

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

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

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Editorial Outlook

IN GERMANY.

Carefully prepared statistics, covering the last quarter of a century, show a steady decrease of the birth rate in the centre of population in Germany. The rate of decrease is greatest in Berlin. The authorities do not like the exhibit made by statistics.

UNDER BRITISH RULE.

The kind of liberty which is enjoyed under British rule may be judged from the fact, as stated in a recent speech, that not a single one of the 300,000,000 subjects of King Edward is in prison for treason or disloyalty, while in Russia, France and Germany thousands are either in prison or exiled for these reasons. There is no so true liberty in any country in the world as that enjoyed under the British flag.

A CHANGED POLICY.

The Vatican seems to be yielding somewhat to the government of Italy—perhaps as a step towards winning larger control later. The two popes immediately preceding the present one—Pius IX and Leo XIII, forbid their people voting in local elections. Pius X has removed the ban, and the people voted to sustain the government. It is not the people who have been disloyal to the Italian government, but the priests and the socialists—a strange combination. But changes are taking place.

REFORMS PROBABLE.

There are indications that the appeal to the Russian government for some form of representative institutions may bear fruit more promptly than has been expected. The Zemstvoist demands for a direct representative body, to make the laws of the nation will not be granted, but some medium in the form of a representative consultative body, which can voice the wishes of the people direct to the sovereign, now seems the probable outcome. There is likely, also, to be more freedom given the press.

TRANSSVAAL POLITICS.

Those who take an interest in political movements in the Transvaal are making preparations for the elections that may be held there next year in connection with the promised parliamentary institution. A Transvaal Progressive Association has been formed by what is known as the "moderate" party, those who do not regard full self-government as yet desirable. The immediate granting of complete self-government would, they think, prejudice both the economic and political inter-

ests of the country. Another party, including the anti-Chinese element, is quite as active in advocating immediate responsible government.

HIS DREAM.

Roman Catholic Bishop Archambault, of Joliette, P. Q., evidently believes Canada ought to be an independent French country. In an address, a few days ago, to the students of Laval University, he said:

Prepare yourselves to serve your country. I dream of our French Canada being rendered free and independent. When the hour comes such a result will be obtained without any commotion and I count on you to bring about this liberty and independence.

He is not the only one of his class entertaining the belief that Canada should be under French control. And what they desire they seek to bring about.

EXAGGERATED REPORTS.

That the number killed and wounded in the Russian-Japanese war is very large there is no doubt. But the casualties are not nearly so many as the reports from week to week would indicate. A German statistician has compiled the reports as given out after each engagement by both the Russian and Japanese reports, and finds that they aggregate 5,778,800 Japanese soldiers killed or wounded, while the Russians have lost 4,397,700. As in this estimate the number of casualties on either side far exceeds the whole number of all the soldiers on both sides, the discrepancy between the accounts and the facts is obvious. The actual facts are bad enough.

WOULD EXCLUDE THEM.

Labor leaders in the United States have begun an agitation to restrict Japanese immigration into that country. They urge that the Japs work more hours than the labor unions designate as a day's labor, and for less wages, and therefore interfere with the rights of American workingmen. They may not find it so easy to deal with the Japanese as they have with the Chinese. They are a different kind of people. As the *Commonwealth* suggests, "Japan is now in the ranks of civilization, and is entered as a first class power. She has demonstrated on land and sea the prowess of her arms, and is not to be considered for a moment in the same class as sleepy and non-resistant China." She is strong and alert, and would angrily resent the discrimination that the labor unions propose.

JOSEPH HOWE.

Last week, in Halifax, a statute to Joseph Howe was unveiled with fitting ceremony. There was an address by Attorney General Longley. Referring

to Howe's greatest work—the battle for responsible government, Mr. Longley said:

The battle for responsible government was fought at the same time in Upper and Lower Canada, but the people of the larger provinces lacked the leadership of the clear, richly-endowed man whom Providence bestowed upon Nova Scotia. As a consequence we find bloodshed, rebellion, loss of life and destruction of property. It was the clear, calm voice of Howe which pointed out to the people of these provinces the true lines to follow. Scarcely a man lives in the dominions beyond the seas over which the British flag floats who does not today enjoy more favorable conditions as the result of Joseph Howe's great prescience and splendid vindication of the principle of self-government.

These are true words, well spoken. Howe was for many years the idol of Nova Scotians. His latest years were somewhat embittered by the criticism of his long-time friends, because of his acceptance of confederation after it had become an established fact. He died governor of his native province.

THE JAPANESE ORGANISM.

A peculiarity of the Japanese, which makes it difficult for us to understand them, is the absence of individuality as it is understood amongst Western peoples. Every loyal Japanese sinks his own individuality so completely that he becomes part of an organism. The Mikado is officially, politically, socially, and for all administrative purposes the head of the Japanese nation. But he is much more than this. He is the actual head of an organism,—not an organization in the political sense, but an organism which has a common life. Apart from this life the individual is nothing. He has no rights, no privileges, no duties. Unless all his thoughts, plans, purposes, desires and expectations are included in the common life of the organism of which the Mikado is the visible head, he has no right to his property, his children, his wife, the graves of his ancestors, or even his own life. If he is loyal and successful, all these things belong to him, and he enjoys them. But, if he cuts himself off from the organism,—that is, from the national unity,—he forfeits all these things. But in any case he holds them in trust; and, if the need of the nation demands the sacrifice, he will give up everything that he has, not only without complaint, but with rejoicing.

POLITICAL NEWS.

The Ontario elections will be held January 25th.

Petitions under the Dominion Controversed Elections Act have been filed in Nova Scotia against J. B. Black, Harts County; F. A. Laurence, Colchester; Sir Frederick Borden, Kings;

E. M. McDonald, Pictou; Hance J. Logan, Cumberland; Wm. S. Fielding, Shelburne. All the respondents are Liberals.

James Lowell is the local government candidate for St. John County, and A. O. Shinner for St. John City. Mr. Agar is the County opposition candidate and Robert Maxwell the City candidate. The elections will be on the 30th ult.

In P. E. Island petitions were filed against the three Conservatives—Martin and McLean, in Queens, and Lefurgey, in Prince.

Petitions were filed on Saturday evening against all Liberals elected in Manitoba.

Three Ontario seats have been protested—two Conservatives and one Liberal.

There are no protests in New Brunswick.

The final count of votes in P. E. Island resulted in the defeat of Mr. Peters, leader of the government. His opponent had a majority of one.

The bye-elections for the Nova Scotia legislature resulted in the return of the government supporters.

Out of the members-elect of the House of Commons gazetted so far, nearly one-third are lawyers, the gentlemen of the legal fraternity numbering 66. From Ontario and Quebec there are an equal number of lawyers, viz., 24. Of farmers there are 24 gazetted, and of merchants 21. Manufacturers and physicians have 15 representatives each. The occupations of the rest are: Agents, 4; bankers, 1; brokers, 2; contractors, 4; distillers, 1; druggists, 1; live stock exporters, 1; fruit growers, 1; journalists, 9; lumber merchants, 13; millers, 2; miners, 1; notaries, 4; ranchmen, 2; veterinary surgeons, 1; and unclassified, 16.

BRIEF MENTION.

A new Liberal daily morning paper is to be established in St. John.

Rockefeller has made another gift to the University of Chicago—between two and three millions, to be used for a school of engineering. The price of oil may go up now.

For the seventh time General Diaz is inaugurated president of Mexico.

New York will soon be a much-tunnelled city. Her underground streets will in time be nearly as extensive as the avenues above ground. The new sub-way covers a distance of more than twenty miles. Four systems of tunnels are in process of construction.

The Board of Health of the Philippine Islands is attempting to vaccinate the seven million or more inhabitants in a systematic way.

Tuesday was the forty-third anniversary of Senator Ellis' editorship of the *St. John Globe*. The staff sent the editor a splendid bunch of carnations, numbering forty-three.