

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

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

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Editorial Outlook

AUTOMOBILES.

The automobile is multiplying fast. In France there are now 12,984 taxed automobiles, and more than three-fourths of them have come into use in the last two or three years. Horses decreased by nearly 22,000, and horse-drawn vehicles by no less than 245,475. Statistics of people killed and mutilated, either chauffeurs, owners, passengers, or the innocent victims of collisions, are not given.

WOLVES.

The wolves in the Russian forests are credited with the destruction of about two hundred persons yearly. Wolves are, therefore, dreaded, and shot on sight.

Several thousands of human beings are destroyed every year by the rum-sellers of this and other Christian countries. Rum-sellers are not dreaded; instead, they are encouraged and their work of destruction authorized—for a consideration.

THE C. T. ACT.

A petition to bring on a vote for the adoption of the Canada Temperance Act in Restigouche County has received the requisite number of signatures. It will in due course be forwarded to the Secretary of State with request to fix a date for the voting. It is stated that there is a growing temperance feeling in the county, and it is hoped the Scott Act may be adopted.

There is some talk of trying to have the Act adopted in St. John city.

REFORM IN RUSSIA.

The reforms in government asked for in the memorial recently presented to the Czar by the representatives of the Zemstvos (county councils), will not be secured in full now, nor any of them very soon, perhaps. But the fact that they can be urged is a sign of marked progress, and is full of promise to those who are agitating for a representative system of government. The people are awaking not only to a realization of their condition, but to a strength of purpose that has not hitherto characterized them. The success of the agitation is only a question of time—it may be a shorter time than many think.

IRELAND.

There is much distress in sections of Ireland, due to poor crops. Bishop O'Hara tells that throughout the western counties the potato crop is a total failure. And many of the small farmers have nothing with which to purchase. The bishop says: "I am positive that not more than one in a hundred of my

parishioners has any reserve to tide him through the bitterest winter predicted for years. The situation is just as bad in Connaught, Galway, Connemara and the many districts west of Mayo. A few potatoes in the ground are not worth digging. There is also a serious decrease in the production of barley and oats." All the counties in the south and west of Ireland are suffering already. When the winter sets in the distress will be keener and more widespread.

THE WAR.

The Japanese on Thursday captured "203 Metre Hill." With the capture of this fort the forces of the Russians are divided into two separate and distinct bodies, neither of which is strong enough to recapture the lost position. From this hill the warships in the harbor can be easily reached by Japanese shells and they will either be blown up where they lay or will sally forth and meet destruction at the hands of Togo's fleet. St. Petersburg admits that the capture of 203 Metre Hill is a serious blow to the defenders of Port Arthur.

Not much is known of how matters really stand between Kuropatkin and Oyama.

Russia has no idea of giving up the war. Everything has gone against her, but she is determined to keep at it. It is stated that plans have been completed for the building of one hundred war vessels at Sebastopol. The work is to be in charge of a New York shipbuilder, and several thousand United States workmen are to be employed.

THE REAPING.

The reaping is according to the sowing. France is reaping what it sowed in drinking habits. For many years the people drank, and no harm seemed to result. All the world was pointed to France as an example of moderation in drink. To drink light wines was the sure and only remedy for intemperance, we were told. But France has learned her lesson; she is now paying the penalty of her "light wines" folly. The wines created a thirst for stronger intoxicants, and now the French people are firmly in the drink curse. Drunkenness is general. The average consumption of alcoholic liquors is twice as great as any other country in Europe, except Switzerland, and eight times as great as in Canada. How destructive the drink habit is may be judged from the fact that during the last thirty years "Normandy, in France, has lost 147,000 of its people through drink." Other parts of the country have suffered loss of people at the same rate. In the whole of France in the last generation the consumption of alcoholic drinks has increased 250 per cent., while the population has in-

creased scarcely 12 per cent. These facts are a sad and suggestive commentary on the "moderate drinking" which for so long was the boast of France.

THEY ARE DISSAPPOINTED.

The temperance people of Ontario are not well pleased with the action of the government convention as to liquor traffic legislation. They expected at least the abolition of the bar, and the committee of the convention recommended it, but under the leadership of members of the government the convention rejected it. The Ontario Citizens' League has issued a manifesto expressing the strongest dissatisfaction. Leading members of the Prohibitory Alliance of the province have declared their disappointment and displeasure; the Alliance will probably issue a statement to the electorate. *The Presbyterian* speaks of the convention's action as pleasing to those financially interested in the liquor business, and to those also who regard all questions from the standpoint of their immediate effect upon elections, but "deeply disappointing to those who for years have earnestly struggled in the cause of moral reform." It regards the action of the convention as "a surrender to the liquor forces." *The Christian Guardian* is disappointed. It says:

For ourselves, we have always declared for the abolition of the bars, as the only proposition that would be acceptable to us, or, in our judgment, to the temperance majority of this province. From that position we do not propose to recede, and we hope the electors of Ontario, who gave their vote for prohibition, will still insist on the greatest measure of restriction short of it which the legislature can grant. We can only urge them in the next election to put in men, irrespective of party, who will vote to carry out their will in that regard.

CONCERNING RECIPROCITY.

Hon. Geo. E. Foster, in his speech in Boston a few days ago, gave some attention to the reciprocity question, now being so earnestly agitated in Massachusetts and elsewhere in the United States. He assured his hearers that it is not a live question in Canada now, nor is it likely to be. Fifteen or twenty years ago Canada was asking for reciprocity, but the United States, for reasons of its own, was not disposed to make an arrangement. Now the United States is anxious, and Canada does not care anything about it. Mr. Foster said:

Things have happened in Canada very rapidly, and the citizen of the United States who has not made a study of our country from the inside during the last ten or fifteen years has a very inadequate idea of what has taken place. I think one fault of the public men of the United States, if I may be allowed to

say so, is that they reason from insufficient data. They look at Canada from the outside. Just now, I see there is quite a renaissance of reciprocity feeling, in Massachusetts at least. Whether this is indicative of an awakening all over the United States, I do not know. I hope, however, that it will have the ultimate effect of moderating the American tariff on certain products, of which Canada has a surplus, and which it would be an advantage to dispose of in your market, an advantage to the Canadian producer, and a still greater advantage to the United States buyer. I think I have perceived a hint or two in some articles in your newspapers that possibly an ulterior idea underlies the present renewed agitation for reciprocity. If that is true and the purpose is to checkmate what we call the Imperial trade idea, or to extend the already immense territorial limits of the United States, I can scarcely prophesy success.

BRIEF MENTION.

There is a report that the pain in the United States minister to G. absorbs converted the Dowager-Empress's brisk friction Christian Science faith. Japan has been negotiating the use of \$60,000,000. Half of it Oil have surprised London, and the other once known, it York. In both places Try it.

The Socialistic vote of the recent Presidential election to do well." increased thirty-fold.

Bishop Greer is a presumptive Syrup statement that there is the list for all forces in the United States and lungs. It is up a cold.

What Others Say

OF COURSE HE IS.

A Christian who engages in any worldly business is honoring God. He may be just as heavenly minded in trade as in preaching the gospel.—*Dr. Porter.*

LIKE ANGLEWORMS.

There are some men so limber that you can't help them; you might as well undertake to make an angleworm stand up on end.—*Chris. Register.*

PASTORAL VISITING.

Faithful and conscientious pastoral visitation is a source of strength and inspiration to both pastor and people. By it people are made to feel that one man in the community is open to share their burdens of perplexity and care, is at hand to give assistance and light on questions that pulpit ministrations do not always adequately answer, and is a constant reminder that at stated times and places the privilege and obligation of public worship rest upon the people. By pastoral visitation, as by no other means, the pastor is fitted to deal in an intelligent and sympathetic way with the needs of the people, is made to feel the explicit purpose of his calling as he ministers in public and private to the church and community, for whose spiritual and moral welfare he lives and works, and is enabled rightly to divide the word of truth to the edification of believers and to the salvation of the lost.—*Can. Baptist.*