

THE NEW UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Its Constitution Somewhat Like That of Canada, but Senators are Elected by the Legislatures--In Case of Deadlock Joint Session is Held, and the Disputed Measure Passes only on Majority Vote.

South Africa is once again in the limelight, and will continue so far several months at least. This time, happily, it is not a military drama, or, to be exact, tragedy, that is being enacted, but a drama of peace. The chief actors are men who only a few months ago, it seems—although nearly ten years have elapsed—were bitter enemies, but now these same men, Dutch and English, are acting together for the welfare of United Africa, and the dream of that great patriot, Cecil Rhodes, seems about to be realized. Both races have learned their lesson and are making a gigantic effort to make South Africa a country to be proud of, and one that will take its place before long in the van of the dominions overseas.

A NATION'S NATAL DAY

The papers have just announced that Lord Gladstone has sailed for South Africa, where he takes office as United South Africa's first governor-general. United South Africa will celebrate its natal day on May 31, and the Canadian Trade Commissioner at Durban, Mr. Pousette, a native of Sarnia, Ontario, and an ardent Imperialist, has written to our own government suggesting that Canadians should hoist their flags on all public buildings on that date to evince their brotherly interest in the great forward movement of their African relatives.

Canada is especially interested at the present time in the South African Union, as it is generally understood their constitution is modelled after ours. We Canadians in our self-complacency have an idea that there is only one constitution, the Canadian. It comes something of a shock, therefore to be told that the South African constitution is very much superior to ours, in fact "is the finest constitution in the world," and there is no gainsaying the fact that, in some particulars at least, as will be shown later on, they are profiting by our experience.

GLADSTONE'S DIFFICULT TASK

Lord Gladstone has a very difficult task before him. He goes to South Africa a stranger, unfamiliar, at least by personal experience, with the Afriander and his many complex problems, the most important and serious of which is the native problem. There are only 1,100,000 whites in the whole of South Africa, half of whom are Dutch, against at least 6,000,000 natives, and probably very many more, and the serious part of it is that, while the white population is almost stationary, the black is growing alarmingly, due in part to the practice of polygamy and the cessation of intertribal wars. As one writer has put it: "The darkness which surrounds the future of the white and black races is impenetrable, and opinions as to the path which leads through to the light are as far apart as the poles." Failing a solution of the problem, disaster is pretty certain.

The Afrianders are not by any means sanguine as to the success of Lord Gladstone, but they will give him every opportunity to make good, and he knows that there exists prejudice against him, but has requested that he should be given a fair trial, and should not be prejudiced. There are many in South Africa who would have preferred to have had Lord Selborne, the retiring Administrator, retained as the first governor general. He has exercised much tact in his office, and has always evinced great interest in the country's welfare, and, as an Afriander put it, "You should have Lord Selborne as your next governor general of Canada." About the only criticism against his administration is that he has truckled too much to the Boers.

WHO WILL BE PREMIER

The papers say General Botha will be the Premier of South Africa. This is open to question. There is a great diversity of opinion in South Africa at the present time as to who is to be the first premier. Possibly Lord Gladstone has already received his instructions whom to summon. His is a very peculiar position, for he will not have time to look around but must immediately after, call upon someone to form a ministry, as the machinery of the present government must be abandoned on May 31, and without a ministry it will be impossible to carry on the affairs of the country.

General Botha is without doubt the choice of the country at large. Mr. Merriman, however, the premier of Cape Colony, has to be considered. He has been making a strong bid for the honor and has claims to it first, as being the head of the oldest and largest colony; and, second, on the

score of age. He has also a strong following among the Dutch, although an Englishman by birth. In Natal and the Transvaal, however, there is great antipathy towards Mr. Merriman largely because of his strongly Dutch sympathies. Some say General Botha will not accept the office if Mr. Merriman wants it, on the score of Mr. Merriman's seniority. A civil servant in the Cape Parliament buildings informed the writer that Dr. Jameson would be the first premier, and that Mr. Merriman had not a ghost of a show. While Dr. Jameson would be very acceptable to the English and would fill the position with credit, the Dutch have not yet forgotten the Jameson raid.

RACE ISSUES NOT DEAD

What will be the material of the first Cabinet of United Africa? Will it be overwhelmingly Dutch or strongly British? There is no chance of the latter, and a possibility of the former. True patriots, such as Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, have argued ably and vigorously for a coalition government pointing to the initial governments of the United States and Canada as illustrious examples, but the plan has not met with much support from the Dutch. There is a strong effort on the public platform to emphasize the fact that there are no longer racial differences, but it will not down, and keeps cropping up from time to time. Both races, however, are sick to death of dissension, and every effort will undoubtedly be made to encourage and foster that spirit of good will without which South Africa cannot prosper.

A MODEL CONSTITUTION.

A few words as to the constitution itself. General Smuts, who, by the way, is generally conceded to be the brainiest man in South Africa, but who is difficult to place as regards his political sympathies, as he has been doing more thinking than speaking, stated in one of his speeches that the most wonderful things about the constitution were the signatures to it. Here is a constitution embodying all the Uiltlanders struggled for, signed by Dr. Jameson for the Uiltlander; and General Botha for the Boer, Sir Percy Fitzpatrick and Mr. Fischer, Sir Geo. Farrar and Mr. Steyn, and so on. Space will not permit mentioning how the constitution came about. But the advantages of Union are simply enormous. Only think of four small States—Natal and Orange River Colony, for example—each about one-seventh the size of Ontario, practically independent countries, each with its own machinery of administration and legislation, its own government-owned railway system, and its own customs, etc., and in constant dispute with its neighbors. Consider how impossible for a country to prosper with so many opportunities for pulling against, instead of with, one another.

THE "BLACK" CLOUD.

Under the Union all this will be done away with. The native question, of which mention has already been made, would be incapable of solution with separate governments, and in the event of a native war, which many think is bound to come, United Africa will be able to deal with it in a manner which, under other conditions, would be most difficult, if not impossible; and right here it may be well to mention that the parties to the Union are: Cape Colony, Transvaal, Orange River Colony and Natal. Rhodesia has not yet decided to throw in its lot, but will, ultimately, do so without doubt.

It is claimed for the South African constitution that it is superior to ours. First note that it is not a federal constitution, but is a one government constitution—a Union in a true sense of the word.

PARLIAMENT IS SUPREME.

In Canada the constitution is supreme. In South Africa the parliament of the Union is supreme. "Thus the Senate has its wings clipped, but yet serves the useful purpose of 'cooling the tea in the saucer.'"

BEWILDERING PARTY DIVISIONS. There are neither Conservative nor Liberals in South Africa as we understand the terms. In fact, the division of parties is most bewildering to an outsider; yes, even to themselves. The division up to the present at least has been largely a racial one. The English are the "progressives" and the Dutch are the "people," or, in their own language, "Hat Volk" in the Transvaal, the "Unie" in Orange River Colony and the "Bond" in Cape Colony, all

Picture Machine Exploded in Face of Operator

While taking flashlight pictures in the Simpson House last evening Mr. El. McIntosh, of Toronto, formerly chef at the Benson House, Lindsay, had his face and head badly burned by the machine exploding. Mr. McIntosh pulled the string that causes the machine to explode, but it did not work. He tried it several times and finding it would not work, walked over to the machine to see what was wrong, and while repairing it the machine exploded in his face. He was at once taken to the hospital, where Mr. McIntosh would have probably lost his eyesight, but for the fact that he was wearing glasses. His standing time of the explosion was wearing glasses. His standing time of the explosion was wearing glasses.

Photographed from "Lindsay Warmer" of Jan 13th last.

The Sequel

Mr. McIntosh says:—"At the hospital I was kept masked night and day for five days. At the end of that time the burns were still very bad and the doctors would not hear of my returning to work. I knew if I could only get some Zam-Buk for the burns I would be back at work in quick time, because I had previously used the balm and knew what it would do."

At last I left the hospital and went straight to a local store and bought some Zam-Buk. At the hotel I applied a Zam-Buk dressing and this cooled the burning pains and gave me quick relief. I kept on with the Zam-Buk treatment and returned to work. Within just one week after first commencing with the Zam-Buk treatment I might have defied anybody to detect where the burns had been, so splendidly did Zam-Buk heal the injury."

Mr. MacIntosh resides at 48 Humbert St., Toronto.

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FISHERMEN COMPLAIN OF AMERICAN OFFICERS

Toulon, France, May 17—The crew of a fishing boat which was engaged early today to take two officers of the American Cruiser New York from here to their ship lodged a complaint with the police alleging ill treatment at the hands of certain officers and men of the Cruiser. The American Consul agent, Francis H. Mansfield, has been notified.

The fishermen charge that when one of their number went aboard the New York to collect the fare of their two passengers, he became involved in a dispute during which the officers cruelly beat him and sailors of the warship threw pails of hot water on his companions in the boat.

Parliament delegates certain powers to the Provincial and has copied to a large extent from our own constitution. The Provincial Parliaments are restricted practically to purely local affairs. In fact, the Union Parliament may abolish the Provinces altogether if it so wishes. At the end of May existing Governments disappear. A national Government will be formed, and, later on, the Provincial Governments. In the meantime the responsibility will rest on the Governor-General and his advisers.

AN ELECTIVE SENATE.

There are two provisions in the South African constitution that would appear to be an improvement on ours. First, an elective Senate, not, as in Australia, by popular vote, but by election by the two Houses of each Legislature sitting together, unless otherwise arranged by the Parliament. It is provided that later on the election of Senators shall be by a joint meeting of each Legislature and the members of the Union Parliament of the Province or State. Senators hold office for ten years. Second, "If the House of Assembly passes any bill, and the Senate rejects or fails to pass it, or passes it with amendments to which the House of Assembly will not agree, and if the House of Assembly in the next session again passes the bill, and the Senate rejects or fails to pass it, the Governor-General may during the session convene a joint sitting of the members of the Senate and House of Assembly and a majority of the total members will pass the bill." Thus the Senate has its wings clipped, but yet serves the useful purpose of "cooling the tea in the saucer."

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DEATH ALLEGED PRINCE TO BE INVESTIGATED

Chicago, Ill., May 16—Persons who were associated with Prince C. S. Rao, whose mysterious death at Elgin, Friday, caused the British Consul here to start an investigation to determine whether he was a prince were placed under surveillance yesterday by the Elgin authorities. No facts were found by officials and unless something definite is unearthed during the next few days, the jury sitting on the case, it was announced, will bring a verdict of death by narcotic poison administered by hands unknown.

The poorest man may give as much as the richest if he will give all he can.

meaning the same. While there are a few English in the Dutch camp, and vice versa, race governs parties. Under the Union Government there will no doubt arise questions all-important, such as the tariff, the negro problem, railway, administration, etc., which will divide before long the people on lines more akin to our own. It may be mentioned that in South African Parliament the dual language system will prevail, as in Canada, only Dutch instead of the French.

South Africa will undoubtedly benefit from union, and her sister dominions will watch with great interest her progress and will rejoice with her in her prosperity, and this last union is another step towards Imperial consolidation which many British subjects over the Empire are eagerly hoping and longing for. British statesmen should encourage this Imperial sentiment while it is so strong, as the public is a "fickle jade" and the tide which is now at its flood may have ebbed before long, and Imperial consolidation or federation, or whatever you wish to call it, may be numbered with the "might-have-beens."

J. A. MacADAM-

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Notice of Meeting

Members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division No. 1 of the city and Division No. 2 of St. Marys, are requested to attend a meeting to be held in the A. O. H. rooms on Regent Street, on Wednesday evening, the 18th inst. at 8 o'clock.

Business of importance to be transacted.

JOHN TONER, Rec.-Secretary.

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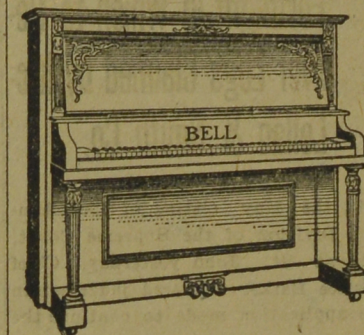
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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

To Albert E. Everett of the City of Fredericton in the County of York an Province of New Brunswick, Hotel Keeper, and all others whom it may in any wise concern:

NOTICE is hereby given that by virtue of a Power of sale contained in certain Indenture of Mortgage bearing date the twenty-sixth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, and made between the said Albert E. Everett, of the One Part, and me, the undersigned, E. S. Ranney Murray of the City of Saint John, in the County and County of Saint John, allman, of the Other Part registered in York County Records in Book J-5, pages 301, 302, 303, and 304, there will for the purpose of satisfying the moneys secured by the said Indenture, default having been made in the payment thereof, contrary to the Provisions of the said Indenture, be sold at Public Auction in front of the Post Office in the City of Fredericton, on Saturday the Twenty-eighth day of MAY NEXT at the hour of twelve o'clock Noon, the leasehold lands and premises described in the said Indenture of Mortgage as follows:—All that certain lot, piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Block Number Seventeen in the Town Plat of Fredericton afore said and comprising bounded as follows:—Beginning at the point of intersection of the South Western side of Brunswick Street with the North West corner side of Westmorland Street in the City of Fredericton, thence following the said point running South Westwardly along the North Western side of Westmorland Street aforesaid one hundred and thirteen (113) feet, thence at right angles North Westwardly and parallel to Brunswick Street aforesaid one hundred and sixty-four (164) feet three (3) inches, thence North Easterly to right angles and parallel to Westmorland Street aforesaid one hundred and thirteen (113) feet to the South Western side of Brunswick Street aforesaid, and thence along the same South Easterly one hundred and sixty-four (164) feet three (3) inches to the place of beginning, containing one rood and twenty-seven perches more or less, and being part of Lots Number 263, 265 and 267 in said Block Seventeen Town Plat of Fredericton (except as therein except "ed").

Together with all and singular the buildings and improvements thereon and the privileges and appurtenances to said premises belonging or in any wise appertaining; together with the Indenture of Lease relating to the same and all benefit and advantages thereunder. Dated this thirty-first day of March A. D. 1910.

(Signed) E. S. RANNEY MURRAY (L. S.)

A. J. GREGORY, ESQ., Solicitor for Mortgagee.

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FOR SALE.—There will be sold at Public Auction in front of the Post Office in Fredericton, on Saturday, the twenty-first day of May, at twelve o'clock, noon, five shares of the Capital Stock of the Fredericton Gaslight Company.

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