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IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

THE LEAGUE IN CANADA'S ANNUAL MEETING AT HAMILTON.

Election of Officers—A Mass Meeting Follows the Business Session—Principal Grant's speech.

HAMILTON, May 11.—The third annual meeting of the Imperial Federation League in Canada was held in the gentlemen's parlor of the Royal Hotel this afternoon.

The annual report of the work of the League showed that great progress had been made during the year. A number of branches were formed and the several meetings were addressed by prominent personages.

These were the officers chosen, nearly all being re-elections:

President—D'Alton McCarthy, M.P., Toronto.

Vice-Presidents—Alexander McNeill, M.P., Wexford; Charles Riordan, Toronto.

Hon. Treasurer—Henry Lyman, Montreal.

Hon. Secretaries—Archibald McGoun, Jr., R. Casimir Dickson, J. Castell Hopkins.

In the evening a mass meeting was held in the Grand Opera House. Mayor Doran occupied the chair. Principal Grant made the speech of the evening.

He wished, he said, to ask some plain questions of his fellow-citizens and to answer them, if possible, calmly and without passion and without that privilege of imputing motives to opponents that some people dealt in mistaking it for argument.

The first question was a very important one and in the answer given to it depended the point of view which we would regard the others. The first question was: "Is Canada in a condition of stable equilibrium?"

The country that was not in a state of stable equilibrium was not sure of its own foundations and therefore uncertain as to its future. When the relation of part to part or parts to the whole were so unequal that it was felt throughout the country that the present state of things could not continue that country was in a state of unstable equilibrium. It was just like a man in a similar state—it was without true strength. His answer to the question was "that Canada is not in a state of stable equilibrium."

And was there stability throughout the empire? Could the present relations remain permanent? Emphatically no, because the present relations denied the rights which 3,000,000 Scotchmen and 4,000,000 Irishmen had to 5,000,000 Canadians and 4,000,000 Australians—the sacred rights of self-government. Colonial populations had no share in the supreme work of government in matters of war, peace and treaty making. He did like to see blades punctured. Was it not true that, as Mr. Blake said in his Aurora speech, we were "freemen without being free?"

Was it not true that we could be plunged in war without our consent and that peace could be made without our counsel? Ought this state of things to exist? Should we be satisfied? If we did not respect ourselves how long would others respect us? This question would be settled. We would take our time about it but it would be settled. It was not our fault that it was not settled and it was not Great Britain's fault. The reason of its not being settled was that the time had only arrived to talk of the matter. The colonizing interest of Great Britain had planted people in every quarter of the earth. The colonies now forming parts of the Empire were in a state of imperfect political development. This colony began in a state of complete dependence, and it was well to know that the sheltering arm of the mother was around us. [Applause.] We had gone on evolving from stage to stage till we now look forward to the attainment of full citizenship.

"There are difficulties in the way" some people say. Of course there were difficulties. But these would be bravely met. Difficulties were disappearing very rapidly. During the short time since Canada and Australia had had self-government what great things had been done! We had solved the geographical question and had learned that it was man's glory to conquer nature. We had solved the Indian question, the half-breed question and we would solve every other question that came up. [Loud applause.] During our 21 years we had learned to serve the empire as well as ourselves. We had built canals and railways of vital value. We had been preparing ourselves for a higher citizenship. It was impossible to have raised the question of Imperial citizenship sooner than this, and here is where he differed from Mr. Blake, who in 1874 advocated the same principle that he was advocating now. Then, Mr. Blake said, his proposition was coldly received and he thought that what was difficult then was impossible now. But the trend of events was all the other way and every year sees Imperial unity nearer at hand. He had proved that Canada was in a state of unstable equilibrium, the cause of it, and now he came to a closer question: "What is the cure?" He would answer it: "Full citizenship is the cure." [Applause.] No one of any importance favored annexation and Canadians, though plucky, could not hope to defend themselves against foreign nations. Full citizenship in the empire was the cure. Every agitation for a widening of the constitution had been accompanied by declarations that such a change would make better citizens of the people and the results vindicated the declaration. He believed in evolution. He believed it was God's method. But secession or suicide was not evolution. It was revolution. [A voice: Devolution.] He believed in unity of the empire but he did not believe, like some, that it could be accomplished by beginning with separation. The saying of the French philosopher that "the fate of empires is like the fate of apples: as they grow ripe they fall from the parent tree" was frequently quoted by disruptionists. Well, what was the fate of apples that thus fell? They rotted or the pigs ate them. Would this be the fate of separated colonies? If so he did not wish to be a member of a rotting community. [Applause.]

Enquiries for a definite scheme of federation, were made, but to these he could not give a definite reply. That part of the movement belonged to statesmen. Numberless plans could be given but many perhaps would be infeasible. He would propose two plans: 1st, a full citizenship involving a voice in the supreme work of government, and 2nd, trade between the parts of the empire to take place on more favorable terms than with foreign nations. He amplified his argument on these two lines and concluded that both plans were feasible of realization. Imperial Federation was worthy of the support of all Canadians of Irish-Canadian descent, and for in Imperial Federation lay the true solution of the Irish question.

The Principal closed with a peroration in which he referred to the greatness of the ancient English, Irish and Scotch in politics, religion, science and art, the growth of the empire and the grandeur of the scheme that was now in course of realization.

Plucky Voyagers.

NEW YORK, May 11.—The three-ton boat Liberdade, in which Capt. Joshua Slocum, with his wife and two children, left Parangula, Brazil, on June 24 last, arrived at Staten Island this evening after a voyage of over 7000 miles. Capt. Slocum says the trip on the whole was a most enjoyable one. During the long voyage many severe storms were encountered, but the little boat, he says, "weathered them all like a dauntless sea bird."

The Grand Trunk Got the Best Rates.

CINCINNATI, May 11.—A Grand Trunk official commenting yesterday on the evidence of President Roosevelt before the United States Senate Committee at New York, regarding rates on export traffic, said: "The statistics of the Central Traffic Association can prove that where the Lake Shore and other companies were getting from 18 to 20 cents per 100 pounds as their proportion of the through rates on provisions—Chicago to Liverpool—the Grand Trunk route was getting 25 to 28 cents per 100 pounds."

BALL PLAYERS' SUPERSTITIONS.

Many Charms Resorted to by the Ball Tossers.

Nothing brings more joy to the player than to have the coach which is conveying him to the grounds meet a wagon loaded with barrels, provided the heads are in them. It is a sign of good luck, and he goes into a game with a confidence that is in itself the victory. He is a different player and will play in a manner to set the bleaching boards wild with delight. But woe betide him if he meets a crossed-eyed man. He will keep the scorers busy marking down errors opposite his name, and his work will be characterized by a listlessness and carelessness that is begot of the knowledge that it is perfectly useless for him to attempt to play. He is under the influence of an evil genius and cannot get rid of it.

On the other hand, when one meets a woman similarly afflicted he is delirious with joy, and if it is the day of a game he will follow the woman for squares and endeavor by every artifice he possesses to attract her attention and make her look at him. There are some uncharitable enough to say a player will not take this trouble unless a woman is comely, but they all deny it.

When "Wizard" Shaw played on the Washingtons he would never go into the pitcher's box except from the rear, and he could never be induced to step into it without kicking a pebble out. He kept a supply on hand, and before the game enough would be put in a corner of the box so he could kick one out when he started to pitch. Shaw had another peculiarity of always talking to the batter, and although he did this for the purpose of diverting the attention of the batter, it became such a fixed habit that he could not avoid doing it when practicing.

Jack Farrell, when he captained the team in Washington, used to possess an idiosyncrasy that many of his colleagues have. He would make a little mound of pebbles near the position he was playing, and busied himself during the game throwing them into the field. He limited himself to a certain number each inning, and it was a common sight to see Capt. Jack during the morning industriously endeavoring to find the same pebbles he had thrown away the day before.

Many times the other members of the team undertook to play a joke on Farrell, and as he made it a practice to pick up all the stones near his base the boys took good care he should have a full supply by planting a bushel or so every day for him to pick up, and one morning, when he was a little late arriving, he found a choice collection of brick bats, cobbles and tin cans nicely arranged near the base. It cost him half a dollar to get a boy to remove the debris, and for a time Farrell stopped searching for stones when the other men were around, but he could not break the fancy, and today he is a persistent follower of it. Many other ball players have the same habit, and they say it keeps their mind on the game, and they are not diverted by the audience.

Billy O'Brien, the big, hard hitting first baseman of the Washingtons, has but one superstition. When he first came here he discovered a little bunch of clover near the base, and thereafter he made a practice of placing his glove over it at the conclusion of each inning. So religiously does he believe this will bring him good luck that when the season commences he plants a lot of clover seed near the base, and he is on hand when the grass is trimmed to see that his clover patch is not disturbed.

There are many other instances of individual attempts to influence the fates. Some players wear charms, some from the south usually carrying rabbits' feet, and the others charms of all kinds and varieties. Ad. Gumbert, of the Chicago club, used to wear a garter when he was with the Steubenville club, but he would never tell where he obtained it. The recent journey round the world has furnished the men who made it with a choice collection of articles supposed to possess soothing properties. Ed. Cunniff has a monkey he proposes to make his special divinity during the season, and Fogarty, of the Philadelphia, carries with him a lock of hair which he obtained from a dusky maiden at Honolulu.

A number of the players wear rings they believe possess magic powers, and if they are given to them by some friend after a lucky game it makes the present all the more valuable. But under no circumstances ever give a ball player an opal. They regard the stone as an omen of bad luck, and will get rid of it at the first opportunity even if they accept it, which is doubtful.

Players do not like to receive presents of flowers just before they go to the bat, for the reason it "hoodooes" them and they cannot hit the ball throughout the remainder of the game.

A well known League player, at the beginning of the season, puts a black thread in the toe of the stocking of his right foot, and although he declares it is done to distinguish them, his companions insist that unless he gets it on the right foot he says he cannot play.

The carrying of mascot by the various clubs has gone out of fashion somewhat. It originated in the wild and woolly west, and for the next two years afterwards every first class club had a mascot. The style ran to freaks of nature, and a dwarf, a humpback, or a giant was sure of an engagement and a good salary.

The only club in the country today that has a mascot is the Chicago. Spalding picked up a Bengalese boy on his late tour, and proposes to make a mascot of him, but the games of the past few days would indicate he is not realizing expectations. The Steubenville club used to carry a rooster with them, but some irreverent boys in a neighboring town killed it, and thereafter the club was simply a mat for the other clubs to prance over.

The recent trip of the Cuban Giants furnished them an excellent opportunity to lay in a stock of rabbits' feet, the animal being killed in the traditional manner by the light of the moon. When the "Jints" were here they were besieged by the colored population of the city and fabulous prices were offered for their good luck emblems, but they steadfastly refused to part with them.

There are numerous other cases of mascots and believers in good and bad luck, but as the game advances each year the class of ball players are improving and are men of better education than formerly, and are losing a great many of the peculiarities which formerly distinguished them.—Washington Post.

Growing Corn.

Maj. H. E. Alvord, director of the Maryland Experiment station, says: For the great quantity of fodder, green or dry, corn should be grown in drills far enough apart to permit easy and sufficient cultivation, the space between rows to be governed somewhat by the size of varieties grown, and the plants to be thin enough in the drills to give ample air and light to assure maturity. For corn of the larger varieties the nearest definite rule that can be safely given is to plant the rows three to three and a half feet apart, and single stalks six to eight inches apart in the rows.—Lewiston Journal.

At Lewiston, Pa., what is called a "thunderbolt" was found imbedded in a tree which had been shattered by lightning. It is egg shaped, three and one-half inches long, and of a metal so hard that a file does not affect it.

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