

## THE EMPIRE'S NEED.

### The Late Lord Salisbury Was Convinced of the Necessity for Reform in its Fiscal Relations.

STRIKING CONTRIBUTION BY LIEUT.-COL. G. T. DENNISON TO LITERATURE OF THE TARIFF REFORM DISCUSSION.

London, May 20.—The Times today contains an interesting letter from Lieut.-Col. G. T. Dennison, of Toronto, in which the president of the British Empire League in Canada makes it very plain that for years before his death the late Marquis of Salisbury had been impressed with the urgent need of a revision of the fiscal relations between the mother country and the outlying portions of the Empire. The letter is a most valuable contribution to the literature on the fiscal issue, proving unmistakably how the great premier had studied the signs of the times, and how desirous he was that some common basis could be found by which the bonds of Empire could be strengthened and made more permanent.

#### TEXT OF THE LETTER.

The text of Lieut.-Col. Dennison's letter is as follows: "The controversy which has lately been going on in the press of Great Britain, over the question of the late Lord Salisbury's views on protection and preferential tariffs, has excited considerable interest in this country. As I am in a position to throw some light on the late premier's opinions on these questions, I would ask your permission to say a few words. I was for some years president of the Imperial Federation League in Canada and since it was merged in the British Empire League I have held the same position in that body. In 1890 I was appointed specially to represent the Canadian League in England, for the purpose of advocating the denunciation of the German-Belgian treaties, and for urging the establishment of a system of preferential tariffs between Canada and the mother country.

#### FAVORED EMPIRE ZOLLVEREIN.

In two interviews with Lord Salisbury I urged both points upon him as strongly as possible, and pointed out to him that our League had taken up the policy of preferential tariffs, in order the counteract the movement for commercial union and unrestricted reciprocity between the United States and Canada, which at that time was a very dangerous agitation. After hearing my arguments Lord Salisbury said that he felt that the real way to consolidate the Empire would be by a zollverein and a kreisverein. This was substantially our policy and I begged him to say something on that line publicly, as it would be a great help to us in the struggle we were having on behalf of the Imperial unity. He did not say whether he would do so or not, but a few months later, at the Lord Mayor's banquet at Guildhall, in November, 1890, he made a speech which attracted considerable attention, which gave us in Canada great encouragement. He spoke of the hostile tariffs and said: "Therefore it is that we are anxious, above all things, to conserve, to unify, to strengthen the Empire of the Queen, because it is in the trade that is carried on between the Empire of the Queen that we look for the vital force of the commerce of this country. The conflict that we have to fight is a conflict of tariffs." At Hastings on the 18th of May, 1892, he made another speech still more pronounced, the terms of which are well known.

#### HE SHOWED HIS CAUTION.

We carried on a correspondence for many years, and I saw him on several occasions when I visited England. We discussed the policy of preferential tariffs, and the denunciation

of the German-Belgian treaties, which were denounced by his government in 1897. His letters to me show how strongly he was in sympathy with us, but he was statesman with great caution, and evidently would not commit himself to practical action in regard to either preferential or free trade as long as he believed that the prejudice against any taxation on articles of the first necessity was too strong to be overcome.

The following extracts are taken from letters received by me from Lord Salisbury, and they give a clear idea of what his opinions were. In the early days of the movement I was probably the only one who was pressing upon Lord Salisbury the urgent need of some action being taken, and he may not have had occasion to express his views upon the subject to many others.

#### SAW THE NEED OF A CHANGE.

In a letter dated 21st March, 1891, in reply to one from me telling him of the danger of reciprocity or commercial union with the United States, he wrote:

"I agree with you that the situation is full of danger and that the prospect before us is not inviting. The difficulties with which we will have to struggle will tax all the wisdom and all the energy of both English and Canadian statesmen during the next five or ten years. I should be very glad if I saw any immediate hope of our being able to assist you by a modification of our tariff arrangements. The main difficulty, I think, lies in the great aversion felt by our people here to the imposition of any duties on articles of the first necessity. It is very difficult to bring home to the constituency the feeling that the maintenance of our Empire in its integrity may depend upon fiscal legislation. It is not that they do not value the tie which unites us to the colonies; on the contrary, it is valued more and more in this country—but they do not give much thought to political questions, and they are led away by the more unreasoning and uncompromising advocates of free trade. There is a movement of opinion in this country, and I only hope it may be rapid enough to meet the necessities of our time.

In another letter, dated 22nd November, 1892, he wrote:

"I wish there were more prospect of some fiscal arrangement which would meet the respective exigencies of England and Canada, but that appears to be still in the far distant."

#### THE ERRORS OF FREE TRADE.

In another letter, written nine years later, dated 1st March, 1901, a little over a year before his final retirement from office, referring to a report of the speeches at the annual meeting of our League in England, which I had sent to him, he wrote:

"It is very interesting to read Mr. Ross's address about the error into which free trade may run, for I am old enough to remember the rise of free trade, and the contempt with which the apprehensions of the protectionists of that day were received. But a generation must pass before the fallacies then proclaimed will be unlearned. There are, too, many people whose minds were formed under their influence, and until those men had died out, no change of policy can be expected."

These extracts show very clearly Lord Salisbury's views, and prove that, personally, he would have favored preferential tariffs in order to save and preserve the great Empire."

GEORGE T. DENNISON.

## LIMITS METHODIST AMUSEMENTS.

### Keep Children from Cards, Dancing and the Theatre, Says Toronto Preacher.

"It is incumbent upon Methodist parents to bring up their children until they are 21 years of age free from the influence of cards, dancing or the theatre," is the opinion of Rev. W. H. Hicks, pastor of Trinity Methodist Church, Toronto, as expressed in the course of his address in the church on the question of amusements and church membership.

His reason for talking on the subject was that to his knowledge parents had actually discouraged their children from joining the Methodist church because such a step would interfere with the social plans they had mapped out for their boys and girls.

He was aware that many of the children of Trinity Methodist church were attending schools where dancing masters were employed to train the young in that direction. As a matter of honor, Methodist children should not do those things. In not observing the rules after they had entered the church they were committing perjury. Let the children practice self-denial until they reached the age of discrimination.

Rev. Dr. Griffin, who took part in the discussion which followed, said that the clause in the Discipline referring to dancing, card playing and theatre-going, was an interpretative

clause not found in Wesley's rules, but added by the General Conference, of Canada, contrary to the wish of many Methodists.

In dealing with the theatre question Rev. Mr. Hicks expressed the opinion that the ideals of the theatre had been diminished since the days of Edwin Booth, Barrett, Lawrence Keane, Dayenport, and other devotees of the true classic drama. The drama had been commercialized by trusts, and on an average for the past 25 years the tendency of the theatre had not been upwards. Edwin Booth had played "Hamlet" 100 times successively in New York City, while last year all the actors combined had not presented "Hamlet" in that city over 20 times. Even Sir Henry Irving had stepped down from his plane in giving Sardou's "Robespierre." He might have selected something a little higher than that. The actual condition of the theatre on this continent was that a dreary mediocrity and want of spontaneity reigned on the stage ever since the trust had got control of things. Occasionally a flash of light peered through the moral darkness, but the plays that were put on lacked good ethics and moral vitality. In New York there had been an eclipse of all seriously interesting plays. After 25

years of study Mr. Hincks said he was assured the tendency of the drama had been steadily downward, and away from classical merits and lofty ideals. The drama of today was not the vehicle of the world's best thought, art or morals, and did not in any way interpret present day realities. There was danger, the world over that the theatre would become a museum of moral monstrosities.

Rev. Mr. Hincks was asked if he thought a member of the Methodist Church should resign his place in the Church before breaking the rules to attend a theatre.

Mr. Hincks replied that while he had never modified the rules for anyone, nevertheless he believed that if a man distinctly stated when coming into the church that he reserved the right to decide those questions for himself no fault could be found with him.

## JOURNALISM IN RUSSIA.

In Last Two Years Influence of Newspapers Has Increased Rapidly.

#### HARD LOT OF THE EDITORS.

St. Petersburg, May 20.—Two years ago only a few newspaper readers in the world at large knew the names even, to say nothing of the policies and editors of the Russian press. Since the war the names of the influential papers have become better known. The world knows the names of the Novoye Vremya, the most influential paper here, the Navaesti Russ, as well as the Viedomosti of Moscow and the Kievlianin of Kiev. So far the distinguished journalists who conduct those papers have managed to keep themselves out of trouble but a great number of their colleagues have not been so careful. Pechetnikov and Annensky, co-editors of Rusyevy Bogato, Khishinkoff of Our Life, and others, were among the journalists seized with Maxim Gorky just after the massacre of the Winter Palace and with him sent to the fortress of Petropavlovsk. Moreover, immediately after the tragedy of the Grand Duke Sergius, the Nashi Dni and the Nashaj-Izn, liberal journals, were warned to be careful of their utterance in future, and most crushing of all the papers were ordered to be suppressed for three months.

It is said that the Czar complained to Prince Mirsky that the papers of the country had arrogated to themselves a license hitherto unknown in the history of the empire. How this can be is not obvious because the censorship extended even to their advertising columns. The Nashi Dni attempted to continue publication within three weeks of its suspension, using for the purpose the new name of the Synotesthestoa, but it promptly went under again.

Probably the most prominent of all Russian newspapers, and the one most frequently quoted in foreign dispatches, is the Novoye Vremya, or New Time. It is a daily paper, often containing twelve pages, and it sells in the Russian capital at five kopecks, or about 2 cents. Its publishing offices are in Ertelov street, just off the Nevski Prospect.

That it is always more or less safe is due to the fact that it stands with the government through thick and thin. Naturally, therefore, it is officially inspired, and is the organ by which all the government officials swear. The Novoye Vremya is distinctly anti-English and anti-American, beside being hostile to the Jews, Poles and Finns. Its editor is Alexei Sergeevich Suvorin, and for many years he has been the most prominent of Russian journalists. He is immensely rich, as well as influential, yet he started in life as an humble school teacher in a small town.

As a young man however, he began to send short articles to one of the Liberal papers of Moscow, and rather more than thirty years ago Suvorin came to the capital and began to write for an official organ known as the St. Petersburg News. By the time the Russo-Turkish War broke out Suvorin had scraped enough money together to buy a small newspaper, which was one of its last legs and was at that time edited by Ossip Natovitch, who is at this moment Suvorin's most formidable rival.

The latter was full of ideas, went in for war correspondence on a large scale, and his paper soon caught on and prospered. Today it is the greatest newspaper property in the Russian empire and the mouthpiece of the government. The singular thing is that Suvorin has just started a newspaper for his son on lines diametrically opposed to those of Novoye Vremya, being progressive and liberal to a startling degree. No doubt this move shows the far sightedness of the elder man. At any rate, the son's paper, the Russ, has jumped into a big circulation and has the ablest staff in Russia.

Natovitch, who edits the Novosti (The News), is Suvorin's great rival. He has edited this journal now for nearly thirty years. The policies of the two papers are widely divergent, for Natovitch's advocates an alliance with Great Britain and is by no means hostile to the Jews, as Suvorin is. The "largest circulation" is claimed by the Svet, and as might be supposed it is the most "yellow" of all the St. Petersburg papers.

The ancient capital of Moscow has half a dozen newspapers. The Viedomosti, however, is the oldest and best, having been published for nearly a century and a half. It dislikes all Western influence and thought, and is said to be more imperial than the Czar himself. The Rossikin Viedomosti, also published in Moscow, is dignified in tone and well informed, which is not to be wondered at, seeing that its principal contributors are the university professors.

There are in Russia a number of princely editors, foremost among them the editor of the Grashdanin, or Citizen, of St. Petersburg, which is edited by Prince Metchersky, a

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man of enormous wealth and an intimate friend of the late Czar. The prince has in bygone days given the government many a bad quarter of an hour, and the Grashdanin, which is a bi-weekly journal, has several times been suppressed.

Prince Ukhomsky, proprietor and editor of the St. Petersburg Viedomosti, is supposed to be on terms of intimacy with the present Czar and also with the ministry, yet he, too, has a way of printing articles startlingly free in their tone. The general tone of the Viedomosti is that of friendliness towards England and, strangely enough, hostility to Germany.

But perhaps the most daring and outspoken of all the Russian editors is Pikhno, who directs the Kiev Kievlianin. This man has attacked the Manchurian policy of the government in a way that would surely have brought about the suppression of his paper if not the criminal prosecution of himself were it not that he has certain mysterious connections among highly placed officials.

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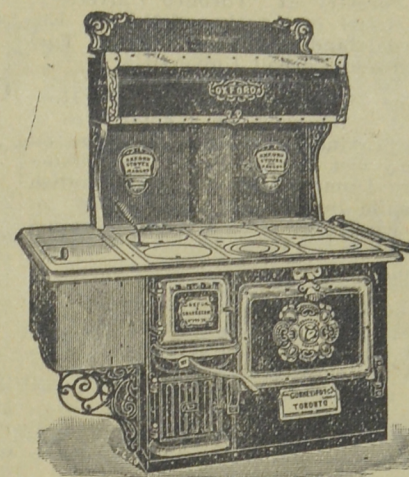
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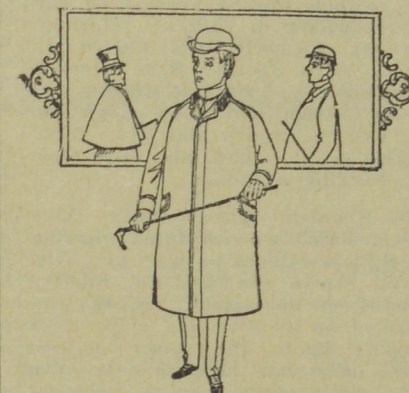
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