

COLONIAL LIONS AT PLAY TIME.

Churchill is Improving, Not Quite the Gay Young Man of Old.

CANADIAN MINISTERS IN IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS.

(Special Correspondence to The Toronto Globe.)

London, April 24.—The Eighty Club dinner to the colonial ministers and prime ministers assembled in London, and given at the Holborn restaurant in the King's Hall, well known to many Canadians, was a memorable affair, and in some degree reflected the exceedingly overcrowded condition of the ministerial benches of the House of Commons. Although the King's Hall is one of the largest of the banquet halls in London, so great was the demand for invitations that the adjoining galleries were pressed into service and the body of the hall was so closely packed with diners that the waiters seemed to have some difficulty in fulfilling their duties. As usual the flags of the "sister nations" decorated the balconies, red and white roses of delicious pretence decorated the tables, and women in evening dress were crowded into every possible corner that could be found for them. But, curiously enough, owing to the pressure of business at the House, the prime minister was obliged to appear in what he called his "working clothes," and to leave after a most hurried speech, when Mr. Haldane took his place as chairman, while Sir Frederick Borden, minister of militia, and defence, acted as the substitute of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who came late, having attended the concert at the Queen's Hall, where a musical protégé of Lady Laurier's and Lord Strathcona, in the person of Miss Gauthier of Ottawa, made her London debut in the Coronation Mass of Edward VII, written and conducted by Dr. Charles Harris of Ottawa.

DEEPER THAN PARTY.

Mr. Haldane filled the post of chairman with excellent effect, and the opening of his speech was admirable in tone as he referred to the fact that while at that moment the premiers and ministers from overseas were guests of the Liberal party, in a few short hours they would be the guests of the Unionist party. That fact had its lesson, for it showed how in the British mind there were causes and principles which went even deeper than party.

"The Crown was beyond controversy," the empire was beyond controversy; the cause of empire was the cause which lifted itself, and did not require them to lift it, beyond party controversy."

Mr. Drakin, who followed, was received with resounding cheers, and his speech, at least one portion of it, gave his hearers some food for reflection, and in a matter of minutes Sir Wilfrid Laurier's contention that "all is well as regards the relations between the motherland and her colonies," Mr. Drakin said:

PRACTICAL IMPERIALISM.

Sir Frederick Borden received a warm greeting on rising to fill the place of Sir Wilfrid, and possibly the writer may be wrong, but there was just a touch of Sir Frederick Borden's speech and in that of Mr. Drakin which might be called a warning note, sounded on a different key. Sir Frederick spoke admirably, and was a distinguished figure at the festive board. He, however, reminded his hearers of an exceedingly practical "link of empire" which it was in the power of British financiers to forge, and alluded to the building up of the great American industries with English capital, while Canadian investments had long been neglected.

Shortly after Sir Frederick Borden had taken his seat Sir Wilfrid entered the room to take his seat at the right of the chairman, and was accorded a rousing reception. Nothing could have been happier than the few words which he responded to the demand "Speech!" The relief which one feels when one of our colonial premiers plays on the lighter themes of after dinner speaking is great, and Sir Wilfrid has such a nice sense of the fitness of things that he varies his remarks to exactly suit the time and place in which he is called upon to "orate."

Of course when General Botha rose to speak there was a general commotion. By his side stood a slender, dark-eyed man with a small, dark beard, and of gentlemanly bearing. This is his able interpreter, who not only speaks the most admirable English, but turns his phrases with a grace which is simply marvelous. Slowly,

sentence by sentence, General Botha uttered his soft "Taai" language, which has little of the guttural of German and which yet resembles it in a measure, and as his voice died away his interpreter took up the strain in clear and vigorous English. If one found some unnecessary repetition of phrases in the speech and reiteration of undying loyalty to British rule slightly monotonous, it is not to be wondered at. General Botha is a newly-elected representative, and has limited theme upon which to play, and makes on an average three speeches per day.

THE NEW CHURCHILL.

Mr. Winston Churchill, who sat next to the Boer General, looked like a slim youth fresh from school when he rose to address the guests, who gave him a warm greeting. The Colonial Under-Secretary wears the most neat and dapper of evening suits, with none of that wide expanse of white shirt front which is so conspicuous on some of the Ministers. For some curious reason he always looks as if in mourning when wearing evening dress. His decidedly rounded shoulders become more accentuated as he leans forward with the tips of his fingers resting on the table and his head thrust slightly forward. His style is extremely easy and conversational, and in this instance he did not attempt any flights of eloquence, but seemingly spoke with sincerity and earnestness. His face was wan and lined, and one learned with regret that he was feeling far from well. The weight of the responsibilities of his position have in a degree altered and, if one may venture to say so, improved, the tone of this versatile young Minister, who forms such a contrast to the Secretary for War, as far as personal appearance goes.

STILL IN THE LONELY FURROW

It is a brilliant Ministry which Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman has gathered about him; members of every party have to admit this. Mr. Asquith, who is another of the intensely grey and pallid men in office, has a much stronger and more vigorous type of face than his photographs give one the idea of. Sir Edward Grey, who spoke at the "Pillgrims' dinner is to-day one of the most respected and admired men in public life. But as one gazed down on this most representative gathering it was to deplore the fact that Lord Rosebery was not among the guests. The man who has in former days stood out as great Imperialist of Imperialists is absent from all the functions which are in progress. Lord Curzon is laid up with a severe attack of bronchitis, and even Lord Milner's voice is silent. Why is this? Mr. Haldane has well said that Imperialism raises itself "above party," and surely the voices of these three men should be heard at this juncture. That dinner at the Eighty Club was a memorable affair, full of significance to those who look below the surface of things. Lord Elgin in all his speeches has kept aloof from controversial matter, but he is by no means the "strong element" in the present Government.

TO HEAR THE LIONS ROAR.

After the dinner a huge reception was held in the adjoining rooms, and Mrs. Herbert Gladstone, who was receiving, had much difficulty in keeping her position near the door, so great was the tide of bejewelled guests surging through the doorway. Of course, General Botha was the lion, and he bore his honors modestly. The writer was among those presented to him, and was much struck by the feminine softness of his expression and voice in speaking. As a matter of fact, one is bound to confess that in the many utterances of this famous Boer General, so proud in his expressions of loyalty to the British government, one is just a little inclined to paraphrase Shakespeare and say, "Methinks the General doth protest too much!"

It may seem ungenerous and almost unpatriotic even to hint at such a thing, but this is the impression left in the mind of the writer. He is very charming to speak to, this great, burly individual, who gazes down into your eyes with a grace so limpid and as innocent as a child. His English in conversation is so good that one marvels why he does not attempt to use it on the platform, and the writer dared to say so. "Next time I hope to be able to speak in English," was his guarded reply. "Now I can only do my duty," an ambiguous phrase which might be read in several ways. There is none of the "tense" look which one observes in the faces of Mr. Deakin and Mr. Moor and Dr. Jameson. They are the men who look as if they felt to an astounding degree the great responsibility which lay on their shoulders.

Sir Wilfrid, as I have said before, has among this group of men the aspect of a finished European diplomat fully assured as to the course he means to take, and as fully assured of the feeling of the country he represents. It is a noticeable fact that both Sir Joseph Ward and Sir Wilfrid Laurier have the demeanor of men whose countries have arrived,

and are not in the process of making.

THE NESTOR OF THE CONFERENCE

One would judge that the Prime Minister of Canada was the senior in age, as well as by right of precedence, in this Conference, and it must be intensely interesting to him to watch the growth of the Australian Commonwealth and the problems which have to be solved before the South African confederation can be accomplished. Doubtless his counsel and advice will be sought by men from both these countries. It was a kindly impulse which made him vacate until such a late hour his seat of honor at the Eighty Club dinner to give his personal patronage to the performance of both a Canadian composer and vocalist. Mr. Harris has not carried the critics with him in this latest musical work, which he presented on the 16th, as he did in the case of "Pan." They find the music too melodious and florid for a Mass, but the audience, the chorus and the members of the orchestra applauded vigorously when the conclusion came, and as all three were the best that England could produce, this was no little triumph. Miss Gauthier was nervous, and did not do full justice to her exceptionally fine method and sweetness of tone. She is very young, exceedingly pretty, and undoubtedly has a distinguished future before her. It was in the early hours of the morning that the reception given by the Eighty Club broke up, and the last vision the writer had of the Canadian guests was a group in the hall, where Sir Wilfrid and Lady Laurier were surrounded by a crowd of friends, who were escorting them to their motor, placed at their disposal by their hosts, "the English nation." Mr. Hamer Greenwood, M. P., was one of the most energetic of the club members who were indefatigable in looking after the colonial guests.

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Denver. Denver was named after James W. Denver, an ex-governor of Kansas. Denver is situated on the sites of two towns, St. Charles and Aurora, which were consolidated in 1890 and the new name adopted.

Insects' Eggs.

No parental care ever falls to the lot of a single member of the insect tribe. In general, the eggs of an insect are destined to be hatched long after the parents are dead.

A Chinese Decoration.

The highest rank of Chinese mandarins sport umbrellas of red silk with three flourishes.

Individuality in Gifts.

Individuality should be the one thing looked for in Christmas gifts. They should be the particular thing the recipient desires, if possible, and if there is anything that can be marked it should be. One handkerchief marked with all the initials is worth half a dozen bought with a single initial, which any one might have. Everything is marked this year, the lingerie

STEEL KNIFE IN THE FLESH.

That's the sensation experienced by Robert Price of Heaton, Ont. He knew it was sciatica and of course used "Nerviline." As usual it cured and he says: "No hintment can excel Polson's Nerviline. Severe pains made my side lame. It was like a steel knife running through the flesh. I rubbed in lots of Nerviline and completely cured." A regular snap for Nerviline to ease Sciatica and rheumatism. It sinks into the core of the pain, cures it in short order. Large 25c. bottles at all dealers.

MAILS CLOSING.

In effect, October 1, 1906.

6 a.m.—For St. John, etc., St. Stephen and Charlotte Co., Carleton, Victoria and Madawaska Counties, and United States.

7.00 a.m.—Woodstock and Gibson Branch Stations, daily.

WAY MAILS—East Side St. John River.

7.00 a.m.—For Keswick Ridge, Southampton, etc., Mondays and Thursdays.

West Side St. John River.

7.00 a.m.—For Springhill, Kingsclear, Prince William, etc., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

6.30 a.m.—St. John River via Steamer—For Oromocto, Shefford, Gagetown, etc.

9.15 a.m.—St. John, etc., C. P. Railway stations, East, Nova Scotia and P. E. Island.

10 a.m.—For St. Mary's Ferry, Gibson and Marysville.

WAY MAILS.

2 p.m.—For Nashwaakias and St. Mary's Ferry, daily, Nasanworth, New Maryland, Hanwell, Lower St. Marys and Royal Road, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

4.15 p.m.—For Gibson, Marysville, Boiestown, Doaktown, Blackville, etc., Chatham, and I. C. Railway Stations, north and "h."

4.45 p.m.—For St. Stephen, W. J. stock, United States, Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa and North West West Provinces.

8.15 p.m.—For St. John, etc., Nova Scotia and P. E. Island.

4.30 p.m.—British mails via New York, Mondays and Thursdays.

MAILS RECEIVED.

9.30 a.m.—From St. John, etc., and Nova Scotia.

From Hamtown, Royal Road, etc.

11.00 a.m.—From Nasanworth and New Maryland, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

12.00 noon—From Montreal, Ottawa, Northwest Provinces, etc., and United States.

1.20 p.m.—From I. C. Railway Stations, North Shore and Quebec.

St. John River via Steamer.

5 p.m.—From Oromocto, Shefford, Gagetown, etc.

9.05 p.m.—From Woodstock and Gibson Branch Stations, daily.

8.20 p.m.—From Nova Scotia, P. E. Island and St. John.

WAY MAILS

7.60 p.m.—West Side River, St. John—From Meductic, and Way Offices, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

St. John—From Woodstock and Way Offices, Tuesdays and Fridays.

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