

The Sun

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MONDAY, JUNE 22, 1914.

OUR NEW KNIGHTS.

To Premier Borden, Hon. George E. Foster, Mr. J. A. M. Aikins and Hon. Adam Beck, of the Ontario legislature, congratulations are extended by The Sun on their entrance into the distinguished circle of knights of the empire whose honors were secured "with unhatched rapiers and on carpet consideration." Mr. Borden's title was looked for as inevitable, but some surprise will be manifested at the selection of Mr. Foster for this favor. However, the knighthood will be more valuable to the minister of trade and commerce than to the premier. To Sir George Foster the members of his own party who have long held an invincible hostility to him on personal grounds will perhaps be disposed to show more consideration than they did to the untitled politician. They will forgive and forget his former sins, no doubt, since he has won recognition from his sovereign.

Why Mr. Aikins, of Winnipeg, should have been chosen for this honor from among so many aspirants it is difficult to perceive unless it is because of his curious conclusions on his return last year from Germany as to the existence of an emergency. That Mr. Beck has been created a knight may be taken as indicating that he is still in line for the high commissionership.

What the Canadian public will desire to know is, why the head of the political machine, the corruptor of constituencies and the winner of elections—Hon. Robert Rogers—has been overlooked?

GOVERNMENT AND THE HINDUS.

While it is undoubtedly the duty

well in the case of the Japs, should be extended to the Hindus, and he intends at the next session of parliament to introduce a measure to this effect.

We confess that we like Mr. Stevens much better in his role of total exclusionist than in his new presentation. He then voiced the views of the great body of British Columbians on this question, while now he is simply trying to help his government out of a nasty situation at the expense of the people whose interests he was elected to serve. British Columbians are opposed to the admission of five hundred or five Hindus each year. Mr. Stevens' proposal means the creation and constant increase of a permanent Hindu settlement in British Columbia. It might be long in growing to proportions that would render it dangerous to the white population, but the time would assuredly come when the whites of the province would anathematize the indifference or shortsightedness of the legislators who had permitted the formation of the nucleus of a Hindu population. Mr. Stevens need not be seriously afraid that total exclusion will lead to widespread revolt in India. People well acquainted with that part of the empire say that the agitation for admission to the colonies is confined to a few irreconcilables, and that the great body of the people take little interest in the matter. But if it were otherwise, there would be so much the more reason why Canada and especially this part of Canada should stand firmly against any measure which would permit and encourage the creation of a permanent Hindu community in the Dominion.

MR. MARTIN RETURNING.

The intelligence from London that Mr. Joseph Martin will abandon British politics and return to this province to enter public life here, is disturbing. Of course, the fact that Windermere is authority for the report lays it somewhat open to question, but even Windermere may occasionally be right, and his unqualified statement that Mr. Martin has placed his resignation in the hands of the speaker, a statement that would scarcely be made unless it were easily susceptible of proof, lends some degree of likelihood to the story.

When British Columbia gave Mr. Martin to the empire it did not want him back. It gave him to the public life of the mother country with the best good will. It realized that politics there were in such a state of agitation that no factor however aggressive would be likely to add to the existing disquiet; but it felt sure that if any single individual could increase the unsettled condition, Mr. Martin was the man. Canadians had had so much experience of him during a quarter of a century that they estimated him at his true worth. Nor has Mr. Martin disappointed them since he has been a member of the mother of parliaments. He has, in fact, realized their highest expectations. He has not deviated either from the course which he pursued in this country. He has quarrelled with his own party and embarrassed them as much as lay in his power. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was not more an object of Mr. Martin's eager attacks while he was in the Dominion than Mr. Asquith has been since "Fighting Joe" became member for East St. Pancras. And

never, therefore, secure entrance to public life. So if he comes, and the probability is he will come, he will be welcomed back, not, of course, with a brass band or any similar violence of demonstration, but quietly as by a community who perceive that in him they have one who will furnish them with entertainment and add to the gaiety of life on this distant frontier of the empire.

favor. However, the knighthood will be more valuable to the minister of trade and commerce than to the premier. To Sir George Foster the members of his own party who have long held an invincible hostility to him on personal grounds will perhaps be disposed to show more consideration than they did to the untitled politician. They will forgive and forget his former sins, no doubt, since he has won recognition from his sovereign.

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✓ GOVERNMENT AND THE HINDUS.

While it is undoubtedly the duty of the Dominion immigration authorities to avoid as far as possible embarrassing the imperial government in their handling of the problem which has been created by the attempt of Gurdit Singh and his associates to force the Hindu passengers of the Komagata Maru on this province, it is still more their duty to make it clear that under no circumstances will they be allowed to land and take up their residence here. There has been a disposition shown by the government to dally with the question so far. Mr. Borden, it is true, has said that the Hindus will not be permitted to land, but neither Mr. Borden nor any of his associates appear to have great confidence in the inviolability of their order-in-council to cover the case, and their attitude in this respect has naturally inspired those acting on behalf of the Hindus with the hope that a way will be found to overcome the obstacles to the entry of these people.

At no time has the government adopted a decisive tone in referring to the question of Hindu immigration, and the Hindus have every justification if they believe that a little stronger pressure is all that is required to gain their object. This belief must be strengthened by the loose and unauthorized proposals of Mr. H. H. Stevens, the Vancouver representative in the Dominion house. Mr. Stevens last year was a "no surrender" exclusionist. Nothing would satisfy him but the erection of barriers which would entirely prevent the residence of Asiatics among us. He found fault with the Lemieux act because it opened the gate even to the slight extent of admitting some five hundred Japanese yearly, and severely criticised the former Laurier government for not standing out for a total exclusion law when Great Britain entered into her alliance with Japan. But for some reason Mr. Stevens has changed his opinion, and he now thinks that the Lemieux arrangement, having worked

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It can thus be seen that Mr. Martin's career in imperial politics, short though it has been, has been distinctly successful. If he missed power and influence he gained notoriety and caused trouble. Like a wise man, too, he understands when he has completed his task. He perceives that his work is done. The combination of forces against him is too strong for him and it is useless for him to try to make headway against a plot for his elimination. He cannot get a word in edgeways in the house; the speaker overlooks him and the whips ignore him. So, as Windermere tells us, he has decided to withdraw; to shake the dust of the imperial parliament off his boot soles and come back to British Columbia.

This would be a serious outlook for us were Mr. Martin taken as seriously here as he is in East St. Pancras. In that event he might be instrumental in giving a continuance of life to the McBride government. But luckily he is regarded in this province now as a jest, politically. The public like to hear him rail on the platform, and flock to hear him. But he does not influence their votes and he can