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THE ROMAN AND BRITISH EMPIRES: A CONTRAST.

(From a correspondent.)

To pass in hazy review masses of human achievement is a relaxation of the intellect harmless enough in itself, but dangerous in principle. Generalization in history is doubtless a fine art, but it is not a scientific process. Neither abstract nor practical, it is a matter as much of intuition as of absolute deduction. Such impressionism is of necessity dogmatic and unbending. As every dilemma is vulnerable through another, so generalizations from a common basis may be fatal to one another.

In trying to apprehend parallel tendencies in two vast empires some such qualifications are essential. At first sight, a strong resemblance does unquestionably appear. Both empires are immense in extent, both assimilate alien peoples, both hinge their organization on a huge metropolis; in both the political sentiment and social atmosphere of the centre distinguish the whole. Yet there one also marked divergencies in origin, in organization, in result.

The Roman Empire was born, matured, broke up and was absorbed into the states of Europe in a process which covered some fifteen centuries. The British Empire originated in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and became significant only in the 18th. The Roman Empire grew up gradually around a nucleus; the British Empire threw out its first shoots at a venture, and is only now drawing them towards herself again. Knitted into unity by military roads, held in subjection by the tacit menace of arms, guarded on its frontiers by camps and fortresses, the Roman Empire was essentially a military organization. It was, moreover, at its full development, a solid land-mass, bounded at all points but two, by natural limitations. Even the Mediterranean Sea was converted into a private lake. The various states were connected with Rome by the great roads, and remained separated from one another.

Thus, in the aggregate the Roman Empire achieved a development altogether different to that of the British Empire, which is world-wide in a sense unknown during the first fifteen centuries. The world had not then been exploited. What was civilized was Roman. If difficulties were experienced they were only of two kinds; first the repression of internal disorder, secondly the removal of external pressure. Rome had not to intersperse an empire between other states. So far as possible, she consolidated contiguous territories into a whole. Germans, Parthians, may barbarians of various races became absorbed into the actual Empire, and for a time the pressure on her frontiers was weakened. Practically, the Empire was the world; the Emperor, and later the Emperor and Pope conjointly, ruled temporally and spiritually over a single gigantic community. It is the breaking up of this harmony, this unity, that constitutes the extinction of the imperial idea.

Such an idea the British Empire does not desire to revive. Here we have an ideal purely racial. To absorb 100,000 Frenchmen or 100,000 Germans would charge its purpose. It is not cosmopolitan, it is not violently heterogeneous, it is not bound by a military organization, it is not, in a word, compact. Though the dependencies are controlled at home there is no tie other than the one of sentiment, and the common interest it produces. Should Mr. Chamberlain succeed in reversing the fiscal policy of the country, greater security will of course be achieved. But it is a security very different to the security of a praefect or a legion. British colonial federation and Roman municipal government would be more alike were it not for this military, or coercive, element so essential to the ancient system.

What, moreover, is absent from the bulk of the British Empire, is the fixed relation of a sovereign people to subject nations. Though the franchise was extended to the whole Roman Empire, the idea of Rome as the mistress of the world continued very justly to exist. The Spaniard and the Dacian became Romans, but in a different sense to the Roman who was sent from headquarters to rule them. This distinction, apparent in India and Egypt, is absent from Australia, from Canada, and to an increasing extent, from Africa. It is indeed in India, and in a more restricted sense in Egypt,

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that British sovereignty bears some resemblance to Roman methods; and even here relations with native tribes are on another footing. But in the thoroughness of an organization externally imposed and maintained by the menace of force, the system of legions and of district control is distinctly reminiscent.

If there is a keynote in the differences between the Roman and British Empires, it is surely this, that the last has been altogether more spontaneous than the first. Almost every province of the ancient world was organized at the cost of fighting, of immense bloodshed and expense. England has not only fought less for her possessions, but she has hitherto fought almost without that definite purpose in view. Rome, once mistress of Italy, struggled for an empire consciously and unceasingly. British Imperialism, as we now understand it, is a matter of less than a century's standing.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S GERMAN TRIP.

London, August 24.
The Daily Mail publishes a despatch from its correspondent in Bremen, according to which Mr. Lloyd George has declared that he has experienced a more than friendly reception at the hands of the German officials and public. He is convinced that the entire German nation, without exception, is only desirous of living on terms of friendship with Great Britain. Mr. Lloyd George also said that he should never forget the cordiality and hospitality of the German people shown him during his travels in the country.

Bremen, August 24.
Mr. Lloyd George arrived here this evening and proceeded to Hillmann's Hotel, where he was subsequently visited by the British Consul and the director of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company, Herr Leist. He leaves tomorrow for England on the S. S. "Kronprinz Wilhelm."

THE INCREASE OF LUNACY.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, August 23.
The sixty-second report of the Commissioners in Lunacy just published shows that there were on January 1 last 126,084 certified insane persons known to be under care in England and Wales, as compared with 123,988 on the same date last year, an increase of 2,096 persons. This increase may be contrasted with that of 2,009 for 1906, of 2,150 for 1905, and of 2,630 for 1904. The annual average increase for the ten years ending December 31, 1907, was 2,411, and that for the five years ending on the same date 2,424. The increase for 1907 was therefore, less by 315 than the annual average of the decennium and by 328 than the quinquennial average.

The county of London shows an increase of 410 as compared with that of 356 in the preceding year. Of the home counties, Middlesex shows an increase of 155, Essex of 65; Kent of 56, and Surrey of 23. On the figures returned last year the percentage rate of increase for these counties in 1907 has been: London, 1.6; Middlesex, 6.5; Essex, 2.6; Kent, 2.0; and Surrey, 1.4. Cheshire,

with an increase of 62, shows a rate of increase of 3.9; and Lancashire with 47 (as against 13 for 1906) a rate of 1.2 per cent.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' ENTENTE.

On August 29 an interesting gathering will take place in the Garden Restaurant of the Franco-British Exhibition, when a party of French commercial travellers who are visiting the Exhibition officially as French representatives of the International League of Commercial Travellers' Associations will be entertained by their English confreres. This league is the latest development in commercial travellers' associations, and was formally constituted in Paris last Whitsuntide, after several years of negotiation with associations all over the world. As an important section of the commercial community the "knights of the road" can do much to advance the best side of the Entente Cordiale, and to remove by their journeyings to and fro in the world much of the misconception which exists with reference to each other's country. The French party is sent over at the cost of the French Board of Trade for educational purposes.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE DEATH OF BARON STERNBURG.

It is with regret that we learn of the death of Baron Speck von Sternburg, German Ambassador in Washington, which took place on Monday morning at the Hotel Victoria, Heidelberg, where he was sojourning in the hope of regaining his shattered health. For several months past there had been reports of the Baron's health sufficiently serious to alarm his countless friends in Europe and America, but the news of his decease will nevertheless come as a distinct shock.

It is probable that no Ambassador has become so popular in the American capital as the late nobleman. Lord Pauncefort may be put forward as a parallel, and it would perhaps be invidious to make a close comparison, but Baron Sternburg's unfailing geniality, tact, and courtesy endeared him to all with whom he came in social or official contact. His intimate friendship with President Roosevelt is too well-known to need further remark, and it is current talk in Washington that the present close relations of friendship between the United States and Germany were largely created as a result of the morning rides of the President and the German Ambassador in the park at Washington.

A cable from New York announces that Monday's evening papers contained warm tributes to the dead diplomat's popularity and ability, and that expressions of grief are heard on every hand in Washington social and diplomatic circles. The German Government will be hard pressed to find a worthy successor to Baron Sternburg, who faithfully served the interests of his country during his life, and added more than one link to the chain of mutual amity between two great nations of the Old World and the New.

President Roosevelt telegraphed the following message of condolence to the German Chargé d'Affaires at Washington, Graf v. Hatzfeldt-Wildenburg. "I am shocked and grieved by the news of the death of the German Ambassador. He was not only my intimate personal friend and the most sincere and trustworthy man whom I have ever met, but also a diplomatist of eminent abilities who served Germany with fervent patriotism, and at the same time showed such an intelligent friendly feeling for America that it would be hard to appreciate adequately what he has done to strengthen and broaden the bands of fellowship between the two countries. I mourn his loss on my own account and deplore it for the American people."

NAVAL VISIT TO SAMOA.

San Francisco, August 24.
Seven cruisers belonging to the Pacific fleet, towing an equal number of torpedo-boat-destroyers, have left here on a cruise to Hawaii and Pago Pago (Samoa).

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

THE WRIGHT AEROPLANE.

Paris, August 24.
The weather was too stormy for Mr. Wilbur Wright to make an ascent today. He is rather unwell, and suffering from fever.
(Continued on page 2.)