

# THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER

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

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## Editorial Outlook

### A SHIP CANAL.

A plan for a ship canal through Scotland, from the Firth of Forth to the Clyde, has received the approval of the British Government. The estimated cost is \$50,000,000. The advantages of such a waterway are both commercial and military. It has often been talked of. Probably it will now be pushed to completion.

### WITHOUT WINE.

It is announced that a naval officer recently wrote King Edward requesting that he issue an order to the effect that when his health was drunk at banquets and celebrations it would not be held necessary for those drinking to take wine. His Majesty replied through his secretary that the Lords of the Admiralty probably would not like his interfering by issuing orders, but he would be glad to have it circulated privately that he considered a toast as much honored by those drinking it in water as by those using wine.

### POLITICAL NEWS.

The final returns in Manitoba show elected 33 Conservatives and 7 Liberals.

*Le Soleil*, which is understood to be the Quebec organ of the Premier, advises an immediate dissolution of Parliament, and an appeal to the country on the Government's G. T. P. scheme.

Mr. C. E. Tanner, M. P. P., of Pictou, has been appointed Conservative organizer for Nova Scotia; and Hon. L. P. Pelletier and Hon. M. F. Hackett have been appointed for Quebec Province.

### WON'T BE VACCINATED.

The Montreal health office has just issued a report showing that in that city during the school year 1902-3, no less than 2,992 pupils left various public schools, academies and private schools rather than receive vaccination. The law requires that all pupils attending school shall be vaccinated. The attempt to enforce it shows how strong a feeling there is against vaccination, and amongst what class of people. In many cases the teachers sympathized with the opposition to vaccination, some of them going so far as to allow pupils to return to school without being vaccinated. The great majority of those refusing vaccination are French, and are in the schools conducted by the Catholic Church.

### THE ALASKAN BOUNDARY.

It is not nice to think of, and yet it is not difficult to believe that the three United States members of the Alaska Boundary Commission are under instructions from the U. S. Government to refuse to yield a jot of the U. S. contention no matter what evidence is presented. Before their appointment, each had declared his views on the question in the strongest terms, which is, probably, the reason they were chosen. The English Commissioners are judges, and from anything they have ever said, are not known to have opinions on the question. They bring open minds to the consideration of the evidence that will be presented.

### NEEDS A GUARDIAN.

In a letter in the *London Times*, Mr. Andrew Carnegie undertakes to dispose of Mr. Chamberlain's Imperial preferential trade scheme. Because it would not be pleasing to the United States, it would, he thinks, be harmful to England. He says: "President Roosevelt wouldn't hesitate a moment in closing American ports to Canadian ships, now thrown generously open in winter, if discrimination, meaning a preferential tariff against the United States, were inaugurated. It is impossible for Great Britain to discriminate in favor of Canadian products against American trade without inaugurating a war of tariffs in which Great Britain will suffer defeat."

Mr. Carnegie is a good deal of a simpleton in some respects. He is much in need of a guardian.

### JAPAN'S PROGRESS.

Fifty years ago Japan was about as much a hermit nation as Thibet is today. She had no foreign commerce, was not represented in other countries, and was wholly averse to foreign ideas. In the fifties a commercial treaty was made with the United States, and in 1860 diplomatic relations with European nations began. Since that time Japan's progress has been most surprising. As the *Evangelist* says, the nation "has sprung from medieval barbarism into a prominent place among civilized nations of the world. Never before has such a transformation been effected in so short a time. Even the old religion, which is always the most potent of the conservative forces at such a time, is giving way, and it is for the Christian world to see that Japan is brought from superstition to true religion, instead of falling into infidelity in this critical tran-

sition period. If this point can be guarded, the future of Japan as one of the world's great nations and as the dominant influence in the Orient is assured.

### THE CANTEEN.

In his last report, General Miles, the commanding general of the United States army, says the discontinuance of the liquor selling feature of the canteen has been beneficial to the army. This testimony from so high an authority is of great value. The *Presbyterian Witness*, commending it to the attention of the Canadian militia authorities, says it is publicly stated that liquor is freely used at seven "bars" in the Halifax armories "Ought it to be so? Ought not the militia department to be cleansed from top to bottom, and saved from the danger of becoming a hotbed of dissipation and a source of ruin to young men? The W.C.T.U. and other organizations have earnestly contended for the cleansing process which we have suggested. To what extent they have been successful we are not aware; but it seems to be true that to this day in the Halifax armories there are virtually "seven bars." . . . It will be remembered that the record of the Canadian regiment, which spent a year or two in Halifax garrison, was not by any means glorious. The cause of trouble in nearly all instances was the ignoble passion for strong drink. Will it be creditable to Canada if our militia should be saturated with the same evil passion?"

And the Fredericton canteen would be improved by investigation—and abolition.

### NOTES.

John Alexander Dowie, who claims to be "Elijah," has been fined \$2,000 for libel of a man in Chicago. It is Dowie's custom to abuse everybody who differs from him.

Hon. Thos. Johnson, M. P. P. for Shelburne Co., in the Nova Scotia Legislature, died in Halifax last Thursday. He had been a member of the Legislature for nearly forty years.

Some of the great department stores in New York and other large cities have added a liquor selling department. To this is attributed the increase of intemperance amongst women.

The Dominion Elections Committee has decided to recommend to the house a law providing for compulsory voting at elections.

A delegation of Roman Catholics

of Winnipeg is at Ottawa pressing the Government for another settlement of the Manitoba school question.

Rev. C. M. Sheldon, of Topeka, has launched a life insurance company to issue policies on the lives of Christians and total abstainers only, and all the churches of the United States are being invited to support the organization. An inducement offered is a 10 to 20 per cent. lower rate than other companies.

The Deceased Wife's Sister Bill has come to grief in the House of Commons, though it has been supported sixteen times in that body. It failed this time through the opposition of Premier Balfour. A London contemporary remarks that "Mr. Balfour was clearly afraid to offend his clerical supporters, as he doubtless now feels his government in need of all the support he can get."

The statement is made that France is about to alter its fiscal system so far as to introduce an Income Tax based on the principle that every citizen should bear his share of the country's burden.

The Czar of Russia has abolished the harshest remnants of the barbaric punishments of former times, namely, castigation with cudgels and cat-o'-nine tails, chaining to the ear and shaving the head, which were still inflicted for certain offenses on persons exiled to penal settlements or to the mines.

## What Others Say.

### WOULD BE SURPRISED.

Some ministers would be greatly surprised if they had a crowded audience to listen to their sermons or if anybody was ever converted under their preaching. — *Baptist Commonwealth*.

### TWO WAYS.

There are two ways of starving sheep. One is to give them very little or very inferior food. The other is to place good food so high that they cannot reach it.

Pastor, are you starving the sheep over whom the Lord has appointed you shepherd? If so, in which way? — *The Telescope*.

### THE REAL TROUBLE.

The trouble with Ireland, not so fully understood in this country as it should be, is that it is priest ridden. The clerical tyranny is clearing Ireland of every educated man and woman who is not forced to stay. "What is the use of being educated—what is the use of being ambitious?" asks a London writer, and he adds—"it is the bishop who makes an M. P. of you; it is the priest who has the control of the local situations and emoluments." — *Chris. Work*.