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HON. HUGH GUTHRIE CRITICIZES WORK OF IMPERIAL CONFERENCE; NOT FAVORABLY IMPRESSED

Ottawa, Nov. 24—"I have not yet had time to give more than hurried consideration to the report of the Imperial Conference," said Hon. Hugh Guthrie, acting leader of the Conservative party today.

"I have read the report with deep interest. It raises questions of the gravest importance to Canada and the Empire."

My first impression upon reading the report was one of disappointment. I fail to see anything in the conclusions of the conference as detailed in the report which would be viewed as in any way strengthening or consolidating imperial interest. I feel the tenor is all the other way. It professes to confer upon the dominions not only absolute equality with the Mother Country, but at the same time denies the Mother Country any directing power as the head and front of the Imperial Commonwealth. While the report assumes to bestow absolute autonomy upon the dominions, not only in domestic but also in foreign affairs, I doubt very much if, in practice, this affords anything more than what the dominions have actually enjoyed for many years.

Foreign Affairs.

"There has been an evident attempt to proclaim to the world that Great Britain is hereafter shorn of that authority in foreign affairs which in association with the dominions she has always heretofore exercised and which in the practical working out of Imperial and world problems it is absolutely essential she continue to possess. There has been nothing substituted to take the place of the practice which has heretofore prevailed.

"If the resolution on this subject means anything, the question immediately arises—what is to be the primary and active authority in the future in the consideration of foreign affairs of common imperial concern. My prediction is that the practice which has been followed heretofore will remain unchanged and that the pronouncement of the conference in this respect was merely made to gratify the individual whims of one or more of the delegates.

Comments Amusing.

"Some of the comments which have followed the press propaganda especially directed at Canada are rather amusing. It is said, for instance, that hereafter the Governor-General of the Dominion is to represent His Majesty the King and is no longer to represent the British government here. From the day of Confederation the Governor-General has represented His Majesty the King and His Majesty alone. The British North America Act, section 10, declares that he acts here "on behalf of and in the name of the Queen." No Governor-General has ever ventured to assume any other role. It is also similarly asserted that the advisors of the Governor-General will henceforth be the Government of Canada and not the Government of Britain. The British North America Act distinctly provided for this fifty-nine years ago. One would imagine that the authority of our constitutional act was at least important as the resolution of an Imperial Conference.

Misgivings Felt.

"As a declaration of the actual status quo, as between the Motherland and the dominions, the report may be of some value, but my fear is that the whole tendency of the document will be to loosen rather than strengthen the foundations of the Empire without conferring any practical benefit upon the dominions. No doubt, there are some minor clauses in the report which may be helpful, both to imperial and dominion interests, but I feel that the outstanding feature will cause great misgivings in that large and influential body of British citizens, both in Canada and elsewhere who believe that the present and future strength, solidarity and influence of the British Empire is a matter of paramount importance not only to Great Britain but also to the world at large.

"I fear the impression will be general that the result of the conference has been more in the nature of a surrender than of a compromise. However I desire to have much further information in regard to the proceedings of the conference before offering any more definite pronouncement."

DEFICIT OF \$5,124.90 WAS INCURRED ON EXHIBITION ACCORDING TO THE REPORT

(Continued from page one.)

ceived very little support from the Island.

In connection with the Women's Department at our last year's Exhibition, I must say that by the great work done by Mrs. J. Harvey, President, and members of the Women's Institute, this Department is getting larger each year and certainly is a wonderful credit to Fredericton Exhibition.

Racing.

At the February meeting delegates were appointed to the meeting of the Maine and New Brunswick Circuit, and as a result Fredericton Exhibition was part of this Circuit during the year.

The Association purchased what is known as a California Track Harrow, and if I might be permitted in passing to say, that your Race Committee and those of the Driving Club who are associated with them deserve great credit of the Fredericton Race Track as I find in going through the country that apparently the racing feature of Fredericton Exhibition is one of its greatest attractions, and I trust that the Directors in the future will give every support to the race committee and those who are endeavoring to keep the race track up.

Your Directors have purchased from the Maritime Electric Co. all the wire and fixtures belonging to them so that in the future, instead of having to put up new wires each year, all that will have to be done to turn on the current will be for the Maritime Electric to connect at the gate.

During the year one of the small buildings containing the electric light plant was wrecked by the snow and had to be torn down, and a new one had to be built and it is considered now that the electric plant is in first class shape.

There were no extensive repairs made to the buildings this year simply those that were absolutely necessary to the roofs of the main building and stalls which were leaking.

Recommendation.

I would recommend to your Directors for consideration the taking down of the old stalls between the driving park gate and the grand stand, as these stalls are not now in use, and are an eye sore, and if it is necessary to divide the two grounds, a picket fence could be put up to divide the

two, but I am more strongly convinced that we should have one gate and all admissions paid there, which would throw all the grounds open to the public with the exception of those who wish to go into the paddock or grand stand, and I would further recommend that the toilets on the grounds be replaced by something modern.

I had the opportunity, Gentlemen, through the courtesy of your Directors of attending, along with Mr. L. B. C. Phair one of your Directors, the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Exhibitions, held at Toronto last week. This meeting was presided over by Mr. J. H. Abbot, President, and was a very successful meeting there being representatives there from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Bigger Grant Possible.

The meeting was honored by the presence of the Hon. Mr. Motherwell and in addressing the meeting he explained and only reassured us of his great pleasure in supporting Exhibitions. He favored the doing away with all grants to what is known as Class B shows, and if possible increasing the grants to the Class A shows, said grants now being \$5,000. Fredericton Exhibition will be entitled to the Class A grant next year, and I trust that we shall be able to get the Minister to increase this amount, as he assured me while in conversation with him, that we deserved every consideration.

Ice Formed in River.

As the result of a sudden drop in the temperature last night more ice formed in the Saint John River at this point than at any time this autumn. This morning shell-ice was visible in large quantities and ran all day. The water is high and the current strong. These conditions make it unlikely that ice will close the river at an early date. The forecast is for milder weather tomorrow.

RUMMAGE SALE

FREDERICTON U. N. B. CLUB

Edgecombe Bldg.,

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Saturday, Nov. 27th.,

10 A. M.

The Greatest Values Yet Uncovered

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