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FESTIVAL OF EMPIRE

LONDON'S NEWEST SPECTACLE IS A HUGE AFFAIR.

A Colossal Pageant Involving Fifteen Thousand Persons Will Depict the History of the British People From the Earliest Days Down to the Present—Preparations Are Under Management of Frank Lascelles.

A colossal task is nearing completion at the Crystal Palace, London. Within a space of 250 acres the whole of the British Empire is being represented by hundreds of buildings, scenery, and exhibits. The Festival of Empire, as the great exhibition which will be opened from May to October has been called, is the most ambitious effort which has ever been made to demonstrate to us the vastness and possibilities of our overseas dominions. In addition there will be a great pageant, in which 15,000 performers will take part, illustrating the Empire's history and development from the very earliest days down to the present. The pageant has attracted thousands of pounds towards the expenses, and thousands of men have been employed on a patriotic project in every way worthy of the coronation year of His Majesty King-George V.

"The public," said Mr. Frank Lascelles, Master of the Festival—whose office is in charge of the world over and the magnificence of the pageant he has organized—to a newspaperman the other day, "have little idea of the enormous work which has been involved in producing this great Festival of Empire. The colonies have been months past the have been co-operating with the various colonial Governments in order to make the festival thoroughly representative in every way. And it is really surprising how people in this country have entered into the idea with zest and enthusiasm. Take the 15,000 amateur performers, for instance, who are to take part in the great pageant. Not only are they buying their costumes and paying for their railway fares during the run of the festival, but they are willingly bearing the expenses entailed by six or seven weeks' rehearsals. It is a splendid illustration of the patriotism which has been instilled by this great idea."

And the gigantic and thoroughness with which this pageant is being carried out is strikingly illustrated by the facts and figures which Mr. Lascelles kindly provided. An amphitheatre for 10,000 spectators and erected, and it is considerably over a year hundreds of skilled workmen have been engaged in preparing costumes and properties; and in every case the utmost care has been taken to ensure historical correctness, even to the minutest details. By loan and purchase Mr. Lascelles has secured twenty historical state coaches, including one which belonged to Queen Victoria, and another which was the property of Napoleon III. A thousand horses and cattle, 400 complete suits of armor, nearly 7,000 weapons, and close upon 10,000 helmets and shields—these are a few of the properties which will be used during the great pageant of the Festival of Empire.

"But, of course," said Mr. Lascelles, "whilst the pageant is one of the central features of the festival it by no means stands alone. In the grounds there will be some 300 buildings, ranging from the \$200,000 reproduction of the Parliament Buildings of Ottawa, Canada, to decorative kiosks. All the colonial buildings will be exact reproductions of the Parliament Houses of the respective colonies, and in each case will be two-thirds of the size of the originals. Altogether these various Government buildings cost well over \$600,000, and I might mention that Canada alone is spending no less than \$250,000 on the various projects for representing that vast colony at the Crystal Palace.

"What is the total cost? Well, it is difficult to say at the present time. The committee of the Festival of Empire has spent over \$1,500,000 already, and this is quite apart from the money expended by the various colonies themselves."

The reporter asked for some details of the expenditure.

"In the first place," said Mr. Lascelles, "we are paying close upon 6,000 workpeople engaged on the preparations for the festival. There are some \$150,000 worth of machinery, and \$300,000 expended on the erection of a mile and a half of railway track, which we have termed the All-Red Route, and which will run through the various scenes of the Empire, as depicted in the grounds of the Crystal Palace. A two-minute service will be maintained throughout the day by ten cars, and on each train guides will explain details and objects of interest on route as the train takes the visitors on a tour embracing Newfoundland, Canada, Jamaica, Malay States, India, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa.

"Perhaps one of the most interesting facts regarding the realistic representation of South Africa on the All-Red Route is that visitors will be able to see gold and diamond mines in full operation. The De Beers Company are spending \$10,000 on the representation of a South African diamond mine, and, I might mention, are actually using \$10,000,000 worth of real diamonds.

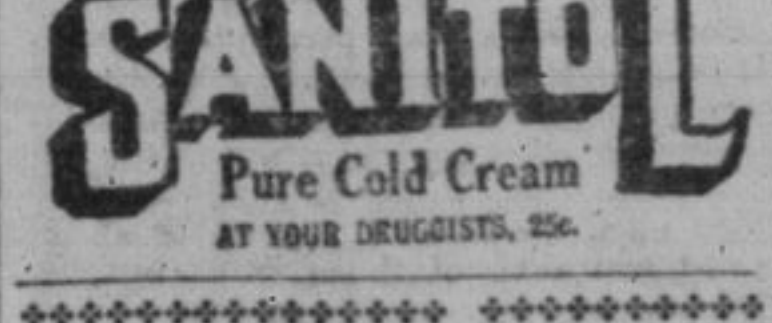
"Six hundred stands are being erected on the inside of the Palace, and there will be an unrivalled collection of British arts and industries. By the way, I might mention that one of the largest statues in the world will be erected in the centre of the Crystal Palace terrace—namely, a statue of the King, 60 feet high, dominating, as it were, His Majesty's Empire in miniature.

London will be the holiday city of the world this year, and it is safe to affirm that millions of visitors will find their way to the Crystal Palace to witness the wonders of this great Festival of Empire.

At Washington, D.C., the American Civic Association has inaugurated a campaign to prevent thirty million dollars' worth of capital from leaving possession of one-quarter of the water flowing over Niagara Falls.



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HE USED POISON

DR. BECKSTEAD, LISBON CENTRE, COMMITS SUICIDE.

Victim of Overexertion—His Nerves Were Shattered—From Day and Night Drives on His Errands of Mercy.

Ogdensburg, N.Y., May 9.—Compounding a quick-acting poison from drugs, the exact nature of which could not be determined by the physicians, Dr. Morris Beckstead, one of the most successful and prominent medical men in St. Lawrence county, went into his stable at Lisbon Center on Saturday afternoon and committed suicide.

It had been frequently heard of late to deplore the fact that his physical strength was giving out and to comment that continued existence after one could be of no further service to the community did not appeal to him, and as a consequence he was very closely watched by members of the family. Close friends of the physician did not take seriously his allusions to the theories popularly attributed to Dr. Cooke.

Dr. Beckstead had developed a very large and scattered practice through the town of Lisbon and adjoining rural sections and often for long periods was kept going night and day. He secured the assistance of younger doctors, but the demand for the family doctor was so persistent that Dr. Beckstead continued to tax himself until he finally broke down several months ago. For some time past he was at Clifton Springs, returning home on Thursday. On Friday he was in Ogdensburg and seemed in excellent spirits, though still weak and nervous. Dr. Beckstead was fifty-eight years old. He was born in Canada and was educated at the Kingston Medical School and McGill University, Montreal, being graduated from the latter institution in 1878. He practiced at Crysler, Ont., for a year.

Great Opportunity Thrown Away.

It is reported from Ottawa that the opposition has formally decided to go straight against the reciprocity agreement and to fight the matter out to the bitter end. If such a decision has been definitely arrived at both the country and the opposition are to be consoled with that the agreement, as it stands, will be a good thing for agriculture, and that it is desired by an overwhelming majority of farmers is beyond question; that it inflicts no more than the merest scratch on a few of the protected interests is proved by the face of the document itself. The only protest against the measure comes from financiers who have profited immensely by the floating of mortgages, from those in the mergers, and from employees deluded or coerced by corporation employers. Even these are opposing the agreement, not because of what appears in it, but for fear of what it may lead to. If the opposition makes the fight against the government on this issue it will ally itself on the side of the privileged and protected classes against the unprotected and unprivileged masses. In such a contest, it cannot hope to win. If Mr. Borden and his followers had supported the reciprocity measure and forced the battle on other issues its prospects of success would be very much brighter than they are to-day. Such action would, too, have turned discussion during the coming election towards some other very important questions—questions which under existing circumstances are likely to be altogether ignored.

A Voice From the Past.

Montreal Herald.
When Sir John Macdonald decided to appeal to the country in 1891 Sir John Thompson was, probably, his principal adviser. Sir John Thompson was a candidate for election in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, and issued an address to the electors. Part of it is worth quoting, considering the reputation in which Sir John Thompson was held. He wrote:
"The government of which I am a member is appealing to the country with a policy which we believe will be heartily endorsed by a great majority of the electors. We have made to the United States, through the Government of Great Britain, proposals for reciprocity in trade, which we have good reasons to believe will result in an arrangement by which the markets of the United States will be reopened to the products which our people desire most to send there."
"A fair measure of reciprocity is what we desire, and we have no doubt that that can be obtained without undue sacrifice."

And what, might one ask, was the Macdonald-Thompson idea of a "fair measure of reciprocity?" Would they have rejected such an arrangement as Mr. Fielding and Mr. Paterson have been able to effect? Not likely, for it conforms almost exactly to the standing offer which stood so long on the statute book, kept there at their own instance.

Died in Rochester, N.Y.
Wolfe Island, May 8.—Word was received here, yesterday, of the death in Rochester, on Saturday, of John McArthur, formerly of the Island. His remains will arrive here to-day and will be taken to the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Archibald Staley. The funeral will leave the above residence on Tuesday morning at 9:30 o'clock, to the Church of the Sacred Heart.

The remains of the late Miss Kate Munnhall were interred here during the past week. Miss Bessie McArthur, who spent the winter in Florida, has returned to her cottage on the Island. Capt. and Mrs. Hughes, Kingston, and their two little sons, have come to the island and intend spending a couple of months. Mrs. J. Jas. McAllister, jr., is visiting her parents in Enterprise.

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The Methodist Protestant and the Methodist Episcopal church south of the United States are devising a plan for union.

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