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McGill University,
Montreal. Extension
Dept



MAY COURT CLUB LECTURES

OTTAWA

JANUARY—MARCH 1906.

McGILL UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

SIX LECTURES

ON

THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

Lecturer : DR. STEPHEN LEACOCK.

The present lectures offered as an extension course by the McGill University, are to be devoted to a critical study of the past, the present and the future of the British Empire. The political organization of the Empire will be examined in some detail. Special attention will be devoted to the problems of trade and defence. It is hoped that the lectures may serve not only to impart useful information, but to stimulate the sense of common citizenship and common interest in our imperial future.

The lectures will be given in the Queen's Hall, Bank St., Ottawa, on alternate Friday Evenings, at 8.15 o'clock, beginning on Friday, January 12th. At the close of each lecture, the members of the audience who propose to join the University Extension Class will remain for questions and discussion.

In the following syllabus, questions are suggested in connection with the lectures, the answers to which may be sent by the students to the lecturer through the post, addressed Dr. Stephen Leacock, McGill University, Montreal.

At the close of the course the University will hold a written examination at Ottawa, for those who may wish to be examined.

*The arrangements for this course of Lectures have been made by the
May Court Club.*

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The following works are recommended for reading in connection with the lectures and especially for the use of students who wish to send answers to the questions appended to the course or to offer themselves as candidates in the examination.

Seeley, Sir J. R.—The Expansion of England. London, 1883.

Payne, E. J.—Colonies and Colonial Federations. London, 1905.

The Empire and the Century (Goldman Editor.) London, 1905.

Parkin, G.—Round the Empire. London, 1898.

Jebb, R.—Studies in Colonial Nationalism. London, 1905.

Egerton, H.—Short History of British Colonial Policy. London, 1897.

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LECTURE No. 1.

Friday, January 12th, 1906.

THE MAKING OF THE EMPIRE.

(The lessons of its History.)

Purpose and Scope of the Present Course. The British Empire: Its extent, its peoples, its potentialities. Importance of the Present Age in the history of the Empire. The Parting of the Ways. The first Colonial possessions of the European Powers. The Wonderland of the New World. Gold and Treasure. Failures of Spanish Colonisation. The Expansion of England. Colonising tendency of the race. The Colonies of the Atlantic Sea Board. Mistaken attitude of the Mother Country. French Colonisation and the St. Lawrence. Magnificence of the French conception of Colonial Empire. Our debt to the French Founders of Canada. Quarrel between England and the American Colonies. Comparison between the financial and fiscal situations of 1774 and of to-day. Lessons of the great controversy. False conclusions drawn from the independence of the United States. Foundation of the Indian Empire. Colonial Conquests of the Great War (1793-1815). The settlement of Australia. Colonial Policy of the earlier Nineteenth Century. Grants of Self Government. Effects of the Free Trade doctrine on Colonial Policy. Theory of manifest destiny. The later expansion and the new imperial conception. Egypt. The partition of Africa. Defence of the policy of expansion. The true conception of Empire.

LECTURE No. 2.

Friday, January 26th, 1906.

THE CONSTITUENTS OF THE EMPIRE.

(A Study of the Self Governing Colonies).

A general view of the mechanism of the present colonial system. British aversion to deliberate political construction. Present system largely empirical. It offers a graded series of stages of colonial growth. Main divisions (1) The Crown Colonies. (2) The Colonies partially self governing. (3) The self governing colonies. Imitation of the British system by the United States in erecting the governments of Porto Rico and the Philippines. Relation of the self governing colonies to the Crown. The judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The special political problems of the greater colonies. Canada and the United States. Political and Commercial Relations. Reciprocity and Annexation. General discredit of Annexation to-day. Favourable moment thus offered for revising inter-imperial relations. Australia and New Zealand. Radical Democracy and the Labor Movement. Dangers of Economic Isolation. South Africa and the Race Problem. Solution of all special problems facilitated by a closer union of the Empire.

LECTURE No. 3.

Friday, February 9th, 1906.

THE ECONOMICS OF EMPIRE.

Economic aspect of the Empire. Its varied products. Its self sufficiency. Present separation into tariff areas. A glance at Tariff History. The Free Trade movement in England. Sanguine expectations of the followers of Cobden. Failure of the free trade propaganda in foreign countries. The adoption of the protective system by Germany, France and the United States. The present markets of the world. (1) The protected Markets. (2) The neutral markets. (3) The open markets. The Theory of One Side Free Trade, or Free Imports. The "dumping" of surplus products. Movement of British trade since 1870. Increase of Imports. Decline of export of manufactured articles to protected countries. Large export of coal. The Colonial Tariffs. Present extent of Colonial preferential duties and their effect upon Trade. Mr. Chamberlain's proposals. A tax of six cents a bushel on wheat imported from foreign countries. Effect of this on Canadian production. The opening of the North-West. Effect of such a tax on the British consumer. The free food argument. Proposal of a British tariff of 10 per cent. on foreign manufactures. Policy of reciprocity and retaliation. The principle of inter-imperial preference. How far can it be carried? Is ultimate economic union possible? The claim of Imperial Unity over purely commercial considerations.

LECTURE No. 4.

Friday, February 23rd, 1906.

IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

Vital importance of sea power to the existence of the Empire. Past achievements of the British Navy. The present Navy. Cost of its maintenance. Immensity of its task. The control of three oceans. Extent of the trade that it protects. The Merchant Marine and its relation to imperial defence. The old Navigation Laws. Adam Smith's verdict on their operation. Growth of the Navies of the Great Powers. Present naval policy of Germany. Enormous expenditures of the United States. Policy of keeping the British Navy equal to the "Best Two" of the foreign navies. Is it possible to continue it? Views of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach. Urgent need of colonial co-operation. Present extent of colonial contributions. The attitude of Canada. An efficient British Navy as essential to the future welfare of the Colonies as to that of the Mother Country. The Military Defence of the Empire. The exposed land frontiers of Canada and India. Australia and the Yellow Peril. Proposals for an imperial militia. Imperial defence not a policy of aggression. It offers the best guarantee of universal peace.

LECTURE No. 5.

Friday, March 9th, 1906.

IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

General nature of the problem. The federal principle in political development. Its utility in the Nineteenth Century: United States; Switzerland; Canada; Germany; Australia. Peculiar advantages of federal union. The compromise between absorption and independence. Provincial autonomy and natural sovereignty. The federal principle and the British Empire. Plans suggested for imperial federation. Legislative federation in a joint parliament. Difficulties to be overcome. Distance from constituencies. Difficulty of applying the cabinet principle. Question of a "local parliament" for the United Kingdom. The plan of "Home Rule All Round." The case of India and the dependencies. Proposals for "executive federation." The Colonial Conferences. An Imperial Council. The place of the Crown in the Imperial System. Principle of growth *vs.* the Principle of Construction. Federative Forces. The commercial bonds of Empire; trade routes, cables and postal development. Organisation of an Intelligence Department. Opening of the imperial service to colonial subjects.

LECTURE No. 6.

Friday, March 23rd, 1906.

THE IMPERIAL DEPENDENCIES.

The "Realms in Trust" of the Empire. The distinctive factions of their governance:—Vast native population, alien civilisation, differences of custom, religion and ideas. Impossibility of self-government. General meaning and purpose of British control. The case of India. Its population. Organisation of British rule. The army of the civil service. The native states. What England has done for India—education, trade, sanitation, economic development. Sentiment of the peoples of India towards the Empire. Importance of India in the political future of Asia. The frontier question. The case of Egypt. Our present position. Results of British control. The lesser dependencies of the protectorates. Imperial rights and responsibilities. Future destiny of the dependencies in the imperial system. Summary of general conclusions.

The following questions are suggested in connection with the lectures. Students who wish to answer them are invited to send their answers to the lecturer by post. (Address—Dr. STEPHEN LEACOCK, McGill University, Montreal.)

LECTURE 1.

- 1.—State the case for England in the controversy with her American colonies in the 18th century, and compare the situation then existing with that of to-day.
- 2.—Outline very briefly the causes leading to the grant of self-government to the greater colonies.
- 3.—On what grounds do you justify, or deprecate, the policy of Imperial Expansion of the last twenty-five years.

LECTURE 2.

- 1.—Explain the general scheme of colonial government now established in the Empire, indicating the different degrees of Colonial autonomy.
- 2.—Shew the points of similarity and of dissimilarity offered by Canada and Australia in their connection with the Empire and the outside world.

LECTURE 3.

- 1.—On what grounds do you accept or reject the following proposals (a) A tax of 6 cents a bushel on foreign wheat imports into the United Kingdom, wheat from the colonies coming in free. (b) Adoption of a general tariff of 10 per cent on foreign manufactured imports into the United Kingdom, manufactured imports from the Colonies coming in free.
- 2.—Summarize the leading facts in the history of free trade and protection in the Nineteenth Century.

LECTURE 4.

- 1.—Discuss the vital importance of sea power to the Empire.
- 2.—Shew the present expense of naval and military defence of the Empire and its distribution between the Mother countries and the Colonies.

LECTURE 5.

- 1.—Explain the general plan of government called federation.
- 2.—What are the chief of the different proposals made for the federation of the Empire. Distinguish legislative and executive federation.
- 3.—Explain the chief difficulties in the way of imperial federation. *Give your own opinion* as to the course of conduct to be followed in the matter of imperial political relations in the next ten years.

LECTURE 6.

- 1.—On what grounds do you defend or condemn, the retention of India.
- 2.—Explain the present international status of Egypt, and give a brief outline of the method of its administration.
- 3.—Name some of the undertakings of the last twenty years by which the imperial government has aided in the economic and educational development of various dependencies of the empire.

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SIX LECTURES

ON

THE BRITISH EMPIRE

By DOCTOR LEACOCK

AT

THE QUEEN'S HALL, BANK STREET,

on every alternate Friday Evening, beginning:—

Friday, January 12, 8.15.

Friday, January 26, 8.15.

Friday, February 9, 8.15.

Friday, February 23, 8.15.

Friday, March 9, 8.15.

Friday, March 23, 8.15.

Price for admission ticket to whole course \$1, and 50 cents for single lectures.

Tickets can be obtained on application to

Lady Evelyn Grey, Rideau Hall.

Miss Alice Fitzpatrick, 201 Wurtemberg Street.

Miss Florence Fielding, 216 Metcalfe and Cooper Streets.

Miss E. Kingsford, 310 Chapel Street.

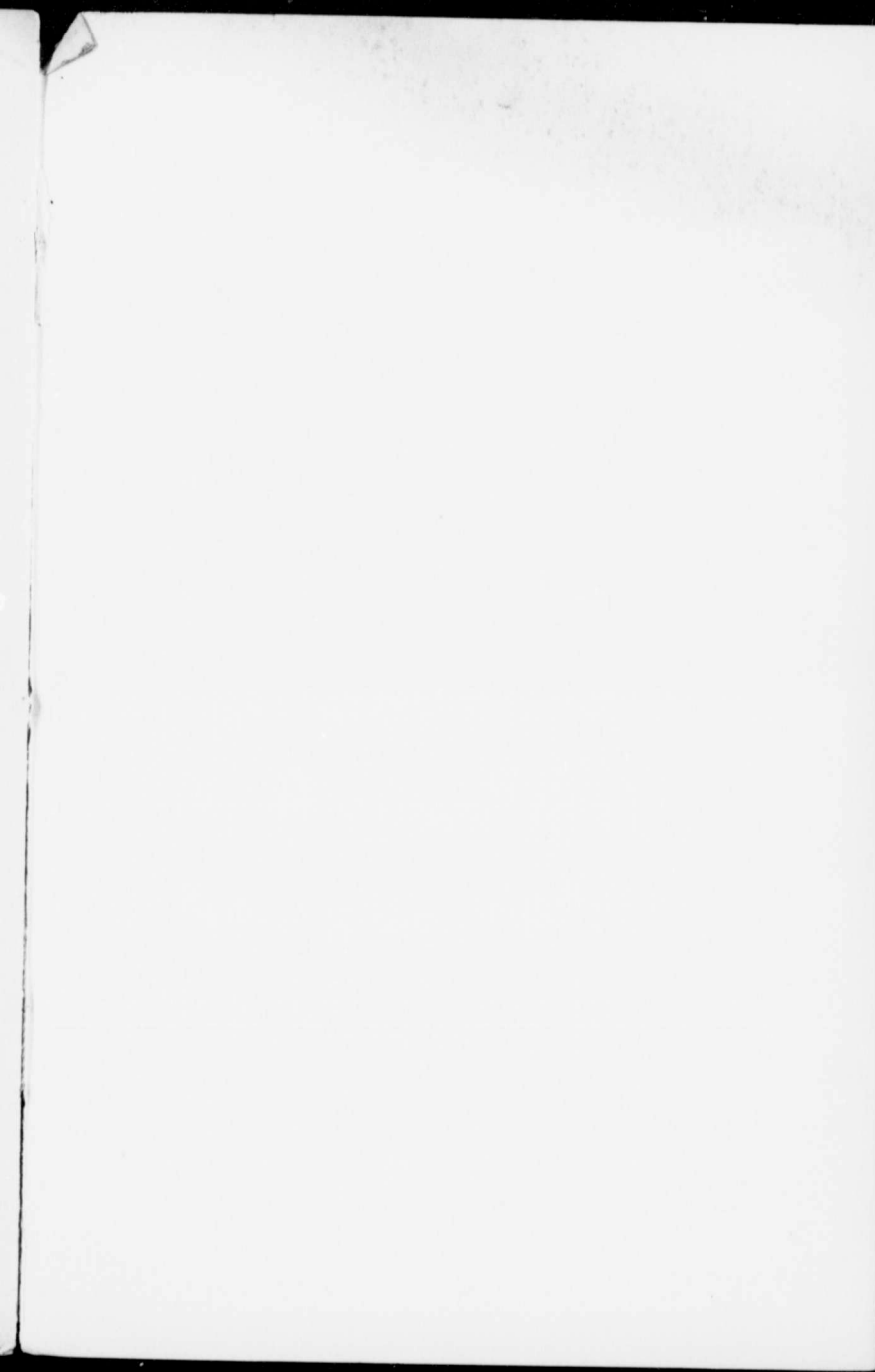
Miss Oliver, 191 Somerset Street.

Miss Cotton, 134 Cooper Street.

Miss Irwin, 170 Cooper Street.

Miss Ritchie, 285 Metcalfe Street.

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