REVIEW

Almost since the inception of *Red and White* there has adorned the first page of every issue a poem from the gifted pen of Mrs. Lucy Gertrude Clarkin. It was ever a gem amidst coarser rock, a drop of precious metal amidst the dross of its surroundings. Sometimes it expressed but a shadowy thought; sometimes it breathed encouragement to the student, as he groped lamely into an uncertain future; sometimes it was delightfully mystical, and revealed what hours of meditation had been spent on divine truth, how familiar with and steeped in the mysteries of the God-Man is that mind; always it was poetry, pure, simple, beautiful.

These, as were her other poems, were written in the spare moments of a wife and mother; in the calm between storms of racking pain; yes, often, (at the request of *Red and White* editors), in the very midst of sickness itself. This issue appears without its familiar poem due to sickness in the family of Mrs. Clarkin, which has bid her go for a time to the sunnier South. *Red and White* tenders her its deepest appreciation and gratitude for her priceless favors of the past. At the same time it expresses the sincere hope that she may be strengthened under the heavy cross she bears, and may ever remember it is but the "Shade of His hand outstretched caressingly."

The Imperial Conference of 1930

In October of the present year representatives of the British Dominions convened in London, for the purpose of arranging constitutional and economic relations within the Empire.

Although the definite accomplishments of the late Conference are rather vague, the general outcome presents great potentialities, the realization of which would mean most favorable results. For this reason, I think we may say, without too much optimism, that the Conference has attained a measure of success. Some will even go so far as to say that the Imperial Conference of 1930 will go down in British History as one of the major political events of the post-war period.

At any rate, if the results do not measure up with the expectations, it cannot be attributed to lack of action on the part of the Dominion representatives. Led by the dynamic Mr. Bennet, the Dominion premiers made definite proposals; and the fact that these were not accepted was due to the reluctance of the Labor Government of Great Britain to take any definite action.

To understand this procedure, we must know something of the existing conditions which confronted the Dominion representatives on their arrival in England. In the first place, conditions in India were causing alarm, as well as upheavels in different parts of Europe. England was confronted with the greatest unemployment problem in years. The McDonald Cabinet, with Snowden, Graham, and Alexander,—unwavering free-traders of the period,—were naturally attacked for the general depression of industry. And finally, the Conservative Government under Stanley Baldwin was using all available means to increase its standing, and lay the planks of the platform for a nearby election. For these reasons, the Government of Great Britain was not in a position to face the issues before the Conference.

The main constitutional questions were concerning problems which had been left over from the 1926 Conference. The effects of British statutes on Dominion legislation were discussed. Although most of the questions along these lines were unanimously agreed upon, the passing of some of these resolutions necessitated an amendment to the Constitutional acts of the Dominions. For this reason, a tentative statute was drawn up passing all of these amendments on condition that the various Dominions were agreeable. A long discussion took place concerning the appointment of the Governor Generals of the Dominions. It was finally agreed that the Governor Generals should be appointed on the advice of the Government of the Dominion concerned, after direct consultation with the King.

However, to the surprise and confusion of the Government of Great Britain, these questions were soon dispensed with, for a consideration of the more important economic questions before the Conference. The "Blunt Mr. Bennet" clearly exposed the present drift towards economic disentegration, candidly advanced Canada's position, frankly expounded his preferential tariff scheme, and proposed a

question to the Labor Government which it dare not answer directly.

In the effects of this speech lie, to a great extent, the results of the Conference. Mr. Bennet became the leading figure. He spoke not to the representatives at the Imperial Conference, but to the people of Great Britain; and their reaction will only be revealed by their manner

of voting at the next general election.

Mr. Bennet asked for a tariff on foreign wheat. Mr. McDonald's emphatic pronouncement, "we cannot do it," will have its effect. In any case, Mr. Bennet has created a new and more personal interest in trade development within the Empire, and a growing doubt in the minds of the people as to the advisability of standing by their free trade policy. This may be regarded as the most hopeful development of the Conference.

The next result is the concession that the existing tariff preferences of Great Britain to the Dominions will

be continued for at least three years.

Finally, it has been agreed to adjourn the Conference to meet again at Ottawa within the next year. In the meantime, alternative plans as a substitute for the scheme of tariff preferences will be discussed; a Government more in sympathy with trade preferences may gain control of power in England; so that the next meeting of the Conference is looked forward to with great interest.

Choose an author as you choose a friend.—Roscommon

One cannot always be a hero, but one can always be a man.—Goethe.

The surest way not to fail is to determine to succeed
—Sheridan

Nothing can be truly great which is not right. -Johnson

From Thee, great God, we spring, to Thee we tend, Path, motive, guide, original and end.

—Longfellow