

THE DAILY EXAMINER

DECEMBER 31, 1900

1900.

To review, in detail, the year which closes at midnight would be far too great a task for a single editorial. Like the century which it terminates it has been a period of lights and shadows, of momentous events with far-reaching consequences;—and yet, on the whole, its motto has ever been progress. Even its disasters have not been without their salutary lessons, and the incoming century will show that these have not been taught in vain.

In our own great Empire the event, par excellence, has been the South African war. The early days of the year were clouded with disaster, and our enemies both at home and abroad boasted that the day of Britain's decadence had set in. The arrival of Lords Roberts and Kitchener on the scene of action, and the invasion of the Orange Free State, speedily brought about a change in the aspect of affairs.

The capture of Bloemfontein and Pretoria, and the surrender or dispersion of the different Boer armies, brought the war practically to a successful issue; and, though, as we write, guerilla warfare is still maintained over a wide area, the pacification of the annexed republics is only a question of a short time.

The lessons of the war have been numerous and important. The fact that Britain has been able to transport, successfully, without loss of life, an army of 200,000 men to a point 6000 miles distant, has opened the eyes of the nations to her military resources, and has taught them that whatever they may think of her decline

"There is life in the old land yet."

The British soldier has shown all his old time courage and dash at the field of battle, and Ladysmith, Mafeking and Kimberley will add new testimony to his endurance and determination. None the less has the South African war shown the absolute necessity for better trained officers—men who, recognizing the conditions of modern warfare, are willing to make military affairs the study of a life time and not the recreation of an idle hour. The average British officer, brave to a fault, willing to endure any hardship, seems to be deficient in judgment and foresight, and on many occasions has proved himself incapable of coping with a wily and resourceful foe. Scouting has become a new arm of the service and we must revert to the old time scout of Cooper's Leatherstocking Tales if we are to make the most of our magnificent army.

But if the war has shown weak spots in the British army its great lesson has been the solidarity of the British Empire. From Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, wherever the flag of Britain floats, the cry has arisen "We are one!" and the blood shed on the veldts and kopjes of South Africa has bound the great British Empire together with a tie stronger than bands of steel. Deeply as our aged Sovereign must have felt the horrors of war her heart would thrill with pride as she recognized the new note in our grand old National Anthem: the "kin across the sea" joined with a new fervor in the chorus.

"GOD SAVE THE QUEEN."

The laurels won by our own Canadians, as well as by Australians and New Zealanders, are all too green to need mention here; but we have taught the nations of the world a lesson that they will not soon forget, that he who touches the lion must reckon with the lion's whelps. Greater Britain has learned to know her own strength, and as the Twentieth Century dawns the Motherland, surrounded by her loyal children who have founded new empires in every quarter of

the globe, looks fearlessly out upon the future, assured of an enthusiastic response to her appeal.

Shareers of our glorious past, Brothers, must we part at last? Shall we not, through good and ill, cleave to one another still? Britain's myriad voices call, "Sons, be welded one and all, Into one Imperial whole, One with Britain, heart and soul! One life, one flag, one fleet, one Throne; Britons, hold your own!"

Amid the excitement of the South African war, the Ashanti trouble hardly attracted notice. Yet the siege and relief of Kumassi contained incidents worthy of the best traditions of the British army. As usual the rebellion of the Ashantis simply tightened the grip of Britain.

The Indian famine caused deep suffering and taxed the wisdom of the administrators of that vast country. Generous relief was sent not only from the Home Land and her colonies but from the United States as well. Copious rains have fallen and the crisis is now over.

The troubles in China, culminating in the massacre of many missionaries and the attack upon the legations in Peking, brooded heavily over the political atmosphere and seemed at times to threaten a general war. The occupation of the Chinese capital as well as other points of strategic importance by the allied troops, seems to have brought China to a sense of her position, and the outlook for peace is more favorable. Russia, whose troops have behaved with extreme barbarity, will probably secure more substantial gains than any other power, as her occupation of a large part of Manchuria is likely to be permanent.

At home, the principal events were the Queen's visit to Ireland, which called forth a magnificent exhibition of Irish loyalty, and the general election, which resulted in Lord Salisbury's Government being sustained by a somewhat increased majority. The stress of the campaign fell largely upon Mr. Chamberlain, and the result was in some degree a personal victory for the able and astute Colonial Secretary.

On the continent of Europe no events of marked importance occurred. The Paris Exposition was practically a failure to the deep chagrin of the French, who, as usual, cast the blame upon "perfidious Albion" and reveled themselves in absurd jubilation over Oom Paul and by projects on paper for the invasion of England. Their eccentricities were viewed with good-natured contempt across the Channel.

Although Lord Salisbury's diplomatic triumphs seemed to have assured the peace of Europe, the feverish anxiety with which the illness of the Czar was watched shows how little real dependence is to be placed upon the concord of nations. Happily the Emperor's recovery dispelled the fears which were aroused by the prospect of a change in Russian policy.

Turning to America,—the United States passed through its quadrennial struggle over the Presidency. The sound sense of the people re-elected McKinley with an increased majority and thereby gave an effectual quietus to the silver agitation. The war in the Philippine Islands drags its slow length along, hardly seeming to be any nearer

its end despite the troops and money employed with unsparring hand. Whatever other abilities Auginaldo may possess, he certainly manages skilfully to evade the armies of the United States and to inspire his followers with a determination to resist to the bitter end.

The rejection of the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty by the Senate is in accord with the filibustering tendencies of politics in the republic. It may be that this kind of thing will lead to trouble some day. In the present instance the sword is two-edged and it is not unlikely that the action taken will recoil on the United States themselves.

In our own Dominion, elections have been the principle features of the year. In British Columbia, which led the way, the Martin Government was defeated and Governor McInnes, in consequence of his interference, compelled to resign. In Manitoba Hugh John Macdonald overthrew the Greenway Government. In Quebec the Parent Government swept the field, the opposition being almost annihilated. In Prince Edward Island the Farquharson Government was sustained by a largely increased majority,—while in the general election the Laurier Government was sustained by fully as large a majority as it had in the previous Parliament.

In our own province we note the commencement of the work on the Belfast and Murray Harbor Railway and the letting of the contract for the Hillsboro River Bridge. In Charlottetown the opening of the new Prince of Wales College Building and of the P. E. Island Hospital, as well as the introduction of Manual Training through the munificence of Sir Wm. C. Macdonald.

Newfoundland has shared in the election excitement, the contest turning upon the Reid contract. Mr. Bond gained a decisive victory, and rumor has it that Mr. Reid is now endeavoring to come to terms with the government.

One of the greatest events of the year, in connection with the Empire, was the Federation of the Australian Colonies into a Commonwealth which starts out upon its career under the most favorable auspices. The long talked of Pacific cable seems at last to be assuming tangible form and it is hoped that within two years it will be an accomplished fact.

Commercially, 1900 was a year of prosperity. Everywhere trade and manufactures have flourished. Our own Dominion has enjoyed her full share of the general success, and the rapid growth of Sydney seems but a foretaste of what the coal and iron areas of the Maritime Provinces may bring about in the future.

Looking at the darker side of the year's events, a remarkable renewal of activity among Anarchists was a notable feature. King Humbert of Italy, beloved by his people, fell a victim to the assassin's bullet. Attempts were made upon the lives of our own Prince of Wales, Emperor William of Germany, and the Shah of Persia, while more than one report of plots against the life

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1900-CENTURY GREETINGS-1901

To our Friends and Customers.

We close the century as the largest and practically the only manufacturers of Furniture in the province.

Furniture from Factory to Fireside.

We are indebted to our friends for their loyal support and confidence and invite their help and co-operation in the coming century.

We heartily wish you the Compliments of the season and a Prosperous and a Happy New Year.

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of President McKinley found their way into the newspapers columns. The fire fiend swept over Hull, Ottawa, destroying the larger portion of the city. In New York the most terrible disaster was the burning of the German Atlantic Liners "Main" and "Saale" at the Hoboken Docks with the awful loss of life which accompanied the conflagration. The city of Galveston was swept with a tornado and tidal wave, and the destruction of life and property which ensued is unparalleled in modern history.

Along our own coasts the autumn gales raged with great violence, and the long list of ship ping disasters, especially on the Newfoundland coast and on the southern banks, was a sad record. The "Monticello" foundered with almost all her passengers and crew, while the unfortunate "St Olaf" not one was left to tell the tale. Within the last week the English coasts were lashed with storms and strewn with wrecks. The ravages of the bubonic plague continued through a great part of the year, at one time even reaching the city of Glasgow. The strike of the coal miners in Pennsylvania caused wide spread suffering; and as we write, an outbreak of smallpox, in the neighborhood of Cape Tormentine, N. B., is causing some uneasiness.

The long death roll of the year contains, among many others, the names of Prince Alfred of Saxe-Coburg, son of our beloved Queen, and Prince Christian Victor, her grandson. The peerage has lost the Duke of Westminster, one of the wealthiest men in Britain; the Duke of Argyll, distinguished alike in politics and literature; the Duke of Teck, father-in-law of Prince George of Wales; and Lord Russell of Killowen—Chief Justice of England. Diplomacy lost Count Mouravieff, Russian Foreign Minister, a life-long enemy of our own country, and Mr. Philp, Ex-Minister from the United States to the Court of St. James, and Baron Von Ketteler, German representative to Peking, who was murdered in the streets of the Chinese capital. Literature mourns Black and Blackmore among novelists; Archibald Forbes, the veteran war correspondent, whose vivid pictures charmed the readers of twenty years ago, and Stearns, whose untimely death in Ladysmith came almost with a sense of personal loss upon the readers of today. The South African campaign has made many blanks in the list of British officers, but their memories are still fresh in the minds of our readers. Among the veterans who laid down their arms in 1900 were Osman Pasha, and the grim defender of Plevna in the Turko-Russian campaign, who passed to his rest almost at the same time as Forbes to whose word-pictures he owed much of his fame. Marshal Campos who played such an important part in the history of Cuba, just prior to the Spanish-American war, passed off the stage, and Sir Wm. Armstrong the father of modern ordnance was laid to rest while the contest of improved gunnery was raging round them. Max Muller the philologist joined the great majority, and Sir Arthur Sullivan the composer was laid to rest in St. Paul's Cathedral. In our own Dominion we lost A. R. Dickey, ex-Minister of Justice, Premier Marchand, of Quebec, and Joseph Rymal, ex-M. P.—known at one time as the wit of the House of Commons.

In the more limited circle of our own Province, we miss Malcolm McLeod the talented lawyer; D. F. McDonald, the veteran priest; John Lockery, the centenarian; James Douse, Thomas Alley, Jas. D. Mason, and W. W. Stumbles,—old landmarks in our city—Rev. D. H. Lodge, Rev. T. F. West, W. C. DesBrisay, George D. Davison, A. N. Large, —o long the head of our fire department;—Thomas W. Dodd, prominent in our political and business circles; Cyrus Shaw, the able, energetic representative of Cardigan; Rev. John McLeod, of Vankleek Hill, whose tragic death saddened so many hearts, and John Clay of Summerside; long and favorably known in the western capital.

In the closing days of the year

Charlottetown followed to the grave one of her best known and most valued townsmen in the person of Dr. James McLeod, mourned alike as the skillful physician and the public-spirited citizen.

To-day, as we bury in one grave the Old Year and the Nineteenth Century, the young Dominion, strong in her national resources, and in the patriotism and enterprise of her citizens, looks forward hopefully alike to the New Year and the Twentieth Century. Bound by the strongest ties to the Old Land, the Mother of Nations, having given splendid proof of her loyalty in the achievements of her sons on South African battlefields, she takes her proud position as one of the bulwarks of the Empire,—while from Atlantic to Pacific her people join with one heart in the sentiment of the poet:

Thou, too, sail on, O Ship of State, Sail on, Dominion, strong and great; Humanity with all its fears, With all the hopes of future years, Is hanging breathless on thy fate! We know what Master laid thy keel, What workmen wrought thy ribs of steel, Who made each mast and sail and rope, What anvils rang, what hammers beat, In what a forge, at what a heat, Were shaped the anchors of thy hope! Fear not each sudden sound and shock, 'Tis but the flapping of the sail, And not a rent made by the gale! In spite of rock and tempest's roar In spite of false lights on the shore, Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea! Our hearts, our hopes are all with thee, Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears, Our faith, triumphant o'er our fears, Are all with thee—are all with thee!

Pledging itself to the support of every effort made to forward the best interests alike of the Dominion of Canada and of our own Prince Edward Island, THE EXAMINER wishes all its friends and readers

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

FOR THE Twentieth Century

Pocket Diaries 12c to 80c each.

Canadian Almanac, 25c.

Prince Edward Island Almanac, 10c each.

Peloubet's Notes on the International S. S. Lessons.

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Hurrah for the 20th Century

Goodbye to the 19th. Good Cheer to Everybody During New Year.

We are thankful for the large share of public patronage we have received during this year, and for the next two days we will offer all our Fancy Goods in eastern and western windows at the low price of

25 cents and 50 cents Each

Many are worth from 40c to \$1.35. Our reason for so doing is that we don't handle Fancy Goods other than at Holiday times.

Special Lined Gloves at reduced prices for New Year.

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THE "OVERCOAT STORE"—Don't make any mistake about the place to buy your Overcoat. We are overcoat specialists. We can show more good coats than anybody, and we sell them for less money. You can prove this to your own satisfaction by coming in yourself, trying on the coats. Our prices from \$7.50 to \$16.00.

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