

Celestial Acknowledgments.

Great work, especially of an educational nature, had been done by the Missionist Mission in China, and many of the men now holding high and responsible positions in the empire received their education at mission schools. Even before China herself realised the value of education, the missionaries had been taking a great part in the work. He felt the greatest sympathy and love for Christian workers—(applause)—especially those noble ones who gave their lives for the good of others and worked in the mission field. For this feeling towards Christians he had good reasons.—Mr. Yung-tung Hwang, Chinese Consul for New Zealand.

Confused Them.

He said deliberately, that a more unmanly act was never perpetrated by a set of men calling themselves men than that of the men who were preventing their unions from taking advantage of legislation initiated by one of themselves, namely, the Hon. J. A. Millar. He hoped Mr. Harle Giles, as a Commissioner of Conciliation, would confound them.—Hon. W. Becken, M.L.C.

Mr. Millar's Ambition.

He had the natural ambition of ascending to the topmost rung of the political ladder, but he would never aspire to it while his present chief occupied it. As long as Sir Joseph Ward was in power, he himself would be content with a subordinate position. His chief had occupied the position with credit to himself and the Dominion, and they could not expect to lose him.—Hon. J. A. Millar.

Territorials and Employment.

The Alliance Assurance Company was as fully entitled not to employ in future clerks not belonging to the Territorial Army as to reject non-ab-tainers.—Mr. Hulme.

Horticultural Possibilities.

At very few horticultural displays was to be seen an exhibition of native flowers, and this was surprising, as New Zealand's flowering plants included many that produced magnificent bloom. Anyone who, when inland, climbed to a height about 4000ft above sea-level would find flowers of exceeding delicacy and beauty. He would like to see the culture of such plants encouraged to a greater extent than was the case at present.—Mr. G. M. Thomson, M.P., Roslyn.

Tory Platitudes.

The present British Government was a monogamy of incompetents, crowned with a halo of sanctimonious humbug. He only wished the Mother Country thought as well of the colonies as the colonies thought of the Mother Country. There was no doubt that colonialists thought twice as well of Englishmen as Englishmen thought of colonialists.—Mr. Burrows, of the English Tariff Reform League.

The Commonwealth's Expense

Although the Federation had in 1900 reduced them of departments costing four millions annually, the expenditure of the States had grown from 42 to 71 millions. At the same time the population from the date of the establishment of the federation to 1906 had remained practically stationary. It would be idle to contend that any development in Australia during the past eight years had warranted such a huge increase in the cost of government.—Hon. H. Mahon, Australian Federal Minister for Home Affairs.

At Waerenga.

I was very pleased with the work that is being done at Waerenga. They have shown what can be done on poor land, and that is very important. The magnificent display of grape vines remains a fine one of these of this year.—Dr. Capri, Italian delegate.

Australia's First Line.

Young Australia has been allowed to grow up without setting eyes on one British fleet capable of taking part in a modern action at sea. The consequence is that the Australian public largely follows the "Sydney Bulletin," which recently expressed grave doubts as to the fighting value of the best modern navies, and announced its preference for Australian gunboats and torpedo-boats. If the British Empire is to hold together, sound views on the subject of sea power are indispensable, not only for the English, but throughout the Empire.—Frederick White.

The Club Smoking Room

By HAVANA

Toothbrushes for Cows.

“I SEE,” remarked a country member, “that we are not the only people who suffer at the hands of faddists. Some of us resent the endless rules and regulations laid down for our benefit or supposed benefit in the management of our farms, but nothing we have yet experienced quite comes up to the proposal made by a distinguished health lecturer at Los Angeles in Southern California. He claims to have discovered that nearly every disease is caused by the microbes that lurk in milk, and he says that these microbes come originally from the cow's mouth. He therefore suggests that all dairy farmers should be compelled to provide toothbrushes for all their milking cows, and should clean their teeth twice a day. He says that the mouth of the cow is a perfect culture ground for microbes and disease germs of all kinds, and these eventually contaminate the milk and spread disease broadcast. What an army of inspectors would be raised up if he persuaded the authorities to adopt his suggestion, and what a grand chance for our own rulers to add another to their already numerous dairy regulations.”

The Man on the Land.

“We shall probably come to that in time,” answered another of our country members. “You see you can always go for the man on the land when you want something to do. Our farmers never band themselves together like clubs in the city do, and so they never become a force in politics. We have to sell all our goods in an open market, and have to compete against every other nation and country without a single penny of protection on our produce. Though we sell in an open market we have to buy our goods in a market that is highly protected. We pay double for our boots in order that we may keep up the price of wages in boot factories; we pay extra for our clothes, our building material, and nearly everything we use in daily life because of the high duty imposed on all imports. I think it is quite time the Mother Country gave some sort of preference to her colonies—England in her own interest should do something to preserve our trade. The colonies themselves, one and all, beginning with Canada and ending with the Australian Commonwealth, have given England and each other a preferential advantage over foreign countries in their tariffs, and unless England reciprocates we may be compelled to look to other countries for the reciprocity that Great Britain at present denies us.”

Colonial Influence on Britain.

“It is curious to reflect,” said the politician, “how enormously the colonies have affected political life at Home. The Deceased Wife's Sister Bill was carried solely by reason of the fact that such marriages being legal in the colonies, it was a pure anomaly to continue to regard them as illegal in England. The insistent demand for votes for women is largely the result of the success of women's suffrage in Australia and New Zealand. Then we have the case of old age pensions which would never have been granted at Home but for the fact that we set the example. Till quite lately Free Trade was one of the cardinal points in every Englishman's creed, and the Tariff Reform party has come into existence mainly owing to representations made by the Colonial Premiers at the various conferences that have been held. We would bitterly resent any attempt to interfere in our internal affairs, but we manage to make our influence felt in the internal affairs of the Mother Country.”

Free Trade and Food Supply.

“Theoretically,” admitted the previous speaker, “there is much to be said in favour of Free Trade, but practically the theories don't seem to work. Look at the decay of British agriculture due to the fact that foreign produce is dumped into the country at a price our farmers cannot touch. There is a national danger in this. England does not produce enough food herself to keep her population going for a fortnight. She is absolutely dependent on other countries, and all her foodstuffs have to be brought over the sea. Think what it would mean if by any chance she were to lose her command of the sea. Any foreign Power could afford to sit down and starve her out. We have to keep an enormous navy in order that we may keep open every avenue of communication with the countries that supply us with our food. How much stronger England would be were she to encourage and foster by every means in her power her own agricultural pursuits. It would be quite possible for Great Britain to grow everything she needs for her own requirements, but the admission of foreign produce free has practically killed English agriculture, and the day may come when the cheap loaf will prove to be the dearest loaf we ever bought.”

Tariffs and Labour.

“The difference of opinion that exists in questions of tariff,” he went on, “has been largely used by the Labour people to bring their own party to power. They have had the sense to see that all fiscal questions only touch the fringe of things, and consequently they have sided first with one side and then the other until in the Commonwealth we have a Labour Ministry that has been enabled to gain office solely through the division of the other parties on matters of tariffs. In Victoria and Queensland the old lines of division have been swept away, and a coalition has been formed to resist the inroads of Socialism. I will say this for the Socialists that they have a very clear and definite idea of what they want, and they never allow smaller questions to divide their ranks. They don't care about any question of tariff, or licensing, or terms of leasehold. They just want to abolish all private property, and have State control of everything. If we were wise we would close up our ranks against them and sink every other consideration except that of maintaining the present basis on which society rests.”



First Inebriate: “Watch—hie—yer cryin’ for!”
Second Ditto (sobbing): “Think of the National Debt!”
—The Meat.

Things to Remember.

“You must remember,” replied the professor, “that we have adopted a high tariff largely for purposes of raising revenue. There is not as yet the same necessity at Home for raising money through the Customs, though expenditure is growing so rapidly that the necessity may soon arise. In the last ten years the expenditure on the civil services has increased by eleven million, and during the same period the naval and military vote has risen from 38 million to 59 million. Then the old age pensions will add another ten million to the national expenses. But there still remain sources of taxation other than Customs duties that could doubtless be made to meet all requirements. The colonies would gain enormously by a protective tariff in favour of their produce, but it is not easy to see what England would gain to compensate her for having to pay increased prices for her foodstuffs. There would be much to be said in favour of Free Trade within the Empire, but that is impossible because we require a tariff for revenue purposes. Colonial preference is never intended to admit more British goods. The Canadian Manufacturers' Association insisted that in any preferential treatment accorded to the Mother Country the tariff should be arranged to give adequate protection to all Canadian producers. We have no intention of allowing English goods to compete on equal terms with our own product.”



Fbe—“You'll catch it, you duffal be!”
He—“That's all you know, Miss Clever. Ma's sut with the suffragettes, and Pa's hiding in the House of Commons.”
—“Punch.”

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