

The Future of the Empire.

SIR JOHN McDONALD'S VIEWS.

Addressing an audience in the city of Montreal at the dinner given to Mr. White, in 1875, Sir John McDonald gave this outline of his views:—

"As to the future of Canada, I have long held very decided opinions, and these lead me to believe that England will be the central power (applause) with auxiliary nations, the colonies in alliance with her, when we would have less of dependence and more of an alliance. We would all be united under the same sovereign, and owe our allegiance to the same crown (applause), all inspired by the British spirit, and bound together by an alliance offensive and defensive. Now, twenty-five years is but as a day in the lifetime of a nation; England by that time will have her forty millions, Canada her ten millions; Australia will have her millions, and these, with New Zealand and South Africa may form separate auxiliary nations, all ranged about a central power, but not represented in the Imperial Parliament, as such representation would confer the right of general taxation. What country would enter into war with half a dozen nations? (hear, hear.) It would give us an assurance of peace to the world, for no nation would be disposed to attack one kingdom, knowing that from one extremity of the vast British empire to the other British subjects would rush at once to the rescue. (Hear, hear.) Then so powerful would be England that she would be safe from all attacks; and in such a case the great nation on the other side of the line, of the same race and speaking the same language, would probably assist in the work of keeping the peace of the world, and if necessary, gentlemen, England would enforce that peace. (Cheers.) While independence with some is annexation in disguise, some speculative philosophers who look into the distant future seem to believe that it will be our fate and our advantage to walk alone as a separate nationality. Mr. Goldwin Smith is one of those. I would fain hope that the future that I desire for the empire and its auxiliary kingdoms might strike his imagination, and be accepted as a substitute for independence. If this policy could only enlist his magic pen in its behalf, it would be an infinite benefit to the good cause. (Cheers.)"

That, remarks the Montreal Gazette, is a very different thing from the imperial confederation to which frequent reference has recently been made, and which has for its promotion in England an organization of prominent British statesmen. It has in fact no resemblance to that proposal. What Lord Rosebery, Mr. Forster and others are urging in England, and Mr. Blake wants for Canada is a federal union, in which England and Scotland, Ireland and Wales would each have its provincial legislature, and would occupy towards the central parliament precisely the same relation that the several colonies occupy. That, as Sir John Macdonald pointed out, would involve the power of taxation, and as an incident the regulation of the fiscal policy. It would in fact, although Mr. Blake considers it necessary in order to make free the five millions of freemen in British America, be a surrender of the rights of self-government now so happily possessed by those colonies to which the principle of responsible government has been conceded; and we venture the opinion that it would break after the strain of the first attempt to impose a uniform system of taxation to all the parts of the confederacy. The proposal of Sir John for an alliance of practically independent kingdoms, is open to none of the objections, in matter of detail, which are absolutely fatal to the project of imperial confederation; while it would, undoubtedly, by inviting a number of self-governing communities by the tie of a common empire and sovereignty, produce a power of immense value not to the well being of the British Empire alone, but to that of the world at large.

Dairy Exports.

The President of the Dairy Association of Quebec says:—"In 1868 we exported 6,111,481 lbs. of cheese, representing a value of \$617,943. Eight years later, in 1876, 25,024,000 lbs. of cheese were exported—that is an increase of 28,912,603 lbs. From last July, 1883, to 30th June, 1884, 58,041,387 lbs. of cheese have been exported; and although I am not certain of the exact figures, I do not think I am mistaken when I say that the exportation for the year ending 30th June last reached 60,000,000."

"It appears from recent statistics that the exportation from the port of Montreal alone this season will reach one million boxes of cheese of Canadian manufacture, making about sixty million pounds."

"These figures will serve to show you the importance of the impulse given to dairying industry in our country at this time, and which I hope will increase still further when the Canada Pacific is completed, as I see in the general statement of export trade published by the Ottawa government, that British Columbia exported a small quantity of butter to Japan in 1883. "An industry which yields an export of \$8,000,000 must be a source of prosperity for any country, and the benefit must be still greater when such an industry is derived from the soil itself."

The New Postmaster General.

The Rt. Hon. George J. Shaw-Lefevre, at present Commissioner of Works and Buildings, has been appointed Postmaster General. He is the son of Sir John George Shaw-Lefevre, K. C. B., was born in 1832, and in 1863 was first elected M. P. in the Liberal interest for Reading, a borough of which he has continued to be one of the representatives down to the present time. He was a Lord of the Admiralty from May to July, 1866; Secretary to the Board of Trade from Dec. 1868, to Jan. 1871; Secretary to the Admiralty from January, 1871, to February, 1874, and again from April, 1880, to the following November, when he was appointed First Commissioner of Works and Buildings in succession to Mr. Adams, who had resigned that office on being appointed Governor of Madras. He was called to the bar of the Inner Temple in 1856 and was elected a bencher of the Inner Temple in Nov., 1882. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre is the author of an important article on "Public Works in London," in the Nineteenth Century of Nov., 1893.

The Elmira Literary Institute.

Pursuant to notice a meeting was held at Elmira Hall on the 4th inst., for the purpose of reorganizing the society known as "Elmira Literary Institute." Mr. Thomas Pierce was chosen as chairman. The following officers were then appointed for the ensuing year, viz:—

President—John F. Mellick. First Vice-President—Mal. J. Campbell. Second Vice-President—John B. McEachern. Treasurer—Raymond McPhee. Secretary—F. J. McKinnon.

It was then moved that Friday night of each week be the right of each week be the night of meeting, commencing with Friday, the 7th inst. After several short speeches by the members present it was moved by Mr. M. J. Campbell that the subject for discussion next meeting be, "Which has conferred the most benefit on society, Commerce or Agriculture," subject to be opened by the proposer. Some other business connected with the society was then transacted, after which a vote of thanks was given to the chairman, and the meeting quietly dispersed.

F. J. McKinnon, Secretary. Elmira, Nov. 4th, 1884.

Bank of Montreal.

HALF YEARLY STATEMENT COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR.

The half yearly statement of the Bank of Montreal has been issued, showing the business done up to the 31st Oct., 1884. A comparison of the principal items in 1883 and 1884 is given below, which will prove interesting, indicating as it does the effect the present dullness in business is having upon the earnings of our leading and, by common consent, our best and most conservative bank. The profits for the six months are some \$30,000 less as compared with the same period in 1883, while "over due debts secured" show an increase of \$50,358, and over due debts unsecured an increase of \$37,970. The profit and loss account carried forward shows a decrease of \$44,413.

Table with columns for ASSETS and LIABILITIES, comparing October 31st, 1883, and October 31st, 1884. Items include Balance, Profit & Loss, Total, Less Dividend, Loans & discounts, and various other financial figures.

A Church Built from a Single Tree.

A redwood tree, cut in this county, furnished all the timber for the Baptist church in Santa Rosa, one of the largest church edifices in the country. The interior of the church is finished in wood, there being no plastered walls.

Sixty thousand shingles were made from the tree after shingles was taken for the church. Another redwood tree, cut near Murphy's Mill, in this county, about ten years ago, furnished shingles that required the constant labor of two industrious men for two years before the tree was used up. The above statements are vouched for as true by Supervisor T. J. Proctor.—Santa Rosa (Cal.) Republican.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—In times past we had many reasons to be dissatisfied with the proceedings of those men having control of our railway, and we let them know of it too.

Our present Superintendent, Mr. Coleman, although a very exact man in dealing with the financial affairs of the road, as I have reasons to know; still no one can deny but his pleasing manner and accommodating disposition in his dealing with the public entitle him to the esteem and respect which a discerning public owe to a just man. We should be as free to praise as to blame.

I am, &c., CELF. Ch'town, Nov. 17, 1884.

The following is a translation of the Mahdi's letter appointing the Muir of Dongola ameer of that province at the time he supposed the Muir was prepared to embrace his cause: "From Mahomed Ahmed of Sodanoe to his brother in God, the ameer of Dongola Mustapha." After the usual salutations, etc. "The religious brotherhood, which is the strongest bond of union between the children of all nations, induces me to write you the present letter. I do not wish to render you disobedient to God and to cause you to ruin your country, as has been suggested to you by others, but by your lawful duties. I call upon you not to be negligent of our brotherhood. It is rumored that you have embraced our cause in the interest of your brethren, the Muslims; may God be your help and give you the victory. I therefore now appoint you Ameer of Dongola on my behalf, in order that you may govern your subjects with justice and convert those who abandon the true faith. (Sealed.) Mohamed Ahmed."

The director of a Paris prison the other day apprised a prisoner that he had inherited a fortune of 2,000,000 francs and a magnificent estate in Switzerland. The authorities of the locality where it is situated forwarded with the title deeds to the property a photograph of the mansion. The joy of the prisoner at the intelligence conveyed to him was so great that he registered a vow, in the presence of the governor of the jail, to live an honest life henceforward. Before, however, he can enjoy the windfall he has three years of prison regime to undergo.

CURRENT NOTES.

Dongola is said to be the strategical key to Egypt.

Five missionaries left New York for the Congo on Saturday.

A French clerk has had the courage to refuse to fight a duel.

Exchange Bank creditors are promised fifty cents in the dollar.

The Italian government are sending an explorer to West Africa.

\$5,000 in forged English notes have been passed on unwary Italians.

Rival religious bodies in British Columbia are arguing, and trouble is feared.

Limerick corporation still persists in its refusal to pay the obnoxious extra police tax.

A firm of Greek merchants have received advices that Gordon is still safe at Khartoum.

The steamship Scotland, from London, now below Quebec, has a case of smallpox on board.

At Brussels it is feared the King will become insane owing to his great political anxieties.

One hundred and sixty three Mormon converts arrived at New York from Europe on Tuesday.

The Toronto temperance people have decided to circulate petitions for the submission of the Scott Act.

Bennett, the cashier of the Banco de Falca, Peru, who absconded with 50,000, has been arrested at Guayaquil.

Mensah, ex-king of Ashantee, says a telegram from Cape Coast Castle, died suddenly on the 30th September.

The geological survey authorities have decided to undertake a systematic observation of earthquake phenomena.

Flax is prevalent among both men and animals in West Virginia, and hundreds of people are reported to have died.

The Italian minister of foreign affairs has ordered Cecchi, the African traveller, to proceed to West Africa in the man-of-war Garibaldi, and explore the country.

In a Paris asylum for old people, containing 250 inmates, 44 deaths have occurred from cholera. A soldier on guard at President Grevy's palace died from the disease. In all on Tuesday 284 fresh cases and 107 deaths are reported.

A wagish friend met me recently, and referring to the wedding of a cousin who bears the same name as myself, said: 'I heard of your wedding the other day.'

'Oh, no; that was my cousin.' 'Ah, I congratulate you.'

TO GIVE CASTER OIL.—The French method of administering castor oil to children is to pour the oil into a pan over a moderate fire, break an egg into it, and stir up; when it is done, flavor with a little salt or sugar, or currant jelly.

The United States department of agriculture estimates the corn crop at 1,800,000,000 bushels, the best yield of which comes from what has been called the "great American desert." The cotton crop will exceed that of last year, and potatoes come very nearly up to the average.

A party of Quebec detectives pursued three gentlemen who had engaged a carter at Levis and gave him a parcel, with injunctions as to carefulness, to the village of St. Henri, under the impression that they were dynamite fiends, but were considerably disappointed when they discovered their mistake.

Mr. Conkling thinks there is no doubt that the official canvass of the ballots in New York will be in favor of the Democrats. The Republican Mail and Express acknowledges that the only hope of its party is in the discovery of some mistake or inaccuracy which may wipe out the Democratic plurality.

The National Portrait Gallery has received 32 pictures from the South Kensington Art School. They are all copies of works done by the students of that institution and from a valuable addition to the works in the Canadian Gallery. They are very varied in matter and will be placed in position this week.

At the meeting in Baltimore of the Plenary Council of the Roman Catholic Church, the higher education of the clergy and people, and the marriage relation are among the most important subjects handled. Only matters affecting the government of the Catholic church in the United States are considered, the council having nothing to do with dogmas of faith.

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CURRENT NOTES.

The late Henry Fawcett, England's blind Postmaster General, had a saying: "No man knows what he can do until he shuts his teeth hard and tries." Fawcett's life was an exemplification of his maxim.

Some idea of the abundance of precious stones in the East may be gained from the fact that when Mahmud, in the eleventh century, captured Sumnat, an idol statue was broken open and found to contain three bushels of diamonds, rubies, and emeralds.

Vice-Admiral the Duke of Edinburgh, has accepted nomination on the royal commission on merchant shipping. Other members are the Earl of Aberdeen, Mr. Bart. M. P., the President of the Board of Trade, two ship owners, and two members of Lloyd's.

The Chinese government has purchased the American iron steamers, San Paolo and San Pedro, of 3,000 tons each, recently built in Philadelphia for the Central Pacific railway, and sent to the Pacific coast. The price was \$1,500,000, and they are to be converted into war ships.

It is stated that 80,000 copies of Max O'Rell's 'Les Filles de Boll' have been absorbed since its appearance, some three weeks ago, in Paris. Of the English version—'John Bull's Womankind'—which may be looked for from the Leadenhall press within the next few days, over 25,000 copies are already bespoken.

A return to the order of the House of Commons at its last session contains some interesting facts in relation to the fisheries and fishermen of the Dominion in receipt of the bounty. The return shows that 824 vessels, manned by 6,750 men, and 11,245 boats, manned by 23,446 men, received the bounty last year, on the operations of 1882. These vessels and boats were distributed by provinces as follows:—

Vessels. Boats.

Nova Scotia.....618 6,043

New Brunswick.....126 1,024

Prince Edward Island.....20 1,097

Quebec.....60 3,051

Total.....824 11,245

In all, more than thirty thousand men received the bounty, the amount paid being \$54,975 50 to vessels, and \$117,309 97 to boats, a total of \$172,285 47.

Several of the English papers state that the late Duke of Brunswick languished all his life under "a hopeless passion" for the Queen. This, says Truth, is rubbish. The Duke entertained a