

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

Board of Works dec04

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

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Editorial Outlook

THE G. T. PACIFIC.

The organization of the Grand Trunk Pacific Company was completed at a meeting in Montreal Wednesday. Mr. C. M. Hays, manager of the G. T. Railway, is president of the new company, and the other principal officers, are, also, officials of the G. T. R. President Hays announced that no construction will be begun this year. Surveying will go on.

GUATEMALA'S COFFEE.

Volcanic eruptions in Guatemala last year covered many coffee plantations, and it was believed the coffee growing industry was destroyed. Many planters abandoned their ash-covered plantations. But heavy and long continued rains followed, washing away much of the ashes and incorporating more with the soil. This year the crop of coffee is nearly double what it was last year.

TEMPERANCE IN NEWFOUNDLAND.

Under the local option provisions of the liquor laws of the province, considerable sections of Newfoundland have pretty well suppressed the liquor traffic. There is, however, a manifest desire for better things, and the agitation of the temperance people is having effect. The government has appointed a commission to investigate the working of existing laws and report to the legislature. It is hoped the movement will result in more stringent legislation.

BEER IN SWITZERLAND.

Beer drinking is increasing very rapidly in Switzerland, and with the usual disastrous effects. The official statistician has lately issued some rather alarming statements about the beer consumption. The quantity used annually is two hundred million English quarts, by a population of a little more than three millions. More than three millions pounds sterling a year is spent in this way, which is considerably more than double the cost of all the primary schools in the country. Besides the waste of the money, there is wide-spread physical and moral deterioration which cannot be tabulated.

DEVELOPMENT OF EGYPT.

A blue book just issued by the British Foreign Office contains interesting information about the development of Egypt. It contains the report of Sir Wm. C. In on the basins of the Nile. The irrigation and railroad schemes suggested by him represent an estimated expenditure of about \$107,000,000, of which \$65,000,000 will be used in the development of the Soudan. The whole irrigation plan is based broadly on utilizing the White Nile for the benefit of the Blue Nile for the

benefit of the Soudan. Lord Cromer, the British Consul-General in Egypt, says that the carrying out of the greater portion of the programme may be postponed for the present, but about \$27,000,000 should be utilized at an early date in canals for Egypt, in raising the Assouan dam, in the completion of the Skakim-Berber Railroad, and in other developments of the country, which will largely increase the revenue from taxes.

AN INSIDE VIEW.

A letter said to have been written by a Russian staff officer at the front, says that in the despatches sent to the Russian government, the force of the enemy has often been greatly exaggerated, and that the Russian troops have on more than one occasion been beaten when so far as numbers went they should have been well able to hold their own. Of the Japanese, he says that never has Russia met so dangerous an enemy, whether as regards persistence, readiness for war, or moral strength. The Russian soldier is brave, but his bravery is too closely akin to resignation, if not to indifference. The Japanese soldier is superior in discipline, and he fights for an idea which inspires him. The Russian officers are inferior, he declares, to the Japanese in professional training. They fight for the sake of tradition or distinction; but they do not consciously die for their country's sake. It is evident, he adds, upon any candid consideration of the case, that Russia is in the wrong, and that feeling depresses many. These are strange sentiments to come from a Russian staff officer. How the letter came to be published, as it was, in a Socialist organ in Germany, is something of a mystery.

THE WAR.

An exciting week. The Russian squadron attempted to escape from Port Arthur. The attempt was a failure. The vessels were dispersed, and some were badly damaged. Admiral Togo's report to Tokio says:

"On August 10 our combined fleet attacked the enemy's fleet near Gusan Rock. The Russian vessels were emerging from Port Arthur, trying to go south. We pursued the enemy to the eastward. Severe fighting lasted from one o'clock until sundown. Towards the close the enemy's fire weakened, his formation became confused and his ships scattered. The cruisers Askold and Novik and several torpedo destroyers fled to the southward. Other of the enemy's ships retreated separately toward Port Arthur. We pursued them and inflicted considerable damage. The Russian vessels, with the exception of the Askold, the Novik and Czarevitch and the cruiser Pallada, appear to have returned to Port Arthur. Our damage was slight.

The situation at Port Arthur is, apparently, nearly as bad as it can be.

There has been no important fighting

between the armies for some days. The Japanese are closing in on Liao Yang, and also preparing for an advance on Mukden, or some position north of that city.

Later news of the naval fight of the 10th inst. tells that five Russian ships were badly damaged, and that Rear Admiral Withoft, who was in command of the naval forces at Port Arthur, was killed during the engagement.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

The Health Commission of Chicago has recently published a report of much interest. It sets forth facts about diphtheria before and after the introduction of antitoxin treatment. From the report it is learned that the first antitoxin treatment in that city was given in October, 1895. Since then there have been 7,435 verified cases of the treatment. Of these 479 died, a mortality rate of not quite six and one-half per cent. The health records of the city show that the average mortality without antitoxin remains what it was before its introduction, namely, about thirty-five per cent. When antitoxin was introduced, the population of the city was 1,200,000; it is now about 1,672,000. During these years the population has increased fifty-two per cent, while the decrease of deaths from diphtheria during the same period has been over sixty-three per cent. A specially instructive part of the report relates to the higher mortality when antitoxin was not administered at an early stage of the disease. Of the 7,500 cases treated, about 600 were treated on the first day, and only two deaths occurred, a percentage of one-third of 1 per cent. Nearly 2,000 cases were treated on the second day, with a mortality rate of one and one-half per cent. Over 2,500 were treated on the third day, with a mortality rate of three and one-quarter; 14,000 cases on the fourth day, with a mortality rate of eleven per cent. The official figures leave no room to doubt the marked benefits of antitoxin treatment of the dread disease.

BRIEF MENTION.

Senator Aitkins is dead, at the age of eighty-one. He was a member of the Senate from 1869 to 1882; was governor of Manitoba from 1882 to 1888; and was re-appointed to the Senate in 1896. He was prominent in the work of the Methodist Church of Canada.

During the past few weeks it is estimated that 12,000 nuns have applied in various parts of France for domestic work. They explain that by the closing of the convents they must do something for a living.

Because of the great mortality among children in Montreal there has been established in that city, under the leadership of physicians, a Pure Milk League with free dispensaries in the crowded

districts where pure milk for babies, and advice as to their care and treatment, are freely given.

Reports are current in Europe that negotiations are being conducted between Berlin and Madrid to bring about a match between the German Emperor's little daughter and the young king of Spain. Would the German Emperor consent to his daughter becoming a Roman Catholic?

Nova Scotia's latest man-killing case is only another rum case.

Lord Curzon has been re-appointed viceroy of India.

Dowie's Zion City is said to be having an epidemic of smallpox.

The Czarina has a son, born Friday. The Czar of the Russian people are as happy as they can be with things at the seat of war going against them.

IN BEHALF OF PRISONERS.

The work done by Mrs. Ballington Booth in behalf of prisoners in the United States has been very far-reaching, and greatly blessed. Writing of it, Mrs. Curtis says:

"Did you ever think what it means to be a prisoner? The clang of the prison door shuts out not only the sunlight of the outside world, but—everything. The prisoner is a man with no flag, no country, no citizenship, no vote. If his wife chooses, she may sue for a divorce, and if his children abandon him it is called the way of human nature. What property he owns has probably been swallowed by lawyers' fees and the cost of a trial. The newspapers have flaunted his name to the world, written in letters of shame; he is helpless, friendless, desperate, presently he will be forgotten. Then he turns, with heart and faculties benumbed, to take up the hopeless round of prison labor. In his ears ring constantly the sentence, "five years," or "ten years," it is the same; it seems an eternity. When liberty comes, what is life? Then it is going out into the world where one is forgotten, branded with shame, looked upon askance, there is no trust, and seldom is there love or friendship awaiting him.

Suddenly one day, ten years ago, into such lives came a woman, young, gentle, cheerful, with a heart of the largest sympathies—and a hand ready to uplift from the darkest depths. Someone—a prisoner with his memory going back to the truest, sweetest love of a lifetime—found a name for her, it was "the little mother." Straightway that name, throughout the length and breadth of a continent, grew to mean hope, help, and loving-kindness. From a handful of men aided by this gracious hand, grew a great, splendid charity, the Volunteer Prison League, which over the chapel of every state prison flings out its white banner, bearing the words "Look up and hope."

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