

Carpenter Interviews New Zealand's Premier

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WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Jan. 2.—
(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—
I have had an interview with Hon. Richard Seddon, the premier of New Zealand. The premier in the great governments of Europe ranks somewhat as our secretary of state. The premier of New Zealand is the head of the government; this means he is the head of everything. Think of a country where the railroads, the telegraphs, the telephones, the savings banks, the chief life insurance companies and a score of other things are run by the state. Let there be large car shops and machine shops filled with government employes. Let the government have stock in the biggest banks; let it put its fingers into the management of the farms, the factories and the mines, and do a dozen other such things that no other government has ever attempted and you have some idea of this institution in New Zealand.

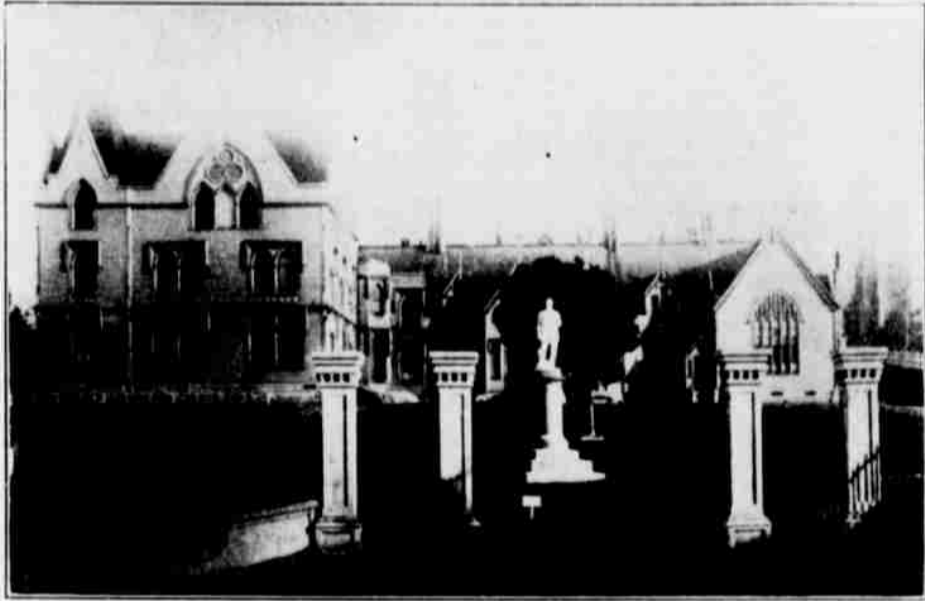
The head of this government is Hon. Richard Seddon. He is more its president than McKinley is the president of the United States. He is the leader of the house and he almost controls parliament. He can to a certain extent make his own laws and he is pushing forward new schemes of all kinds without regard to precedent or history. It is he who for years has been at the head of the socialistic movements in New Zealand. He is the man behind the new laws which relate to labor and capital and at the head of the party which is now cutting up the large, unproductive land holdings of the rich and dividing them at the lowest possible rates of ownership requirement among the poor.

Pen Picture of Premier Seddon.

New Zealand prides itself on being the workingman's country, and Richard Seddon prides himself on being its representative. He is a man of the people. He was born in England, the son of a Lancashire farmer. He learned the trade of an engineer, and when as a boy, about fifty-six years ago, he first came to Australia, he worked in the railroad shops. Later on he went to the gold fields at Bendigo, and there dug in the mines with his own hands. His friends sometimes call him "Digger Dick," though all traces of the roughness of his mining life have long since passed away. Mr. Seddon worked in the Australian mines for three years, and then came to New Zealand to try his luck on the gold fields of the

colonies came up, and I asked Mr. Seddon whether he thought that such movements would not eventually dissolve the British empire.

He replied: "I think not. I believe that the empire will grow stronger. I look, in fact, for union rather than dissolution. I believe that we will eventually have a federation of all English-speaking peoples. The time will come when Great Britain and her colonies and the Americans and their colonies will be united in almost every



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movement. Our interests are the same. We have the same language and the same ideas as to God, man and the universe. We are of the same race, and blood is thicker than water."

"What will this union be?" I asked.

"It will be a union upon broad lines. Each government will manage its own local affairs, but we will all work together as to matters humanitarian and commercial.

"Today the relations of New Zealand with Great Britain are to a large extent sentimental ones," the premier went on.

"We have a governor appointed by the queen, but his office is as a social and patriotic connecting link rather than of an executive or legislative nature. The governor has the power of life and death as to criminals condemned to capital punishment. He can pardon in such cases if he chooses. He has also a say in matters which concern Great Britain and the colonies, but in most things he can only file objections and refer matters to the premier for settlement.

"The New Zealander looks upon the governor largely as the guest of the colony. We invite him here as the representative of the queen, and as such pay him a salary. This salary is now about \$25,000 a year. I am in favor of increasing it to \$35,000, as at present it is not large enough to more than pay the governor's expenses in the way of social entertainment. Our last three governors have resigned and gone back home complaining that their incomes were too small for the position. It will probably be increased."

"New Zealand showed its love for the mother country in the Boer war?" said I.

"Yes," replied the premier. "We sent them men, money and supplies. Some of our best boys crossed the ocean to fight the Boers, my son among the number. We also offered to send troops to China, and we are always ready to fight for old England whenever she needs us. Every one here talks about England as home. This is so not only of those who are born there, but of their sons and grandsons born in New Zealand."

New Zealand and the United States.

"How do New Zealanders feel toward us, your excellency?" I asked.

"The New Zealanders are very friendly to the Americans. Sometimes I think we are more friendly to you than you are to us. I have been in the United States several times, and I find considerable anti-English sentiment there. This is natural because of your large immigration from other parts of Europe, some of which is inimical to the English. You are, however, an English people, and the predominant elements among you will always be for England.

"What I don't like," continued Premier Seddon, "is that some of your school books seem to encourage a hatred of England. You speak derogatorily of us in your school histories and rather encourage your children in a belligerent feeling. I know that England treated you badly in your colonial days, and I don't wonder that you broke away from her. Had I been an American colonist I should probably have been one of the rebels, but England has long since acknowledged that her actions in respect to you were a mistake. She has repented, as it were, in sackcloth and ashes, and I think the matter should be dealt with in something of an explanatory way in the school books. You should sow the seeds of brotherhood in the souls of your children, rather than those of enmity. As it is, our people, young and old, look upon the Yankees as brothers. I think we are, perhaps, more friendly than the people of England. Our children know your patriotic songs, and upon holidays there are many American flags displayed. We felt a deep interest in your war with Spain, and we rejoiced over

your victories, I venture, almost as much as your own people did. We were also a little hurt at your friendship with the Boers, but we attribute the action of your government largely to the necessities of politics rather than to any ill feeling toward England.

A Union of Trade Interests.

"As an evidence of the friendship of New Zealand toward the United States, take the matter of trade between the two countries," the premier continued. "We are buying more and more of your goods every year. We have doubled our imports within the last three years and our American purchases now amount to \$750,000 annually. I think they will soon be \$5,000,000 per annum and that there is a possibility of a considerable increase over that."

"Our government here is buying railroad

import on the average about \$60 worth of goods per head, or \$300 worth per family. We buy more than \$40,000,000 worth of goods per year from outsiders and we buy just the things you sell. No, I don't think you work the trade half as well as you might."

"And then I think you might grant us some favors in the way of trade," Premier Seddon went on. "New Zealand and the United States could make reciprocity treaties which would be to the benefit of each and to the injury of neither. As it is by your tariff and intercoastal trade you are shutting us out of Hawaii. You are keeping one of the chief New Zealand steamship lines out of that market. You ought to make an exception in this case and we could grant you favors in return. We have certain kinds of wool which you cannot raise and which you might admit at a lower rate of duty. On the other hand, we could make reductions as to tariff on certain of your manufactures which we have to import."

"Our new possessions in the Pacific bring us much closer to New Zealand, your excellency."

"Yes, they do," said the great New Zealand boss. "Your new colonies make the United States our next door neighbor. It is only a five days' trip from here to Tutuila and with the new steamers which the Spreckels line has added we are only ten days from Hawaii and not much more than two weeks from San Francisco. Australia and the Philippines have direct steamboat connections, and, in fact, we are fast becoming one great Pacific family."

Premier Interviews McKinley.

"As to Hawaii," said the premier of New Zealand, "I was rather glad that the Americans got possession of it, although my first idea was that it should be under the dual control of England and the United

(Continued on Eighth Page.)

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RICHARD SEDDON, PREMIER OF NEW ZEALAND—PHOTOGRAPH PRESENTED BY HIM TO MR. CARPENTER.

west coast. It was there he first engaged in politics. He was elected mayor of his town, and more than twenty years ago was sent to the New Zealand parliament. He has been in parliament from then until now. He is the father of the house, as well as its leader.

It was in the parliament house that I met Premier Seddon. I had letters of introduction from Washington and came there to present them. I found the premier in his seat. He was seated at the end of a long table piled with papers and documents. I presented to him by his private secretary, and he made me at home.

A description of him will be better by a photograph which he gave me during my stay. It represents the premier in his uniform as one of the highest officers of the Masonic order of New Zealand, and it is a striking likeness of him as he is today. Seddon is one of the biggest of the men of our time. He is tall, broad-shouldered and well formed. He has a big head and a strong neck. He stands firmly upon his feet and he is as stout as our own President McKinley. He has a fair complexion, light brown hair and beard and eyes of cerulean blue. His features are a sort of a cross between those of James A. Garfield and Benjamin Harrison, leaning strongly toward Garfield. He has more of Garfield than Harrison in his makeup. The blood in his veins is warm and his nerves are alive with personal magnetism. His big head teems with ideas and his tongue has ball bearings in the expression of them.

Federated Australasia.
The subject of the federation of New Zealand and its islands and of the Australian



LIEUTENANT SEDDON, THE PREMIER'S SON, IN HIS SOUTH AFRICAN UNIFORM.

do so. I urged the matter, saying that I could not wait three years for my engines, and, that while the English engines might be better than the American ones, it would pay us better to take their engines even though they lasted only half as long. The reply was that they could do nothing. The result was I sent the order to the Baldwins, who told me I could have what I wanted within three months, and the result was that I gave them the job. This is one of the great mistakes that the English manufacturers are making. They do not realize that they can't afford to allow their customers to go elsewhere to trade. They do not seem to know that if they lose them once they may never come back.

"They act the same in all branches of manufacture, and it is to my mind a very serious matter in the future of England's industrial condition."

More Yankee Drummers Needed.
"Tell me, Mr. Seddon," said I, "how we can increase our trade with New Zealand?"
"I think you are doing very well as it is," said the premier. "But you can do better if you will send out more commercial travelers to study this market and introduce your goods. We prefer to buy, if we can, of our home factories, but we are always ready for a good thing and a new thing, and you have many such. Your people have no idea of the value of the Australasian market. You look upon our population as small; it is small in comparison with that of some of the Asiatic countries, and you waste your time in talking about China and South America. You do not seem to realize that this is one of the chief-spending populations of the globe. Our people dress well and they will have luxuries. Our laboring classes live as well, if not better, than those of any other country. We annually

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