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TO HAVE UNION ANYWAY.

In some places in the west it appears that nothing can stop church union. At a meeting of a special committee of the three denominations interested, Presbyterians, Methodist and Congregationalists, held in Toronto to devise means for bringing about union, it was reported that in seven or eight places in the west churches had been formed of those who had hitherto been members of the three denominations, united as one body, taking the proposed basis of organic union as their foundation, and that

the plan worked out successfully. This was done chiefly in places where it was necessary to establish new churches. They are all self-supporting. It was also reported that there are a number of churches in Eastern Canada desirous of uniting and only waiting for some official way of carrying it out. In order to get further information the special committee, after discussion and consideration of the question, adjourned to meet in December, when probably some solution of the problem will be found.

THE HORSE PROBLEM.

The auto is extremely popular in England, as elsewhere, and yet the rapidly disappearing horse is becoming a serious problem over in the old country, especially to the war of fice, which finds the question of mounts harder to meet each year.

The latest attempt to solve this problem is a movement for the revival of the Welsh light roads, and, according to a report of the board of agriculture, government grants have been given for the encouragement of the breeding of this type.

Similar arrangements will probably

be made for the breeding of the rapidly-disappearing old Devonshire pack horse, but it is feared that it may be too late to save this type, as it is almost extinct. Premiums are also to be given to encourage the breeding of the old strain of Welsh cob.

One of the strange things of these latter days is the fact that the auto has not displaced the horse, as was freely predicted, but as more autos are turned out the lower horses there are to be secured and the higher the price. Horses are actually at a premium right now all over the world.

CANADIAN METHOD THE BEST.

In the opinion of many economists no more difficult problem faces the British government than the adjustment of its differences between capital and labor. It is interesting to note, therefore, that in the performance of a promise that the Canadian method of regulating trade disputes should be the subject of a study before legislation was enacted to deal with the question on this side, Sir George Asquith is coming to Canada to investigate it at first hand.

In the lobby of the English House of Commons this step is construed as meaning that the government favor the Canadian system as a model, particularly as Canadian cables indicate that our minister of labor is considering an extension of the Industrial Disputes Act. Outside government circles, where it recently has been the

subject of a searching enquiry, very little is known in England of the act, and even among labor men, references rarely are made to it. It is considered in the old country that if the two opposing forces submitted their differences to a judicial enquiry, half the strikes would be avoided.

As chief industrial commissioner, Sir George Asquith has met with remarkable success, and his knighthood is one of the rewards for a series of wonderful victories fought against great odds. His genius for reconciling elements which are apparently hopelessly antagonistic has won him the admiration of all classes in England. His obvious sincerity wins him the confidence of the extremists among labor men, while before his acute sense of fairness, stubborn masters yield.

EMPIRE BUILDERS.

Mr. Borden has come home from Great Britain, and has been acclaimed as an empire-builder. Sir Wilfrid Laurier also went to England on several occasions and was acclaimed as an empire-builder. Both are entitled to praise. Any statesman that does his duty in any part of the empire is an empire-builder. But we seem to go a little farther than this, and recognize that any man who does his duty in any walk of life is a nation-builder, and an empire-builder remarks the Toronto Star. The man who builds a house is also building a nation. If he builds a good house with honest materials and honest workmanship, he is helping to build a sound nation. If he scraps his work or uses poor materials, he is introducing an element of rottenness into the nation and the empire.

Sixty years ago Canada was no regarded as a source of strength to the empire. But every day it was becoming stronger. Who were strengthening it? Partly the wisest of those who were engaged in public affairs especially those who insisted upon self-government. But chiefly the unknown men and women in the back woods. They had broken up their little homes in Great Britain, crossed the Atlantic on a slow boat, many of them in strange and lonely surroundings.

Many of these were not farmers or accustomed to farming life. They had everything to learn, and very little opportunity to learn except by experience. A few trees were cut down, a few patches of wheat, oats, and potatoes sown in the little clearing. Game and fish were fortunately abundant, and these would add flavor to the simple meal. When a child was born, or sickness occurred, the services of a doctor might not be available. Neighbors helped each other. The family affections and the spirit of help and friendship were strong thrust by hardship.

It was a heroic age, worthy to be recorded in song and story. The family doctor was nurse and druggist, a well. The preacher had a circuit of hundreds of miles, which it would take from two to six weeks to cover.

Mr. Ryerson, one of the pioneer Methodist preachers, used to help the settlers to clear the land and teach them to farm. He composed sermons on horseback. "The young teacher," says Dr. Burwash, "would come in at nightfall from his long ride and sit up till morning. I looked upon him, and saw the pile of firewood consumed on the one side of him, and a pile of manuscript grow up on the other."

The struggle with nature the pioneer accepted without grumbling. But his hard lot was made harder by misadventure. While the backwoodsman toiled, men sat at their ease in the towns and paroled out huge tracts of land, which fell into the hands of speculators. "The greater part of these grants," said an honest official, "remain in an unimproved state. These blocks of wild land face the actual settler in an almost hopeless condition; he can hardly expect during his lifetime to see his neighborhood contain a population sufficiently dense to support mills, schools, post-offices, places of worship, markets, or shops, without which civilization retrogrades. Roads under such circumstances can neither be opened by the settlers nor kept a proper repair. In 1834 I met a settler from the township of Warwick in the Caradoc Plains, returning from his grist mill at Westminster, with his flour and bran of thirteen bushels of wheat. He had a yoke of oxen and a horse attached to his wagon, and had been absent nine days, and did not expect to reach some until the following evening, light as his load was, he assured me that he had to unload, wholly or in part, several times."

There is the situation in a nutshell. The empire-builder growing his wheat and carrying it to the mill through the forest. The empire-destroyer making the job as hard as he could by selfish land monopoly. Fortunately the pioneers, with the aid of the champions of self-government, went out. Hence it is that Canada is today a source of strength, not of weakness, to the empire. The honest workers did it. The honest workers are doing it.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The man who called September the best month in the year evidently forgot about the new pumpkin pies in October.

A Frenchman claims to have discovered a way to turn iron into gold. That's nothing—Carnegie discovered that process long ago.

New York proposes that milk be sold in three grades, for infants, for grown folks and for cooking. All that will be necessary to make the order effective will be to dye the milk red, white and blue in fast colors.

At Cincinnati four ounces of meat a day—until prices go down—is the maximum for each member of the families connected with the Housewives' Co-operative League. Such is the league's announcement, and it means to stick to it.

"The protective tariff enables the jeweled hand of greed to pick the pockets of need," says United States Senator Gore. This is a more felicitous mode of expressing the thought that is contained in the howl against the "bloodsucking big interests."

The Canadian manufacturers are said to have placed \$150,000,000 of insurance with New England mutual companies because the rates charged by these companies are lower than can be obtained from Canadian companies. It seems it is only the farmer who is in danger of becoming an "adjunct" when he seeks to do business where it is most advantageous for his own interests.

The international joint commission of the United States and Canada, is gathering data in regard to the pollution of boundary waters, for the purpose of recommending remedial measures. It is asking that city officials submit a statement as to any pollution of boundary waters, which includes Lake Ontario, and any suggestions as to the best practicable means of remedying or preventing such pollution.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS

Inconvenient Initials. Vancouver Province. A Victoria correspondent suggests "Victoria, B.C.," as a slogan for the Capital City. But was it?

Tory Material Used Up. Ottawa Free Press. Here's a liberal made an office-holder of the Whitney government. That is encouraging for us liberals, since Tories must be getting scarce in Ontario.

Definition. New Orleans Mercantile. A bore is a man who will tell you the smart things his baby says and who gives you no chance to tell him the smarter things your baby says.

Fruits of a Liberal Rule. Ottawa Citizen. Those who remember the drift of young Canadians across the line a score of years ago will realize how the banks and the tide have been turned in the last year or so. Not only are Americans entering the Canadian west by thousands, but many young men are crossing over to Kingston and finding remunerative employment there. Canada is doing much more to-day than holding her own.

Not Much Longer. Buffalo Courier. Allowance should, of course, be made for the influence and promptings of intense party spirit shown in political discussions in Canada, but there is the ever-recurring question as to what is to be done with Canada's enormous grain surplus. How long can it be profitably disposed of in Europe in competition with the ever-increasing surpluses of Russia, Argentina and other grain-growing regions? How much longer can the manufacturing combines of Eastern Canada hold the whip hand over the farmers of the western provinces?

Peck's Corn Salve. A little remedy that every sufferer from corns should get to-day. In a few days every offending corn will be gone. In big boxes, 15 cents at McLeod's Drug Store, 53 Brock St., one door above King St.

The principal thoroughfares of Brockville are being beautified by the removal of the unsightly electric light poles. The movement was initiated by the undertaking by the corporation of the pavement of King street. A child named Roy Klein-tuber and eight years of age, is in Belleville hospital, suffering from a fractured skull. A horse knocked the child down and stepped upon his head.

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