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Others' View Points

(Continued From Page 4.)

Australian View of Empire.

(Adelaide Chronicle.)

Mr. Hughes is profoundly convinced, not only that the world still needs British Imperialism, but that Australia's safety is bound up with its preservation. He would not lightly tamper with its structure. In its recalcitrance of its intense self-government of its parts with the unity of the whole it is somewhat of a paradox. But the justification for retaining from dangerous attempts to plant on more logical principles is that it works, and the effort to reach a theoretical perfection of design might easily destroy it. That is why Mr. Hughes has steadily set his face against arm-chair-proposals for a complex scheme of Imperial federation. His standpoint is that of the practical statesman—leave well alone. The unwritten Constitution of the British Commonwealth of Nations has displayed the vitality and adaptability of a living organism.

THE FRENCH CRISIS.

(Cleveland Plain Dealer.)

The voice of France today is not unlike the voice of France of 1792. Once more France believes "that one on the side of right is a majority over a multitude on the side of wrong, and she is unalterably convinced that she is right. She had tried to convince her friends, her allies, her associates, and she seems to have failed. Rather than invite the isolation that would befall her, she would have yielded a little here and there. France cries "No!" The downfall of Briand precipitates the most perilous political crisis which Europe has faced since the end of the World War. What the outcome will be no one can forecast. All that is clear is that France faces unflinchingly the prospect of seizing a united Europe which will include not only her former allies, but Germany and Russia as well.

A GALLANT DEED.

(Montreal Herald.)

Every Canadian must feel a thrill of pride in reading of the heroism of Captain Matthew Munro, of the little fishing schooner, Alexandra. The schooner was wrecked off the bleak Nova Scotia coast of Black Point, one of the worst spots on a rack-bound cliff-guarded, reef-strewn seaway. The only boat was smashed immediately after having been launched. The schooner was stranded on the rocky bottom, and would inevitably break up. Her bottom was stove in, her masts gone, her keel, her sides, shattered. The crew of five clung to the broken timbers, facing imminent death. Then Captain Munro did a heroic thing. Tying a line about his waist, he leaped into the churning surf and bravely fought his way to the shore. He was compelled to swim close to the face of rocks, sliding shore from the summit of waves under danger of being dashed to death against them by the huge breakers. But he managed—he will never be able to tell—to reach a ledge, and then drag his crew one by one through the surf to the shore—and safety.

There is the story, bluntly told. A Canadian sailor did this thing. His deed deserves to be told in an epic. It is deeds like this that justify a nation's pride in its own.

Winter Allies.

(Cleveland Plain Dealer.)

Little birds that eat bugs and big birds that eat mice and moles have long been established as firm friends of the farmer. Insectivorous birds alone save countless millions of dollars. Without them bug

life would be easier and human life more precarious. Most of the work of the insectivorous birds is done in the spring and summer when the bugs are many and bold. Some woodpeckers and a few others keep up the work in the winter by seeking out hidden larvae. But the quietest buglife of the winter months is not greatly disturbed.

Other birds are doing us quite another service in the winter. When the insectivorous birds are few the seed-eating birds are comparatively numerous and all winter long they are sustaining themselves by devouring the seeds of tall and lowly weeds. The bob white is a great eater of weed seeds, and there are two species, the junco and the tree sparrow, which come to us in large numbers from the north at the beginning of winter and depart northward at the beginning of spring and spend the winter here.

According to a report of the United States Department of Agriculture the work of the seed-eating birds last winter saved the farmers of Ohio about \$3,000,000. This represents the enhanced value of crops due to the destruction of weed seeds. This winter our buglife will probably duplicate that of last year. A flock of tree sparrows or juncos or a covey or bob white is very interesting when it is nested in the snowy fields. It is even more interesting when one understands that each bird is seeking to satisfy its own hunger is working to make the earth more productive for human requirements.

The New Old.

(London Spectator.)

Old age has now no uniform. Everyone who is not young considers himself to be "the same age as everybody," and dresses and acts accordingly. No special clothes are sold for the more than mature. The middle-aged man and his son go to the city together in exactly the same attire, play golf in the same go-out, dine in the same, the young married woman and her mother buy the same coats and skirts of the same price. The elder lady goes to say good-night to her grandchild in the same kind of evening dress as is worn by the child's mother, and mother and daughter occupy and often sport themselves in much the same manner. The grandmothers of fifty, who sat metaphysically all day upon the shelf, become now to Sunday-school books or the cinema-saga has no real existence. A few grey hairs, a difference in weight and some lines in the face, and a consequent loss of that vague something called "looks," distinguish the older from the young. His last and irretrievable "retirement" has all the force of a sudden departure from active life. Many were the far-well-performed pieces which he gave, yet again for so much, but if we go far and back the change, even here, so that Georgia as well as Victoria is very great. Polonius had a son play-actors came to look upon grown-up son and daughter-sons. Mr. Benjamin Gallinich is a gentleman who was still under fifty. Yet Shakespeare gives him, with all the strange worldly wisdom of the old, the incapacity for quick thought and the tendency to a wearisome prosiness which we associate with a mind that fourscore years are beginning to unhinge.

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The new old, however, do not as a class make any very great mistake as to their appointed role. Circumstances have forced many, and fashion has persuaded more, to regard "torpor" as a curable complaint without deceiving themselves into the notion that old age will ever be wone away with. The people who are loved by both generations and spoken of as always young never make any pretence at all. They are by nature "keen." Their zest for life is not decreased

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St. John Hare
Although in effect the same for Sir John Hare three or four years ago, his last and irretrievable "retirement" has all the force of a sudden departure from active life. Many were the far-well-performed pieces which he gave, yet again for so much, but if we go far and back the change, even here, so that Georgia as well as Victoria is very great. Polonius had a son play-actors came to look upon grown-up son and daughter-sons. Mr. Benjamin Gallinich is a gentleman who was still under fifty. Yet Shakespeare gives him, with all the strange worldly wisdom of the old, the incapacity for quick thought and the tendency to a wearisome prosiness which we associate with a mind that fourscore years are beginning to unhinge. The Elizabethans certainly regarded old people as old at least 20 years before they are so regarded by us. The contention lasted long. Dr. Johnson vehemently attacked but could not destroy it. If men became "torpid" in middle life the fault, he said, was their own. When the Bishop of St. Asaph asked him who ther an old man does not mentally "lose faster than he gets?" Johnson replied, "I think not, my lord, if he exerts himself." Seeing that if he exerts himself, the Bishop was already 70, it was hardly polite of the Bishop, and we cannot wonder that Johnson was trayed in the conversation "a noble elevation and distaste." Perhaps that was why his lordship changed the venue of his remarks and admitted that want of exertion was enough in itself to dull the wit, and told of "a charitable establishment in Wales where people were maintained and supplied with every thing upon the condition of their contributing the weekly produce of their labor," and where he said they "grew quite torpid for want of property." Here Johnson descended from his high horse and heartily agreed that to have "no object for hope" would dull anyone. To be unable to better one's condition, he said, is "rowing without a port."

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