

# RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

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

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## Editorial Outlook

### POLITICAL NEWS.

The bye-elections last Tuesday resulted in the election of five Liberals and three Conservatives: St. John, Dr. Daniel (Con.); Queens, P. E. I., Hazard (Lib.); St. James div. Montreal, Gervais (Lib.); Hochelaga, Rivet (Lib.); St. Hyacinthe, Blanchet (Lib.); Montmagny, Lavergne (Lib.); East Bruce, Donnelly (Con.); East Lambton, Armstrong (Con.)

A provincial convention of the Liberal-Conservatives of Nova Scotia is to meet in Halifax, Tuesday, March 1st.

Mr. F. D. Monk, M. P., has requested to be relieved of the duties of leader of the Conservative party in Quebec. Poor health is given as the reason.

The Quebec Legislature will meet March 22nd.

### JEW IN PALESTINE.

The total Hebrew population of Palestine is 40,000, about 17,000 of whom are foreign born. Many of the latter live in Jerusalem, where they pursue the trades or mercantile occupations they learned in their native lands. About 7,000 of them are to be found in the 23 colonies supported in Syria and Palestine by the Jewish Colonization Association of Paris and in the embryo settlements founded in 1901 or later.

### HOW LIKE THEM.

Michael Davitt, Irish agitator, arrived in New York the other day. Asked as to the feeling of the people he represents about Russian-Japanese war, he said they strongly favored Russia. And their sole reason for this is, he said, "because England favors Japanese. . . . Whatever England favors we oppose." A lot of people in the United States are the same sort.

### A CENTENARIAN.

Hon. David Wark, Senator, whose hundredth birthday was last Friday, was the recipient of many addresses and messages of congratulation. Among them was a message from the King, by the Governor-General's Secretary, as follows:

To Hon. David Wark, Fredericton, New Brunswick.

I am commanded by the Governor General to inform you that his Excellency has received a telegram from the King, requesting him to convey to you Majesty's congratulations on the centennial of your hundredth birthday, and his satisfaction of the services which you have rendered to Canada.

Mr. Wark is the oldest legislator in the world, and retains his mental faculties and physical powers in a remarkable degree. We expressed appreciation of his high character and valuable services in an article in these columns two weeks ago, and now simply add that we hope other years may be added to his long and good life.

### UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE.

Of a proposed new universal language, Esperanto, the *Montreal Witness* says:

It is spreading rapidly. In England alone the number of those who can speak and write it is estimated at 5,000, while on the continent of Europe its progress is still more marked. At a recent meeting of the National India Association, the chairman, Sir George Birdwood, prophesied that, if the new speech became popular, all the national languages of to-day would become as dead as Latin. He was not without dread, indeed, that this might happen. Esperanto has altogether distanced its older competitor, Volapuk, but whether it will really develop into an accepted means of international communication remains to be seen. A considerable number of persons are always ready to take up a new idea; and when these have satisfied their curiosity or worked off their superfluous energy, the thing very often takes its place in the lumber-room of worn-out fads. Certainly it would be a dreary world in which we all talked to one another in an artificial speech of which no single word had an echo in the heart. It would be a terribly high price to pay for the facilitation of commerce.

### RUSSIA'S RAILWAY.

Russia's overland transportation of troops, munitions and supplies to the seat of the war is nearly 6,000 miles. Japan's base for supplies is only a few hours distant. In this respect the advantage is decidedly Japan's. Russia built the Trans-Siberian Railway and its branch line, the Eastern Chinese Railway, for such an emergency as the present. It is said, however, that the road is far from being well built, and is more like a colonization road than a trunk line. Ordinary heavy passenger and mixed trains seldom make more than twelve miles an hour, and freight trains are much slower. It is estimated that a train of soldiers and supplies would be twenty-three days from St. Petersburg to Port Arthur. The extent of Russia's dependence on this railway cannot easily be estimated.

To keep the present army efficiently in the field in Manchuria will necessitate an immense traffic. The transportation of food, for men and horses, of weapons and ammunition, formerly effected by water, will enormously increase the demands of the railway. Besides this the transportation of reinforcements must be provided for. Thus the railway must maintain a greater degree of efficiency than has yet been possible. At the same time, passing in Manchuria through a country largely hostile, it must be defended at every point. This alone will require an immense army. Russia has not solved the military problem in Asia by its railway. It has probably only increased the difficulties. The sea is the seat of power.

### SOUTH AFRICA.

The Afrikaner party in Cape Colony has been defeated. It is a good thing for the future of South Africa. The control of the government will now pass into the hands of those in sympathy with the British plans for the reconstruction

of the country. The way will now be open as the *Mail and Empire* says, for the consideration of a measure of South African federation. Out of the disjointed colonies may thus be evolved a free British Commonwealth such as Canada and Australia have achieved. This is the dream of British statesmanship, and it is a dream which does no dishonor to any section of the people of South Africa. For weal or for woe their lot is now cast with the British Empire. The greatest calamity that could have happened the people would be to give free rein to the agitators who would make political capital out of the disappointed hopes of the descendants of the Dutch. That calamity appears now to have been averted. Peaceful development and political progress are now practically assured. Cape Colony has pointed the way to South Africa's destiny.

### WAR NOTES.

War news has to be much sifted, there are so many repetitions of reports.

Russia has evidently been greatly depressed by the reverses suffered. A proclamation has been issued explaining the country's unpreparedness for war, and asking the people to exercise patience. It promises that in due time Japan will receive chastisement, that Russia will be revenged, and all that. Meantime Japan keeps busy, blowing up a ship when it gets a chance, landing troops, etc.

Korea has "granted" Japan the right to traverse the country.

Report says that the Japanese now have 120,000 men in Korea.

Tokio report says Japanese attacked Port Arthur again Feb 14 and that one Russian battleship was damaged.

It is officially announced that, so far, no Japanese vessels have been destroyed, any damages received have been repaired, and the fleet remains intact.

Report says that the Emperor of Japan has declared his intention of giving the treasures of the Palace to the war fund if necessary.

The French government has declared its neutrality.

The Chinese government has also declared neutrality.

The Russian revolutionary party is said to be taking advantage of the war to arouse the people against the government of the country. A manifesto has been issued denouncing the war and declaring that the task of the Russian people lies neither in Korea nor in Manchuria, but exclusively in Russia, where domestic reforms are pressing.

Japan is deeply stirred and resentful over the sinking of a merchant vessel by Russian cruisers. Reprisals are threatened.

Russia is evidently intending to put an immense army in the field. All the troops in Siberian military dis-

tricts are directed to be in readiness for war, and all the army and navy reserves are to be called for active service.

A late despatch says that the Russians will abandon Port Arthur, and fall back to Harbin. The abandonment, even temporarily, of a stronghold which the Russians have spent so many millions in fortifying and so many lives in defending, is calculated to increase the already growing prestige of Japan in China. Harbin is at the junction of the Port Arthur and Viadivostock branches of the Manchuria railway. It is 600 miles from Port Arthur.

The *London Telegraph* gives currency to a rumor that Germany intends to take a hand in favor of Russia should things go strongly against that country. Perhaps.

There is great activity at Woolwich and elsewhere refitting the British navy in preparation for any emergency. Similar reports of military activity come from other countries. Even Spain is preparing for possibilities.

### BRIEF MENTION.

Senator Hanna, of Ohio, whose death occurred last week, was one of the leading men of the United States. He was the late President McKinley's right hand man, and was much talked of as a possible candidate for the Presidency in the next election.

Two hundred and fifty persons were killed on Canadian railways last year—53 passengers and 186 employes.

There is quite a paper famine in Canada and the United States. Some paper mills have closed temporarily.

Some time ago a United States war vessel hoisted the American flag over certain islands off the coast of Borneo which, it was claimed, belonged to Britain. The British claim has lately been recognized.

Sydney, C. B., claims that the short route from British trade centres to Canada is by way of that port. Three days and fourteen hours from Sydney to Galway, with a twenty-three knot steamer, is what they claim—two days less than with Montreal as the Canadian port. They want the British Government to furnish a steamer for an experiment trip next summer.

The British Columbia Legislature has again passed a bill to exclude Japanese from arriving there. Previous legislation of this kind has been disallowed, and probably will be again.

Dowie is not having any better time in Sydney, N. S. W., than he did in New York. He abuses the crowd that assembles to hear him, and they shout back.

The new trans-Canadian route from Liverpool to Yokohama will be 2,200 shorter than across the United States.

Business has been seriously interfered with by the great snow blockade of the

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