.) That was a consummation to which they would all look forward with satisfaction, and he thought he might venture to say that, whatever government was in power, whoever might be the representative of the government at the Colonial office, we should not fall into the error of tampering or meddling too much in that matter, but we should desire to see those who were qualified to speak for the different colonies of South Africa carefully considering the different problems which were set before them before we ever attempted to raise an advisory voice in the matter. (Cheers.) Lord Crewe afterwards reviewed the progress made by other parts of the empire, and concluded by proposing the toast of the institute, coupling it with the names of Dr. George R. Parkin and Sir Richard Solomon.

Dr. Parkin, who was received with enthusiasm, which was continued throughout his speech, said: "I have assigned to me the pleasant and honorable duty, on behalf of the council and fellows of the institute, of thanking the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the cordial terms in which he has proposed this toast. I wish I could reply in words as felicitous as those which he has himself used. But I can say with all sincerity that we especially value his presence tonight and all that he has said because he now speaks to us as the head of the great department of state in which we, as members of this institute, are most of all interested. The occasion is memorable first from the fact that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is present as our chairman. (Cheers.) He has told us and with truth that no subject of his vast dominions has landed in so many parts of the empire as he has done, and I can say that no heir to the throne, no heir to any throne, in the whole course of history has been able to place such a record before his people as that of the Prince who is here tonight. (Loud cheers.) Second only to the pleasure we feel in having his Royal Highness honoring our board with his presence, and presiding over our gathering, is our satisfaction at finding Lord Crewe willing to make under the auspices of our institute almost his first appearance after assuming the duties of the difficult and anxious post to which he has been called. And yet it seems fitting that he should do so. (Cheers.) This institute, with its 5,000 members in all parts of the world, exists to help him in his work. It was established to educate the people of this country on colonial questions, and to educate the colonies on the problems of the empire. It aims continually at creating between the Motherland and the colonies, and between the different colonies, that mutual understanding without which the government of the empire would probably after a time prove impossible. Your Royal Highness, who has taken so much trouble by laborious travel to inform yourself about all parts of this vast empire, has impressed this fact upon the people of England in more effective words than I can use here. But consider our history. What lost our first great Colonial empire? Some say the obstinacy of a king—

some the stupidity of a prime minister—some the rebellious spirit of colonists who forgot, because of a few grievances, all the immense debt they owed to the Motherland. There was a cause deeper than these. It was the ignorance of the public mind as to the true way in which colonies should be governed—a want of close touch and intimate understanding between the mother and her children. (Hear, hear.) How are we to preserve the new and far greater Colonial empire which has since grown up around us and offers such a prospect of a glorious future for our nation? Surely it must be by supplying what was wanted before. By knowledge, in a word. (Cheers.) One of our great poets has told us that 'Blood is the price of Admiralty.' (Cheers.) During the last few days we have been reminded of the truth of this saying by disasters that have touched deeply the heart of the nation. Yet there has been no flinching, not even among those who have seen loved ones swept away by swift destruction. Admiralty we must have, at whatever price, living under such conditions as we do. (Cheers.) We need to be reminded constantly, though not in so terrible a way, that the price of continued empire is knowledge. (Cheers.) If what are sometimes spoken of as the ruling classes of this nation do not take the trouble to study the problems and conditions of the empire they are not fit to continue in the place of honor. (Cheers.) If the laboring man, who rightly enough aspires to lift himself to a position of influence, does not take the trouble to inform himself about the empire, the circumstances under which it has grown up in the past and is held in the present, he is not fit for holding in his hands the destinies of the nation. (Cheers.) One of the greatest dangers that threaten the state today is that fact that the popular education on national questions is largely carried on only at times of intense political excitement, when keen competitors for power are willing to say almost anything in order to catch votes. (Hear, hear.) In no sphere of our politics can this be so disastrous as in colonial affairs. (Cheers.) I think that public opinion in this country and in the colonies is rapidly coming to wish that the Colonial office, as well as the Foreign office, should be as far as possible withdrawn from the arena of party politics. (Cheers.) I think public men are beginning to understand that the management of that office offers opportunities adequate to the very highest ability and statesmanship. I know that there is a consensus of opinion that the management of colonial affairs is not at present the right field in which to place inexperienced men to learn the arts of administration. (Cheers.) It is for reasons such as these that we welcome Lord Crewe here tonight, and as he has wished us prosperity, so we may express the ardent wish that his term of office will be marked by drawing more closely together than ever before the bonds that hold this empire together. (Cheers.) When the confederation of Canada was established in 1867 by the passing of the British North America Act, our late lamented Queen granted an interview to Sir John Macdonald, our first and greatest Premier, to congratulate him on the completion of his work. Sir John said to her Majesty on that occasion that, in forming out of the scattered provinces of Canada a powerful dominion, 'we have desired in this measure to declare in the most solemn and emphatic manner our resolve to be under the sovereignty of your Majesty and your Majesty's family for ever.' (Cheers.) This was not the language of a courtier, but the conviction of a statesman and the sentiment of an ardent patriot. (Cheers.) What Sir John Macdonald said in 1867 of Canada we members of this Colonial Institute would like to say to your Royal Highness tonight of every one of the colonies which we represent—that our one supreme aim is the maintenance of a united empire under a sovereign family which has a history of 1,000 years behind it, and the creation of that sympathy and natural understanding between all its parts, which constitute the strongest bond of unity. (Loud cheers.)

Sir R. Solomon having also replied, the proceedings ended.

"At last the alarming deficiency of British horses is to be checked through the enterprise of the Board of Agriculture. A momentous decision, both to the War Office and the farmers of Great Britain, was arrived at this week," says the Mail. "After negotiations opened in 1906, when the War Office first awoke to the national danger, the Board of Agriculture, with the support of the Treasury, agreed to take over the business of building up a national reserve of horses; and their acceptance of the work constitutes the most considerable endeavor made for centuries to foster the breeding of cobs and hunters in Britain. The nucleus of a special staff is being organized at Whitehall. It will take the work in hand at once."

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