

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., DECEMBER 23, 1903.

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Editorial Outlook

ZIONISM.

The *American Israelite* thinks Zionism, the movement for the rehabilitation of Palestine by Jews, is going to pieces. For a time it was popular, and yet has a strong hold of a large section of people of the Jewish faith, but it is said to be losing ground. The majority of the Jewish papers printed in English are opposing it. There does not seem much probability of the speedy return of the Jews to Palestine.

A TRADE COMMISSION.

Mr. Chamberlain announces that a commission is to be appointed by the Tariff Reform Association to make careful inquiry into the condition of British trade in all its branches. The commission is to be non-political, and will be composed of men of the highest business standing—representatives of the United Kingdom and the colonies. This plan is a good one, and must commend itself even to those who are not yet able to see the wisdom of the trade policy proposed by Mr. Chamberlain.

THE BLIND.

The School for the Blind, at Halifax, is, evidently, doing excellent work. At the annual meeting, held a few days ago, the reports presented showed that 142 blind persons have been under instruction during the past year, of whom 87 were males and 55 females. Of these, 18 have since graduated or remained at home, making the total number registered December 1, 1903, 124. Of these, 77 are from the province of Nova Scotia, 28 from New Brunswick, eight from Prince Edward Island, and 11 from Newfoundland.

CUBAN LOTTERY.

Thoroughly characteristic of Latin and Roman Catholic countries, says the *Christian Standard*, is a bill approved by the Cuban Senate for a special lottery department to be established by the government. The bill provides that the government shall secure 70 per cent. of the prizes divided with the public in the drawings. The money received from the lottery and the sale of foreign tickets is to be applied to the pay of the Cuban army. Cuba has to come quite a distance yet in the direction of civilization. The great majority of her people are still under the blighting influence of Rome, and the low state of public morals indicated by the lottery scheme is chargeable to the influence and leadership of the Roman Catholic hierarchy.

"SLEEPING SICKNESS."

The "sleeping sickness," which periodically carries off thousands of the natives of Uganda and other sections of Africa, has greatly puzzled the British authorities. Great efforts have been made to discover the cause of the fatal disease, and, also, a remedy for it. The Royal Society of England has twice sent commissions to investigate. A report has now been issued, in which it is stated that the investigators believe that the disease is caused by a minute parasite in the blood, which, it is thought, could not be conveyed from man to man. It is suspected that the distributor of the germ is the tse-tse fly, a species of which has been found to be abundant in Uganda. Experiments are now in progress to determine whether the tse-tse carries in its blood the identical parasite which is peculiar to the disease, and whether it can pass it on to an animal. A tentative experiment already made seems to support this view, but further investigations will be required.

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IN RUSSIA.

Russia has a million and a half of Armenian subjects in the Caucasian Provinces, wrested from Turkey. As in the case of Finland, a process of "Russification" of these provinces is being carried out, and it is provoking strong protest and active resistance from the Armenians. They particularly resent the Tsar's transferring the administration of the ancient revenues of the Armenian Church from the people themselves, through their representatives, to the State. The greater part of the revenues were employed to maintain educational and charitable institutions. It was only the smaller part which served to pay the clergy, and the priest considered himself as employed by and as being at the service of his flock. Now, on the contrary, says a *Times* correspondent, it is proposed to make the priest a State official and the obedient servant of the Tsar. The independence of the Armenian Church is to be entirely abolished, the voice of the people forever silenced, and the clergy are to become the blind and subservient agents of the Tsar's government. Revolutionary movements are being stimulated by the government policy. There are frequent collisions between the people and the police, and there have been attempts to assassinate highly-placed officials.

ILLITERACY.

The percentage of illiteracy in Italy is very large. The number of Italians who can neither read or write is 53 per cent. in the south of Italy, with an even higher percentage in some of the southern provinces. One may judge of the capacity and energy of the teachers by their salaries. Only a small number of them in all Italy get over \$200 a year pay, while the great majority receive less,

one class—that which is devoted to the teaching of the poorest classes and earns only \$80 a year.

The present Minister of Public Instruction is determined to improve this deplorable condition of things. He has set about bettering the circumstances of the schoolmasters, many hundreds of whom now have to eke out their subsistence on the charity of their pupils. He expects thus to attract a better class of men for the work; and in order that the weight of the increased salary should not fall exclusively on the State, the minister will probably propose an extra educational tax on the richer classes only. To combat the general illiteracy, he intends to establish a vast number of night schools and classes for festal days when the peasants do not go to work in the fields.

POLITICAL NEWS.

Mr. C. Marten was elected by acclamation to represent Madawaska Co. in the N. B. Legislature.

Hon. Geo. E. Foster addressed three large meetings—one in Montreal Monday night, one in Toronto Thursday night, and one at Ottawa, on the Chamberlain tariff reform campaign.

The appointment of Mr. Madore, M. P., as one of the Superior Court judges of the Province of Quebec, is gazetted.

The Westmorland County Conservatives are to have a convention in Moncton on the 29th inst.

It is reported that John L. Carleton, of St. John, is to be appointed judge of the County Court in succession to Judge Stevens. It would be a strange appointment.

A report from Ottawa says the ballots for the Dominion election, numbering millions, have been printed at the Government Printing Bureau, and are ready to be dispatched to the different constituencies when the word is given.

Hector Nadeau has been gazetted registrar of deeds for the County of Madawaska in the room of Cyprien Martin, who resigned to become a candidate for the Legislature.

Queens County, P. E. I., Liberals, are to hold a convention Dec. 24 to select a candidate.

The Conservatives of Pictou, N. S., met in convention Thursday and nominated A. C. Bell, M. P., as their candidate in the approaching election.

A Montreal despatch says the nomination for St. Antoine division in that city was offered Hon. Geo. E. Foster, but he declined.

NOTES.

It is reported that Lord Dundonald will be the next Governor General of Canada.

Two English bye-elections last week resulted in the return of supporters of Chamberlain's fiscal policy.

Sir Richard Cartwright is in poor

health, and is now in a private sanitarium in Hamilton, Ont.

The editor of the *St. John Globe*, Senator Ellis, has completed forty-two years in that position. He is an accomplished journalist.

The *Montreal Witness* was sued for \$10,000 damages by one J. B. Mills, who claimed to have been damaged by an article reflecting on him as the head of a collecting agency. The jury decided that what the *Witness* said about Mills was true, and that he suffered no damage.

A Boer colony is to be established in Mexico. A large tract of land has been secured for them.

The Premier of France has announced that he will introduce a bill forbidding all teaching by religious orders. The public schools will be enlarged to meet the need.

What Others Say.

GET RIGHT.

No man can be "right with God" who is wrong with his neighbor.—*Free Baptist*.

TRUE SOLDIERS.

The best soldiers of which any nation can boast are those who have enlisted against evil and have taken up arms against the tatterdemalion ranks of vices and crimes, iniquities and infamies, and all industrial robberies and legalized debaucheries.—*United Presbyterian*.

BETTER THAN BOSTON.

One of our ministers was preaching in one of the churches in Boston some time ago, and at the close the minister invited the persons in the congregation who were from the Maritime Provinces to come forward and shake hands with the preacher, and more than 300 persons availed themselves of the opportunity. There is something better in Western Canada for our sons and daughters than in Boston. It is better to own a farm in the Canadian Northwest than to carry a hod or split wood in Boston. We have nothing but kind words for the literary hub of the United States, but the hub of the Dominion is better for Canadians.—*The Wesleyan*.

MR. FOSTER IN ENGLAND.

A gentleman in this city (Montreal) has just received from England a letter from a member of parliament, dealing with Hon. Geo. E. Foster's campaign there in the Chamberlain interest. What amazed the English statesmen was that a man from Canada should be so well versed in the Imperial idea that he could deliver twenty speeches in thirty days, and, while carrying the main theme through all, yet vary the phraseology to such an extent that the speeches were re-reported and re-read with interest.

The letter adds: "Several of the best speakers in England regard Mr. Foster's campaign as a marvellous exhibition of versatility, incisive reasoning and irrefutable logic. Chamberlain himself, I am told, regards Mr. Foster as one of the brightest minds in the British empire."—*Montreal Star*.