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RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

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

VOLUME LII.

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Editorial Outlook

A MENACE.

The Mormons have for several years been pushing their work in Mexico. They have five colonies there now numbering more than 5,000 people. And it is stated that they are planning to locate 25,000 more people there within the next year or two. They have secured land concessions from the government. Mormonism is a real menace to any country in which it is given a foothold. They have their beginning in Canada, and some day there will be trouble.

CORRUPTION CHARGED.

It is charged that in the recent municipal elections in Toronto there was much fraud. All kinds of election rascality seem to have been resorted to, "fixing" the lists, stuffing the boxes, personation, etc.; and it is alleged that these things have been going on for years. Investigations are now going on. It is to be hoped that the investigations will be thorough, and that corporations and individuals found guilty will be severely dealt with.

THE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

The Canadian Press Association held a session in Toronto last week. Among the questions considered was the low subscription prices asked by some of the daily papers—the prices in some cases being less than the cost of the white paper used. The executive of the association was instructed to use its influence to have a minimum rate of \$1.50 agreed upon. Failing to secure this an appeal is to be made to the Postmaster General to refuse newspapers postage rates to papers sold at less than the cost of the white paper. The matter is a difficult one to deal with, but the course pursued by some publishers is such an injustice to the majority of papers that the association will press strongly for a remedy.

FRANCE AND THE VATICAN.

The tension between the government of France and the Roman Catholic Church authorities does not lessen. Regarding the appointment of bishops to five vacant French sees the Pope has been given to understand, says the *Christian Standard*, that he must approve the selections of the government or they will be announced officially without the approbation of the Holy See. In addition, the Papal nuncio will be asked to leave Paris, and the clergy will be forbidden to collect Peter's pence in the churches. The Concordat, or agreement between church and state, will not be denounced at present. But a strong intimation is given that if the church is stubborn it may prepare for losing its official position in France and be compelled to depend upon its own resources for support.

A Grog-shop CENSUS.

The *Daily Paper*, Mr. Stead's newest journalistic venture, has published the results of a census of Sunday frequenters of London grog-shops. Paddington is one of the great centres of the big city, containing 142,690 residents. On the Sunday the census was taken 31,331 were found in the churches, and 122,175 in the grog-shops. More than 10,000 of the latter were children and 28,118 were women. Think of that going on Sunday after Sunday—nearly four times as many in the house of the devil as in the house of God! Think of the proportion of women and children among those found in the saloons! The facts are appalling. No wonder that the *British Weekly* says that drink is eating away the life of the nation.

A BRIBER IN JAIL.

An alderman of Chicago, convicted of purchasing votes, has been sent to the House of Correction. There is hope of Chicago, which is often called "the wickedest city," if it can punish even one aldermanic vote buyer. But what of the places, not called especially wicked, in which bribery of voters goes on regularly. If all the vote buyers were imprisoned there would be an amazing enlargement of the prison population of even good Canada. The sooner the crusade against them begins the better, and the beginning ought to be made with the biggest and most influential of them. The Chicago chap who is locked up does not like it, and is making a great effort to be released. His lawyers argue that it is "infamous punishment." It is certainly the punishment of an infamous crime—and a well deserved punishment.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

War seems imminent. At this writing Russia has not made answer to Japan's proposals, but there are intimations that the answer will not be satisfactory. It is stated that the draft of the treaty Japan proposed to Russia contained seven articles. The first provided for the mutual recognition of the integrity and independence of China and Korea. The second recognized Japan's right to advise Korea on finances and general administration. The third stipulated that Russia should not hinder the development of Japan's commercial interests in Korea. The fourth recognized that Japan was entitled to send troops to Korea in the event of disturbance, such troops to be withdrawn when peace had been restored. The fifth article provided that no fortification be erected on the southern coast of Korea, and guaranteed the freedom of the straits of Korea. The sixth article arranged for the eventual junction of the Korea and Manchurian railroad systems, while the seventh denounced all previous Russo-Japanese treaties relating to Korea.

Japan is not disposed to believe Russia's protestations of desire for peace, and will not accept any mere promise. There must be, Japanese high officials say, a treaty guaranteeing the things for which they contend, or there will be war. It is to be hoped that war may be averted, but just now all the signs point to it as very near.

SENATOR WARK.

Hon. David Wark, Senator, will attain his hundredth birthday on Friday of next week, Feb. 19th. He is in good health, both of body and mind, and continues to be interested in the questions which engage the attention of thoughtful men in public life. He has been a member of the Senate of Canada since its creation, and has every year been in his place, taking his part in the work of the session. He intends to attend the session which will open early in March. He is honored by all who know him for his sterling qualities. It is fitting that his fellow citizens in Fredericton, where he has lived many years, mark his reaching the age of one hundred. An address is to be presented by the corporation of the city on his birthday. Every word it says expressive of appreciation of the good life he has lived and of his valuable services for the country will voice the feeling not only of the people of Fredericton but of the many in every part of the country by whom he is known and honored. The *INTELLIGENCER* expresses its congratulations.

POLITICAL NEWS.

D. A. Cartwright, son of Sir Richard Cartwright, has been appointed secretary of the Railway Commission.

The Ontario Government had a majority of three on the first party vote of the session.

C. S. Hyman, M. P., for Kingston, Ont., has been made a member of the Dominion Government, without portfolio.

The Liberal Convention of New Brunswick is to meet in St. John Thursday of this week.

BRIEF MENTION.

Sandford, the leader of the Shiloh movement as it is called, was found guilty last week of cruelty to his six year old boy, having kept him without food or drink for seventy-two hours. And yet there are people who follow this man as a religious leader, especially commissioned to save the world.

The Chamberlain preferential trade policy is evidently growing in favor with the people of Britain.

It is intimated that very soon after the close of the present session of the Ontario Legislature Premier Ross will reorganize his government and bring on a general election.

Hon. Robert Young, of Caraquet, Kent Co., died Wednesday. For many years

he was prominent in the public affairs of the Province. His health had been poor during late years, and he withdrew from public life.

It is stated that Dr. Travers, at present the acting superintendent of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum at Fairville is soon to be appointed permanently. It has been hoped that a recognized expert would be appointed to the position.

Now that the office of the Usher of the Black Rod is vacant by the death of the gentleman who held it, the government is being urged to abolish the office which is wholly unnecessary.

At a meeting at St. Paul recently of men from Northwest Canada, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, the Dakotas and Illinois, for the purpose of stimulating immigration into Canada, it was proposed to start a propaganda that would bring the resources of Canada before the home seekers of the United States and Europe.

What Others Say.

CLOSED RANKS.

The time has come in the history of Christianity when all its forces must meet the opposition with closed ranks—"not merely in good fellowship, but in confederate endeavors." All such endeavors will strengthen a denomination's life rather than weaken it.—*Morning Star*.

WHAT HE MAY BE.

It has been said that every man has not the education, nor the opportunity, nor the power to study all the evidences of Christianity; but every man may, if he will, be himself an evidence of Christianity. He may be a living epistle of his Lord, known and read of all men; or he may be a living libel of his Lord, known and read of all men.—*Baptist Commonwealth*.

THE EDUCATION ACT.

One of the features of the new Education Scheme in England, against which there has been such sturdy protest, is that it makes the tax-payer pay for Roman Catholic schools as well as for those of the Established Church. And some of the Anglicans are refusing to pay and are joining the Passive Resistance Party. That Education Scheme is going to turn the government over into better hands before we hear the last of it.—*Presbyterian Standard*.

THE RASCALITY OF IT.

One of the chief troubles with the churches to-day, and especially with the more aristocratic churches of our cities, is the fact that there is altogether too much preaching about "the exceeding sinfulness of sin" and not half enough preaching about the exceeding rascality of lying, cheating, and embezzling. All dishonesty, whether in the church or outside the church, is of the devil, and "all liars have their part in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (See Revelation 21:8).—*The Telescope*.