

Imperialism

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British Commonwealth of Nations, and that the area amounted to nearly one-quarter of the inhabited surface of the earth. Again we were shown the tiny British Isles, on the same map, and then our Empire's vast domain, and we were told the story of how that Empire has been built by men and women of our race.

Our British Empire, this British commonwealth of nations, is an impressive fact. From the standpoint of Empire it is the most impressive thing the world has ever seen. It is, therefore, a tremendous responsibility.

Two or three things may be truly said about the British Empire.

1. It has been the constant defender and upholder of personal freedom. It carries freedom wherever it goes. It has waged war against slavery of every kind. Indeed we are not so much an Empire as a willing confederation of free peoples.

2. Our Empire stands for justice and fair play. Wherever British Government obtains British justice is the rule. British justice is as much a proverb as Roman law.

3. Our Empire stands for Peace. Since the war Britain has been in the van for the creation of a peaceful co-operating world. It is for these things we are proud of Britain. It is for these things we thank God for Britain. And so we pray for the continuance of our Empire because it makes for Freedom, Justice and Peace throughout the world.

I have said that our Empire stands for Peace. If it were possible to look into the hearts and minds of our people today, I am sure, whether they are in the army or navy or air force, or in civilian life, one would find an unanimous longing for peace. Such is the normal attitude of all sane, right-thinking people. And further all right-thinking men and women believe that differences and disputes should be settled, and can be settled, when disputants bring their grievance to some higher court of appeal to receive impartial judgment. For this purpose the League of Nations was established, and, notwithstanding stupendous problems has, and is, accomplishing a work of outstanding importance.

But while striving for peace we cannot, as those who value our British heritage endorse the principle of "Peace at any price," and that under no circumstances will we resort to force, for there are times and occasions when such an attitude would expose us to the serious consequences of losing those things we hold most sacred. May not force be the price we have to pay to preserve our freedom.

That we are not a war-like people is evidenced by the fact that for centuries back Britain has never been

prepared for any of the wars in which we have been involved. Those who understand the standards of the army and navy of our Empire in all their various branches know they are maintained for defensive purposes. They are maintained for the preservation of peace, and in order that the peoples of our Empire, secure under their protection, may have the opportunity to develop their religious, political and economic destinies. All attempts, therefore to break down our defenses, imperil not only our own destiny, but the well-being of the world.

I said a few moments ago that Britain has not been willing to accept peace at any price. There are things worth dying for, and the day that sees nothing in life worth dying for will reveal a day in which there is nothing worth living for. I hope and pray it shall never come, but if England were forced in the days to come into war—a war not only to defend her people against aggression, but to defend the principles of justice and fair play—would we in Canada sit back and do nothing in defence of our King and country? That is a matter that every man in Canada, and every woman too, with British blood in his or her veins, would have to consider. So far as I am concerned, when England is at war Canada is at war too.

I am fully aware that Canada is a self-governing unit within the Empire, and should Britain at any time in the future be forced to use force to protect herself, her interests and those things she holds dear, Canada, in theory, at any rate, could remain neutral, but if Britain were at war, would be it Canada that in the last analysis would decide its neutrality, probably the enemy would make that decision for us.

I have just one more thing to say. A convention such as this charges the air with patriotism, but do let me say that patriotism is a far greater thing, a far holier thing than waving a flag, or placing a wreath on a soldier's grave. Patriotism should inspire us with a desire to live nobly, as well as to die bravely if needs be. Our patriotism is of little use if we live in a small, mean, petty, selfish way, in the end I will count for nothing, and in the end I myself will know it. So let us pledge ourselves to serve the highest that we know with loyal and true hearts.

I have been saying that we have a right to be proud of this Empire of ours, and yet we must never be satisfied with our Empire as it presently exists, rather we must think of it as purged from all grossness and vice, without a slum, a place in which every child gets a chance, and from which suspicion and ill will shall have been for ever banished; where men live together in peace, and serve one another in love. I love to think of the Empire as a commonwealth of nations held together in the bonds of mutual love and service; an Empire of willing, free men; an Empire which in its attitude towards other nations has divested itself of every shred of aggressiveness and arrogance, an Empire that puts its trust in reason and good will; an Empire at peace within itself, and a bulwark of peace throughout the world, but at the same time an Empire that will not hesitate to stand for those ideals and traditions upon which our British foundations have been laid.

Do you remember John a' Gaunt's panegyric on England? It is perhaps the most eloquent and moving thing that Shakespeare ever wrote. This royal throne of kings, this scepter'd isle,

This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,

This other Eden, demi-paradise, This fortress built by nature for herself

Against infection and the hand of war, This happy breed of men, this little world,

This precious stone set in the silver sea

Which serves it in the office of a wall,

This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England,

This earth, this teeming womb of royal kings,

This land of such dear souls, this dear, dear land;

Dear for her reputation through the world.

It is for that England, for that Empire, to live, to labour, and to sacrifice.

But do let us remember that we can never realize our ideal for our Empire without God. Except the Lord build the house they labour but in vain that build it. They serve the Empire best who are first of all good citizens of the Kingdom of God. And so we will think of our Empire as an Empire of which it may be said of her "God is the glory in the midst of her, and a wall of fire round about her." And all the prayers for our Empire will centre themselves in the old, old prayer of our fathers, "God Save the King."

SOCIAL HAPPENINGS

Hostess at Delightful Function

Mrs. Barker, wife of Major T. C. Barker, A.D.C. to His Honor Lieutenant Governor Murray MacLaren was hostess at a charmingly arranged luncheon today at her home. The guests included some of the delegates who are attending the 37th annual convention of I.O.D.E. in the city. Floral decorations including snapdragon, roses and tulips brightened the rooms throughout the house. The guests included Mrs. W. W. White, Mrs. K. I. Campbell, Mrs. J. B. M. Baxter, Mrs. A. P. Paterson, all of Saint John. From the city were present Mrs. Havelock Coy, Mrs. D. W. Griffiths, Mrs. Harold Limerick, Mrs. E. M. Young, Mrs. F. L. Miller, Mrs. Cedric Cooper, Mrs. A. T. McMurray, Mrs. W. C. Crockett, Mrs. W. H. Lawson, Mrs. William Poulton, Mrs. B. R. Ross, Mrs. J. H. Ramsay and Mrs. J. L. Neville. The hostess was assisted by Mrs. Harold Limerick, Mrs. E. M. Young, Mrs. Cedric Cooper, Mrs. W. J. Lawson and by her daughter, Miss Mary Barker.

Outstanding Social Function Tendered by Local Chapter to Visiting Delegates

Coronation decorations and I.O.D.E. emblems in an atmosphere of patriotism created a happy setting for a most delightful banquet which was held last evening by the local chapters of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire in honor of the visiting delegates who are attending the annual meeting. The banquet was held at 7.30 o'clock in the Recreation Hall of the Brunswick Street Baptist Church and was attended by nearly 200 guests. The tables floral decorations were in keeping with the Coronation, golden and blue flowers being in prominence with a touch of gold here and there. The head table was centred with a large basket of American Beauty Roses while all the tables were lighted with red, white and blue tall tapers in silver holders. The place cards bore the emblem of the Order which was also in prominence on the stage in large floral letters. The guests were escorted to the banquet hall through a cordon made by the Standard Bearers which were later erected on the stage. Seated at the head table were the provincial president, Mrs. A. T. McMurray, His Worship the Mayor and Mrs. G. Willard Kitchen, Very Rev. Dean Moorhead, Mrs. Havelock Coy, Miss A. Mahoney of Moncton, Mrs. K. I. Campbell of Saint John, Mrs. J. H. Ramsay, first vice president Mrs. W. W. White and Mrs. Harold Limerick.

During the tea hour soft music was rendered by R. C. Bailey and Herbert Webber and at the conclusion of the evening the guests were favored with several beautiful numbers rendered by the Cecilia Singers under the direction of their leader, Mr. Bailey. A he conclusion of the banquet Rev. Dean Moorhead delivered a most interesting address which was listened to with close attention by the assembled guests. A vote of thanks to the speaker was presented by Miss Mowatt of St. Andrews and seconded by Mrs. O. P. King of Sussex.

On behalf of the visiting delegates Mrs. Campbell of Saint John extended to the Fredericton Chapters a hearty vote of thanks for the gracious hospitality which had been accorded to the visitors since their arrival in the city.

Hostess for Miss Wilkinson

In honor of Miss Margaret Wilkinson who is leaving today for Montreal where she will spend the summer. Mrs. W. A. Stevens was recently hostess at the tea hour. About thirty-five guests were present and the tea table was presided over by Mrs. W. J. Bate and Mrs. R. Fitz Randolph. Mrs. N. McLeod, Miss Mary Barker and Miss Phyllis Montgomery assisted and beautiful spring flowers brightened the rooms.

Entertains at Picture Party

Miss Marjorie Dickson entertained at a delightful picture party last evening in honor of Miss Frances Kitchen, student at Netherwood School for Girls who is spending her holidays in the city. The guests who numbered twelve attended the pictures following which the party repaired to the home of the young hostess where refreshments were served. The house was bright with daffodils and other spring flowers and Miss Dickson was assisted by her mother, Mrs. J. B. Dickson and other members of the family. Those present included besides the guest of honor, Joyce Mavor, Doris Dunham, Ruby Johns, Irene Penety, Marjorie Lingley, Elsie Mountain, Margaret Kennedy, Jean King, Jeanne Nevers, Jean Brown and Elizabeth Taylor.

At Government House

Miss Margaret MacLaren was hostess at the tea hour yesterday afternoon in honor of the members of the Provincial Executive and Regents of the local chapters and others. The guests were announced by Major T. C. Barker, A.D.C., to His Honor Lieutenant Governor Murray MacLaren. Presiding over the tea table were Mrs. A. T. McMurray and Mrs. R. Fitz Randolph. Inviting the guests to the dining-room was Mrs. T. C. Barker. Miss Molly Barry, Mrs. K. Golding, Miss Louise Hill, Mrs. J. Badcock and Miss Louise Sterling assisted.

Mrs. F. W. Miles and Mrs. H. H. Reid of Sussex, who are delegates to the I.O.D.E. convention, are guests of Miss Gertrude Barker.

Mrs. J. B. M. Baxter, Mrs. W. W. White and Mrs. S. R. Weston of Saint John, who are delegates attending the I.O.D.E. annual meeting are guests at the Queen Hotel.

Mrs. A. B. Makenney and Mrs. H. M. McAlpine of Saint John who are attending the I.O.D.E. annual meeting are guests of Mrs. A. G. Turney. Mrs. Makenney will spend the week-end with her mother, Mrs. C. E. Belyea on Northumberland Street.

Miss Hamilton and Mrs. P. L. Bonnell of Saint John delegates to the I.O.D.E. 37th annual meeting are the guests of Mrs. F. S. Lister.

Miss Jennie McFarlane who has been spending the winter months in Montreal is expected to arrive home next week and will take up her residence at Nashwaakias.

Entertains for Miss King

Miss Frances Kitchen entertained recently for Miss Betty King, Chipman, who has been visiting her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Greene, Brunswick Street. The guests were entertained at a theatre party after which they sojourned to the Goody Shop. Those present included Betty King, Mary Smith, Marjorie Lingley, Elsie Mountain, Dorothy Calridge, Lella McKenzie, Ruth Evans, Alice Kitchen, Elizabeth Taylor, Marjorie Dickson and Joyce Mavor.

The local Chapters of the I.O.D.E. are to be hostess at the tea hour this afternoon at the home of Mrs. John Neill, for the pleasure of the delegates of the 37th Annual Convention which met in the city yesterday and today. The guests will be received by Mrs. John Neill and Mrs. D. W. Griffiths. Presiding over the tea table will be the Rt. Hon. the Countess of Ashburnham, Mrs. R. Fitz Randolph, Mrs. Bedford Phillips and Mrs. C. D. Richards. Members of the local chapters will assist.

Missionary Society Meeting

The April meeting of the Minnie Smith Missionary Society was held in the Wilnot Church vestry last evening with a good attendance of members. An Easter service was conducted by the president. A vocal duet by Miss Thomas and Miss Dow, accompanied on the piano by Miss Batt proved very delightful. The business of the society was next discussed and final arrangements made for a musicale which will be held on April 24. Mrs. E. Fraser and Mrs. R. Young assisted by three other members carried out a very interesting program. The meeting closed with the mizpah benediction.

Devon Subdivision C.W.L. Meeting

The Devon subdivision of the Catholic Women's League met last evening when the report of work done by the organization was given and showed excellent work being done by the League. Election of officers took place and was as follows: President, Mrs. Frank Shortill; 1st Vice-President, Miss Mary McManus; 2nd Vice-President, Miss Mary Murphy; Recording Secretary, Miss Eileen Bowen; Correspondence Secretary, Miss Margaret Duffy; Treasurer, Miss Mary Dinsmore; Councillors, Mrs. Thomas Dinsmore, Mrs. Frank Barry and Miss Frances Stevens. Convenors and Committees will be appointed at a later date. This year St. Anthony's will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the organization of the parish. Recently Rev. Father W. W. Donahoe, pastor, delivered an interesting lecture on the topic "Fifty Years a Parish." A musical program of instrumental and vocal numbers was enjoyed. J. J. Hayes Doone, member for Charlotte county was in the audience and was called upon to make a few remarks. Mr. Doone responded fittingly.

Ice Break-up

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of the river had dwindled to less than five. This stretch, which is still holding, extends from Carter's Point to below Brown's Flats. Shore ice is weakening, especially off the points.

When this Reach ice goes out, and all indications point to an immediate break-up, clear water in the river will extend from Saint John to Hampstead a distance of more than 30 miles. Despite this, the water in the Reach has not risen more than a few inches as yet. When the huge snowdrifts in the north of the province commence to melt, however, a substantial rise is expected.

At this time last year, Sheffield was under water, residents in that district had been forced to evacuate their homes for higher ground and most traffic along the river banks was by rowboat. Thousands of dollars' damage had been wrought by the turbulent river. The Fredericton railway bridge had gone out.

This year, no noticeable damage has been done as yet.

Up until Saturday, there was no change in Long Reach ice conditions. On Sunday, however, the sun shone all day, melting about a half-mile of ice, bringing the open water to below Caton's Island. Yesterday, although the weather was overcast, another half-mile of ice tasted defeat.

A sure sign that the ice is ready to go out, one of the trees which marked the ice road from Kimball's Cove to Brown's Flat, went down last night. The trail from White's Bluff to the Flat, has ceased to exist.

While the open water is eating its way down river through the last ice battalions of the Long Reach, the ice is fighting a losing battle up above Canton's Island. Last Friday, open water extended to Williams' Wharf. Weakening of shore ice, however, has since shoved the un-iced surface up to Whelpley's Point.

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Canadian Pacific

City of Fredericton NOTICE

The Citizens are cordially invited to attend and take part at a Public Meeting to be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, FRIDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 9th at 3 o'clock for the purpose of planning some form of celebration to fittingly observe the Coronation of King George VI on May 12th.

FRED I. HAVILAND, City Clerk.
City Hall,
April 3, 1937.

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