

THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER

Board of Works dec03

"THAT GOD IN ALL THINGS MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST." Peter.

VOLUME LI.

ST. JOHN AND FREDERICTON, N.B., SEPTEMBER 16, 1903.

No. 37.

Editorial Outlook

A HOST OF WOMEN.

In the next election in Australia the women voters will be a great host. It is said that more than 850,000 women have registered. This great increase of voters has introduced such uncertainties into the election that even experienced politicians find themselves unable to forecast the result.

"PRISONER OF THE VATICAN."

Whether the present Pope will continue the absurd fiction of pretending to be "the prisoner of the Vatican" is not known. It is supposed, however, that he will do so, even though it be against his personal wish. He is no more a prisoner than the freest man in the world, and may go wherever he chooses. But it suits the papacy to have "the faithful" regard him as suffering imprisonment.

TEACHERS' UNION.

The New Brunswick Teachers' Union has for its special object the improvement of the salaries of teachers. It has issued a circular setting forth that in Albert Co., where it was organized, nearly every teacher is in the organization, and that it has a foothold in Sunbury, York, Westmorland, Queens, Kings and St. John Counties. It appeals to teachers in every part of the province to enroll themselves. Teachers are certainly poorly paid, and the movement for better remuneration should be encouraged.

AFRICA OR PALESTINE.

The proposal of the British Government to set apart a portion of British East Africa for colonization by Hebrews was not received with unanimous favor by those in whose behalf it is made. Many of the Zionists who have in mind the settlement of Palestine and the re-establishment of the Jewish nation there, oppose the East Africa colonization scheme. But by a considerable majority, the Zionist Congress voted to send a commission to East Africa to investigate. The Russian members objected strongly.

A WRONG IMPRESSION.

Somebody in St. John told Rev. C. M. Sheldon that many churches in the city were closed Sunday evenings during the summer, because no congregations could be gathered. At least, that is what he understood somebody to say, and he has been repeating the statement in his addresses. A California minister, who had visited St. John, heard Mr. Sheldon make the statement, and was surprised for he had not observed the

condition Mr. S. spoke of. He wrote to St. John about it, and the matter came before the Evangelical Alliance of the city last week, and the secretary of the Alliance was instructed to write Mr. Sheldon correcting the error.

SUNDAY REST.

Normany has the most complete Sunday rest of any of the European countries. All stores, offices, factories, and liquor shops are closed from 5 p. m. on Saturday till 8 a. m. on Monday. Since 1892 no newspapers have been printed on Sunday, and since 1895 no bread has been baked on that day. In Christiania, street cars do not run on Sunday mornings, nor are letters distributed on that day, as in most European countries. Since 1890 a special appropriation has been made to the railroads (State property) with the express purpose of so adding to the number of employes that each may have one Sunday in three for rest. All these laws are made in the interest of working people and of family life.

THE BRITISH POST OFFICE.

The Postmaster General of Great Britain has just issued his report. It includes a report of the P. O. Savings Bank. The year's business in both departments was very large. The Savings Bank deposits in the year amounted to upwards of 42 millions sterling, and the present time there is standing at the credit of depositors no less a total than \$144,605,088. Postal orders and money orders were much in favor during the year, there having been issued 93,268,000 of the former, and 14,531,424 of the latter, with values respectively of £32,900,000 and £45,402,495. It is surprising to read that nearly twenty-five and a half millions of letters could not at first be delivered last year, because the addresses were incorrect or insufficient, or because no address at all was given, and that 367,579 postal packets, containing about £17,000 in coin and bank notes were without proper address.

"FREEDOM" IN RUSSIA.

Not long ago a good deal was said about the "new era" of religious liberty that was about to be enjoyed in Russia, by the beneficent will of the Czar. Perhaps the Czar means to improve conditions, but if so, he does not seem to be able to have his wishes enforced. The new criminal code gives a better idea than any announcement about the Czar's wishes or intentions of Russia's plan of religious freedom. For instance: If a peasant has a child baptized with any other than the Greek rite, he may be imprisoned for one year. If any preacher or colporter succeeds in converting a

member of the Greek Church to Protestantism, he also is liable to be imprisoned for a year. Not only so, but if such a convert publicly announces his change of faith he may be fined 300 rubles, and in addition be punished as a schismatic. Since the Czar promulgated his famous decree of toleration, Protestant pastors have been sent to Siberia for their labors in Russia.

"RACE SUICIDE."

What is called "race suicide," in other words the decadent birth-rate, increasingly apparent in some of the most advanced communities, is attracting a good deal of attention. Amongst other forms of inquiry, there has been in a section of New York city an investigation into the relation of the birth-rate to the religions of the people. The results are curious. It was found, for example, that the average number of children in the Protestant families was 1.85, in Roman Catholic 2.03, and in the Hebrew 2.54. Only 16.6 per cent. of Jews were without children, while the figure for Protestants was 28.3 per cent. The figures are certainly interesting, but it is doubtful whether any reliable deductions can be made from them. But the problem, wherever the solution may lie, is becoming an increasingly serious one for civilization. That the higher races should diminish, while the lower ones, by sheer multiplying, take their place, would in the long run bring on the most terrible of disasters.

OBLITERATED.

A little European republic has recently been obliterated, having passed into the control of Belgium. It was barely one and a half square miles in extent, with a population of 2,500, and was known as Altenburg or Moresnet. It was a nook where Holland, Belgium and Prussia meet. Both Belgium and Prussia claimed the territory, but in 1816 they agreed to let the inhabitants rule themselves, and since then they have practically been a republic governed by an elected mayor and ten councilmen. Trade was free and the people were exempt from military duty. The community prospered until a few months ago, when some gamblers obtained the consent of the councilmen to erect and open a gambling pavilion in the place. The gamblers were to build electric railroads to neighboring towns, to maintain parks, etc., and to share with the inhabitants the profits of the gambling tables. The place became quite notorious. Now that Belgium has, by purchase from Prussia, become owners of it, perhaps it may cease to be a gambling centre.

NOTES.

General Miles, who recently retired from the command of the United States army, is a Baptist.

The most southerly Women's Christian Temperance Union in the world is at the Bluff, New Zealand.

The English people who came to Canada under the leadership of Mr. Barr, and then deposed him, are said to be doing very well now.

Dowie is now proposing to invade Utah to convert the Mormons.

King Menelek, of Abyssinia, is reported seriously ill. His death might cause serious complications.

The bill lately introduced into the New Zealand Parliament provides for the daily reading of a portion of the Bible and questions thereupon, with the use of the Lord's Prayer, at the opening of the public schools.

Some English Roman Catholic lord was interviewing Sir Wilfrid Laurier the other day, desiring to secure the cooperation of Canada in the attempt to change the coronation oath. Canada will probably mind its own business.

Lord Salisbury's funeral cost only \$70. He had expressed a wish that the arrangements be inexpensive, not exceeding \$100. The example is good.

The Canadian Immigration Department is arranging for a special crusade in Belgium and France.

What Others Say.

SPOILS THEIR JOKE.

President Roosevelt, passing through New York City on his way to Syracuse with mounted police ahead of him, secret service men beside him, and reserves all around him, seems to blunt the point of the joke which funny men have been poking at the timid Czar of Russia for so many years.—*Boston Herald*.

ONE EFFECT.

As long as denominational forces divide Christians from each other, so long will many in the world be separated from Christ.—*The Free Baptist*.

IT DOESN'T WORK.

One who has tried it confesses that wire-pulling done by a candidate for the ministry doesn't work. Well, we are glad of it. We might have told him so, and saved him the trouble.—*Christian Register*.

THE REMEDY.

There are a great many dyspeptic Christians in the church. They are bilious and disappointed, and hopeless, and useless, except as through their prolonged grumbling they are the means of grace to the pastors and the workers. They are religious dyspeptics. Spiritual activity is the only remedy for them.