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TODAY'S THE DAY

All is now in readiness for the opening today of the Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa at which, it is conceded, Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett will preside—a compliment and honor to which he is entitled as the father and originator of the Conference. It is the direct result of the forthright proposal made to Great Britain and the other parts of the Empire at the Imperial Conference of 1930. At that conference in London (as pointed out by the Mall and Empire) he offered the other parts of the Empire reciprocal preferences, and he made it clear that Great Britain would have to adopt protection before she could play her part in the proposed Imperial scheme.

A new British Government shortly afterward was formed with national protection and Empire preferences as a leading plank in its platform. That Government and that platform and that plank swept the country. The most powerful Ministry in British history came into office and it lost no time in abandoning free trade; in imposing customs duties for revenue and protective purposes, and in extending preferences to the outlying parts of the Empire, pending further intra-Empire negotiations.

Taking advantage of the change, Mr. Bennett promptly renewed his invitation to Ottawa. The invitation was gladly accepted by the governments of the United Kingdom and of the other Dominions. The months that have since elapsed have been devoted to elaborate preparations in every country under the flag, and in the interchange of views between the participating nations.

It is thus as a direct result of the Canadian Prime Minister's efforts that the Conference is to open at Ottawa this morning. He is the sponsor, convenor and host of the gathering. On more than one occasion he has said that if the delegates rise to their opportunities this meeting will prove a notable landmark in the Empire's history, that it will result in the stimulation of intra-Empire trade on an ever-growing scale, in the easing of the present depression, in gradually introducing more prosperous conditions of a permanent character. He has dwelt upon the immense natural resources possessed by the Empire and on the need of co-operation in the development of these resources. He, like Mr. Stanley Bruce and like Mr. Stanley Baldwin, has pointed out that if the states of the Empire by mutual co-operation can give rise to a happier condition of affairs within the Empire, they will thereby lend a much-needed inspiration to the rest of the world in a time of real necessity. All true, right thinking people are firmly convinced that the Conference to be opened by Lord Bessborough, on behalf of His Majesty the King, will enable the Empire to give the rest of mankind a fresh example of its genius for leadership.

U. S. OPINION

Nothing is heard now about Mr. Mackenzie King's sneering references to "economic imperialism" and "imperial economic isolation" which he predicted would be the outcome of the Imperial Economic Conference. Certainly his opinions on this subject are not shared by the statesmen who are assembling at Ottawa from all parts of the Empire. Neither is it shared by informed observers outside the British Commonwealth. Here, for example, is the United States viewpoint, as expressed in a recent address by Dr. Julius Klein, Assistant Secretary of Commerce at Washington. "Basically, the purpose of the conference is to stimulate trading and consequently to promote increased prosperity within the British Empire. I am sure that every thinking person in the United States hopes most sincerely and heartily that the conference may be a real factor in bringing this about. There need be nothing sentimental about our good wishes in this connection either. Any increase of prosperity within the Empire would inevitably and immediately be reflected in improved conditions throughout the rest of the world. I think Premier Bennett brought out this underlying significance of the meeting remarkably well, in the course of a recent address he made in the Canadian House of Commons. He expressed the firm belief that the conference 'may be able to devise policies and plans that will be advantageous to every part of that population (of the Empire); and if they are advantageous to that population they will be of very, very great assistance to the world in its effort for economic recovery.'"

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FAVORABLE TRADE

On the eve of the Conference the Hon. H. H. Stevens, Minister of Trade and Commerce was in the happy position of being able to announce that Canadian exports reached during June the highest figure for any month this year, rolling up a favorable trade balance of more than \$1 million dollars for the twelve months ending June 30.

In a brief announcement, Mr. Stevens declared that exports of Canadian products totalled \$40,945,490 during June. This represented an increase of \$351,086 over May and \$13,969,734 over April. The latter, as is obvious, was a bad month. Exports exceeded imports to make a favorable trade balance of \$989,970 for the month. For the twelve months ending June 30, exports totalled \$547,285,360, as against imports of \$516,246,303, a favorable trade balance of \$31,038,057.

TRADE WITH B. G.

Since Canada imported 67 per cent of all the sugar produced in British Guiana in 1931, and since sugar accounts for more than 60 per cent of the total exports, Canada continued to be the best customer of that colony, and took 43 per cent of all exports with the exception of gold and diamonds or 39 per cent of the total exports, writes Wm. Frederick Bull, Acting Trade Commissioner in Port of Spain, in the forthcoming issue of the Commercial Intelligence Journal. On the other hand the Dominion supplied only 14 per cent of the imports, while the United Kingdom took 30 per cent and supplied 59 per cent. The situation is brought about by the fact that the products imported into British Guiana are largely low-priced commodities which for the most part are not produced in Canada at competitive prices. In most of these colonies Canada supplies the bulk of the fish and flour imported, but in British Guiana, due to the large use of the cheaper grades of flour, imports from the United Kingdom have increased from 19 bags in 1927 to 87,369 bags of 198 pounds, in 1931 or 52 per cent of the total. During this same period Canada's share fell from 99 per cent to 46 per cent. Canada's share of the dried fish market has been steadily falling since 1920, when 81 per cent of the total importation was credited to the Dominion; in the past year the United Kingdom obtained 85 per cent of this trade and Canada 15 per cent.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The resignation of Sir Henry Thornton as President of the Canadian National Railways was not unexpected. The whole question, as affecting himself, has been under consideration, not only in regard to the Parliamentary committee's inquiry and report, but in other matters as well.

NOTES BY THE WAY

If Canada this year can garner between four hundred and five hundred million bushels of wheat and export, say, three hundred million bushels at a reasonable price, the whole country will feel the benefit. The Imperial Conference is to meet at Ottawa this week. We are confident that it will reach decisions making greatly for increased intra-Empire trade. Our producers of farm stuffs, timber, fish, minerals and other primary products will greatly benefit. So should many of our manufacturers. The British Dominions will also have to hurdle the psychological effect of the failure of the 1930 Imperial conference, held in London, which ran aground following a proposal of Prime Minister Bennett offering Britain a preference in the Canadian market, in exchange for a like preference in the British market. Britain had no tariff walls at that time, and the Bennett proposal was termed "humbly" by Dominion Secretary Thomas. Today, however, the picture is altered. Britain not only divorced her historic free trade policy and followed out the Bennett plan of a tariff against all non-Empire countries, but she has embraced a policy which specifies a tariff rate of 20 per cent, against all countries outside the British Commonwealth. Consequently, Britain has set the stage for negotiations along the lines of those suggested by Mr. Bennett in 1930.—New York Times.

Three hundred people were killed on July 4 celebrating the independence of the nation. The total deaths of all the Fourth of July celebrations probably exceeds the number killed in the original revolutionary war.

An English writer says that the symptoms of speed drunkenness "are an extraordinary feeling of over confidence, an exhilaration in taking risks; a no sober man would take; a wild passion for pursuing the car ahead as though it were an enemy to be overtaken at all costs."—London Free Press.

Mr. Bennett has made public the agenda for the Economic Conference. It would be hard to think of anything that has been left out. Whatever phase of intra-Empire trade any delegate may wish to bring on the carpet can easily be docketed under one or other of the comprehensive sub-sections. In a sense, the task of the Conference will be picking up a multitude of small advantages. It is hard to envisage any sweeping major policy which will make us all rich by a stroke of the pen. It is not so much a case for boldness and the spectacular as for caution and patience. The Conference need not begin with a display of fireworks, but it must end with definite and solid achievements.—Montreal Star.

So far as this country is concerned, says the Army Quarterly, London, it is amply clear that, unless other nations can be induced to follow our practical example in disarmament during the last ten years, we shall be obliged, however disagreeable it may be, to revise our policy. We have reduced our naval military and air forces to an absolute minimum, and in view of world conditions today our position is by no means a safe one. We have admittedly run a very great risk in order to prove our sincerity in the cause of peace; it remains to be seen what the outcome of our gesture will be. In the past we have always lived to repent when we have neglected our defence forces. It is to be hoped that history will not repeat itself.

All of Christendom should have gratitude for Lausanne. For the British race there must be not merely gratification, but a measure of pride; pride in the achievements of that great Briton, Ramsay MacDonald. For it was Ramsay MacDonald who, from the beginning, caught and held the vision splendid, put a great heart and mind and patience into a successful conclusion. Yet there is credit for all. France, often misunderstood, and sometimes misrepresented, played a great part. The whole world, assuredly, must thrill to the ringing words with which Herriot addressed the representatives of France's old foe. "The French have listened with emotion to the story of the sufferings of the German people, with whom we would like to establish cordial relations. The Frenchman who is speaking to you desires that we be united in common thought in those noblest of words, 'Peace on earth, goodwill toward men.'" This ended, on a note of hope, the last chapter of a sombre story. It may well be the beginning of a new and finer era in the world.—Ottawa Journal.

That Body of Yours By James W. Borden, M.D. THE STOMACH - NERVE SPECIALIST

When an individual is having some 'stomach or intestinal' trouble, which is causing him great distress, he is likely to try any and every method to get relief.

Now it just so happens that many of these sufferers are nervous individuals, are having or have had some emotional disturbance, which has so upset them that it is affecting the stomach and intestine.

Naturally they first consult their family doctor and he, after making the usual examination, cannot find any organic disease such as ulcer or cancer and tells the patient so.

Perhaps the family doctor sends the patient to a 'stomach' specialist or the patient goes of his own accord; again the patient is told that there is really no organic trouble.

As the trouble is really with the nerves, and the family doctor is now sure of this after the stomach specialist's examination, the question arises as to what is the next step to be taken.

Sending the patient to a nerve specialist to try to discover the cause of the nervousness or emotional disturbance that is causing the stomach upsetment, would at first sight, seem the sensible thing to do.

However Drs. T. H. and S. Morrison, of Baltimore, remind us that this type of patient who thinks he has real stomach or abdominal trouble because it is where he feels distress, would resent or dislike being sent to a nerve specialist or psychiatrist. They suggest therefore that he be sent to a stomach specialist who is also a nerve specialist. This type of specialist as he treated the 'stomach' condition by test meals and drugs thus relieving the symptoms to some extent, gradually during each visit, could learn what was on the patient's mind, what was really troubling him. Because, as a matter of fact, this trouble acts on the nervous system in such a way that the stomach and intestine do not do their work properly.

The patient will talk more freely about himself and his troubles to a 'stomach' specialist than he will to a 'nerve' specialist.

Thus the 'stomach' nerve specialist can get at the cause of the emotional upset, can discuss it freely with the patient, and finally show him how it is upsetting his stomach and intestine.

Stonehenge

(By M. B. Cotsworth, author of "The Evolution of Calendars.") The perfect view that we saw this morning (June 23) of the northeast sunrise from the centre of Stonehenge across the "Friar's Heel," was matched by last night's northwest sunset on this year's longest day.

From those two fixed points—each 41 degrees north of Stonehenge's equinoctial diameter, which at true east marks the sunrise on March 21st and September 23rd (when day and night are equal)—diagonal lines through the centre of the circle mark the 41 degrees south of east, where the sun rises on the shortest day, December 22nd, and sets on that date 41 degrees south of west.

These six fixed year-dividing points enabled the designers of Stonehenge to measure their tribal progress through each of nature's four seasons in every year. Those six points indicate the main purpose of that greatest work of the ancient Britons.

Stonehenge was founded about 3600 years ago. It was the source from which the founders of our ancient British civilization derived their practical knowledge, that enabled them to ascertain the natural facts yearly governing human, animal, and vegetable life. Without this information, permanent prosperity in neither communal nor civilized life could be attained.

Scott Enriched The English Language (J. V. McRee in the Mall and Empire)

It is the opinion of many sound critics that the most unjustly neglected of all great writers in English is Sir Walter Scott. There has grown up a modern tendency to regard him as a mere literary curiosity, belonging essentially to one period, verbose and wearying, impeding his narrative with descriptions of scenery and otherwise taking up the good time of the reader who might otherwise have been enjoying himself at a movie. Those who are cold to Scott would be astonished if they read an article upon his influence on the English language by Prof. Ernest Weekley of University College, Nottingham, in the Atlantic Monthly. This influence has been extraordinary. It has consisted of using words in a new sense now universally accepted, and in reviving words which since Shakespeare's days had become obsolete.

Gift to Modern Stump Speakers.

The phrase, "native heath," was coined by Scott, and who is not familiar with it? Another word of which the modern currency is entirely due to Scott is "henchman." Nowadays it generally has a political significance, and we doubt if a small Canadian politician could make a stump speech without using it, and the word "stalwart." Originally this meant a horse groom, and later a kind of page. It lay unnoticed until Shakespeare wrote the lines:

"Why should Titania cross her Oberon? I do but beg a little changeling boy To be my henchman."

Early in the eighteenth century the word made a curious reappearance in the Scottish Highlands, and thus was pounced upon by Scott, ever on the lookout for picturesque expressions. It is not clear that he understood its etymology, but he used it in The Lady of the Lake and thus brought it to life.

In his search for fine sounding words he was sometimes led astray as for instance when he rescued "warrior" from oblivion in The Lay of the Last Minstrel: "Either receive within thy towers Two hundred of my master's powers Or straight they sound their war-son, And storm and spoil thy garrison."

In other words, he seemed to be dividing horizon points, which were marked by distant pointed stones erected to locate the longest and shortest days, and midway between those, the dates when day and night are equal, on March 21 and Sept. 23.

Beyond cloudy days, the designers of Stonehenge were retarded in ascertaining the 365-days length of the year, because whether they tallied the days between sunrise or sunset points, they could not derive the same number of days in consecutive seasons although the equal distance along the horizon for each of the four seasons indicated an equal number of days. The sun, by lingering an unknown number of days about June 22, and December 22, prevented observers from locating any fixed date to begin their count—such as we have from, December 22 to March 21, 89 days; March 21 to June 22, 93 days; June 22 to September 23, 93 days; September 23 to Dec. 22, 90 days.

Total 365 days. By inherited knowledge we know that the year's length is practically 365.24 days—not quite the 365 1/4 days used by Julius Caesar to establish our calendar.

Among other useful purposes of Stonehenge, courts of justice and government were held there; education was there given to enable the sons of tribal leaders in each district to locate each season; decide when to plant, sow, etc. each kind of crop; when to hunt each kind of animal in season; when domestic animals had to be mated or driven to different pastures; when salmon and other fish came up the rivers; when game birds should be trapped, when nets and berries should be gathered, and so forth.

Another purpose was to locate their direction of travel and tribal areas by the sun. One very important purpose was to make sure how long their food supplies had to last, and, by regular distribution guard against famine, preserve seed supplies, etc.

In short, Stonehenge was to those generations the equivalent of our universities for training the rising generations to advance in knowledge and setting points along the horizon, measured from the centre of the circle of 30 horizon-dividing stones they erected 12 degrees apart. That horizon-circle was the why the longest day's sunrise government used by observers to mark the orientation and plan of watch when the sun began each Stonehenge, which the sun verifies season by shining from its seasons on that date.

The Poets' Corner SANCTUARY

To all that's old and lovely and remote, I, in my utter weariness would go. Back to a world of half-forgotten things, Where dark and ancient waters flow. Still are there gardens by whose crumbling walls The oleananders blow dimly fair, And little fountains sparkle in the sun, Scarce heard amid the silence there. Time has but lightly touched that slumbering land. The palaces and courtyards still remain, And in the dusk sing amorous nightingales, As in the days of Charlemain.

—John Irvine.

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