

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

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

VOLUME LII.

ST. JOHN AND FREDERICTON, N. B., MARCH 30, 1904.

No. 13.

Editorial Outlook

A WARNING.

Young women everywhere are being warned by the Women's Christian Association of St. Louis to be careful about accepting positions now being offered of profitable employment during the exhibition. Many of the offers are nothing more than traps to catch young women and lure them to ruin. No woman should go there unattended.

NOT THE FISCAL POLICY.

It is pointed out by the *British Weekly* that the election of the opponents of the government in recent English by-elections is not due to opposition to the Chamberlain trade policy. The real reason is the opposition to the Education Act, which is so obnoxious to Nonconformists. The feeling is, evidently, becoming more intense, and is so manifest that some of the leaders in the Established Church are advising amendments of the unjust law. It will take radical changes to make it satisfactory.

THE WAR.

There have been the week been many columns of despatches about the war, but little or no news. A Tokio despatch says that on the night of the 23rd the Japanese fleet renewed the attempt to bottle-up Port Arthur. Sixteen war ships escorted seven merchant vessels to the mouth of the harbor, and under cover of the bombardment the steamers ran in and were sunk in desired positions.

The land forces are getting nearer together, and it is expected that there will soon be an engagement.

POLITICAL NEWS.

Hon. A. T. Dunn having resigned his seat in the Legislature, and the office of Surveyor-General, upon his appointment as Collector of Customs, there are now two vacancies in the representation of St. John in the Legislature, and two vacant offices in the government—Solicitor-General and Surveyor-General.

The Quebec Legislature is now in session.

The Prince Edward Island Legislature was opened Thursday.

Gov. Forget of the N. W. Territories has been appointed for a second term.

ANOTHER.

Dowie has another rival restorationist new "Prophet" who has recently appeared in India. His anxiety is to bring about a union of Christianity and Mohammedanism. He calls himself *Masil i Masih*, or the Shadow of the

Picture of the Messiah. He claims to be both the promised Messiah of the Christians and the long-looked-for Mahdi of the Moslems. He has not so far been greatly successful in effecting a union of religions; instead he has aroused the opposition of both Christians and Mohammedans. He will, of course, get some following. Such fakirs always do.

LORD'S DAY ALLIANCE.

A conference of the Lord's Day Alliance of Canada is to meet in Ottawa April 6th. It is expected that representatives will be present from all the provinces. The Alliance, under the leadership of the energetic secretary, Rev. J. C. Shearer, is making an earnest effort to secure the enactment of a good Sabbath law. The government has been interviewed about the matter, and has promised consideration. Parliament is being petitioned from every part of the country. Petitions have already been presented from several hundreds of thousands, and every day adds to the number.

PROGRESS IN THE WEST.

The assistant Dominion Naturalist, Mr. J. M. Macoun, in a recent address, gave some interesting facts about the increase of production in the Northwest. Seventy times as much grain is grown as was twenty-five years ago, the wheat production having increased from less than one million bushels in 1881 to more than seventy million bushels in 1902. He expected that in twenty-five years there would be at least ten times as much as now. As regards the district of Athabaska, including the Peace River region, the grain produced annually has never reached fifty million bushels, and it will be many years before much grain is grown there for export. Athabaska, though traversed in a general north-easterly direction through nearly its entire length by the Peace River, but without railways, will not progress as rapidly in settlement as the more southerly territories. The mineral resources of the region are sure, however, to attract capital and enterprise, and railways must soon follow. For the northwest generally, the prospect is one of brilliant promise.

JAPAN'S PROHIBITION.

Opium is prohibited in Japan. And the law is rigidly enforced—so rigidly that it is difficult to get the alkaloids of opium even for medicinal uses, and they cannot be had for any other purpose. A writer on the subject states that "it is not extravagant to say that the only vicious use of the drug in the empire (Formosa not included) among the eight thousand Chinese residents in the principal ports, and apparently but

few of these succeed in smuggling it in. The Japanese have no tendency to become victims of the vice; the horror of its bondage has been so vividly illustrated by their Celestial neighbors that the effective ounce of prevention has been administered from the beginning. Cigarette-smoking threatened to become prevalent among the young, and a law was enacted accordingly forbidding boys under nineteen to smoke. The law appears to accomplish its end. It is an interesting phase of the opium law that not merely the sale or purchase but even the possession of the forbidden drug is penalized; a person having in his house an opium "layout," or the drug in any form except under medical order, is liable to punishment.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

It is reported that an understanding has been reached by England and France settling certain questions, including the long-standing Newfoundland shore question. There has been no official statement of settlement, but it is hoped the report that everything has been satisfactorily arranged may turn out to be true. Of the Newfoundland matter the *Guardian* says nothing will satisfy that colony, or do away with the difficulty, but an "annulling of all French assumptive 'rights' that interfere with her authority on her own coasts and the freedom of her people to use them without let or hindrance of any kind from a foreign nation, and this, it is to be hoped, is the settlement provided for. If it does, a long-standing wrong, permitted for years, for reasons of imperial policy, will be righted, and a constant and dangerous source of friction between Britain and France happily brought to an end."

Referring to the matter in the Senate, Sir Mackenzie Bowell expressed the hope, in which we all share, that whatever settlement is made will include the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, the chief function of whose present tenure is to act as a seton to keep up perpetual irritation between France and British America. Canada, as the *Witness* says, will not be complete till it includes Newfoundland, and, including Newfoundland, would not be complete while these islands were alien. Their chief use today is as a base for smugglers and poachers and for offensive designs on the Newfoundland coast. Moreover, so long as they are not ours there remains the danger of their falling into other and still more encroaching hands. It would be a wretched pity if the present negotiations made only half a job of it and entailed upon us another generation of bickering. For, if once the question were closed, it would be almost impossible to open it again to remove these rocks of offence.

BRIEF MENTION.

Russia has borrowed from France about \$200,000,000.

The Arctic expedition which was expected to start in the spring under command of Capt. Peary is not likely to get away, owing to lack of funds.

Up to the present, over eleven thousand summonses have been issued against Passive Resisters in England, and over four hundred sales have taken place. The Resisters show no sign of weakening.

It is again reported that the government may purchase the Canada Eastern Railway and make it part of the I. C. R. system. A government engineer has made an inspection of the road.

Sir Edward Arnold died in London, Thursday. He was seventy-two years old.

Gurney Division, S. of T., St. John, recognized the 58th anniversary of Mr. C. A. Everett's membership in the division by presenting him with a reading glass, last Thursday.

The newspaper men of Nova Scotia organized a Press Association last week. The meeting was held at Truro. J. D. McDonald, of Pictou, is president of the Association.

And now Boston men are petitioning the Board of Trade to initiate a movement for "reciprocal trade relations . . . particularly with Canada and Newfoundland." Several thousands of signatures have been secured, the signers representing the leading industrial and commercial concerns.

YENS AND DOLLARS.

Japan having set apart 100,000,000 yen for war purposes, it becomes interesting to know the value of a yen. The *N. Y. Advocate* says: Japan has a gold standard; but the yen is of silver currency and fluctuates with the price of silver, so that at this time 100,000,000 yen scarcely means more than 10,000,000 pounds sterling, or \$50,000,000. The Japanese currency system is decimal. The yen is divided into 100 sen; the sen into 10 rin; the rin into 10 mo; the mo into 10 shu; and the shu into 10 kotsu. In trade the mo and shu, which are incredibly minute fractions of a farthing, sometimes figure, though there is no coin to represent them; but the government accounts only descend to the rin.

When the decimal system of money came into use in this country, the smallest conceivable division of money recognized was the mill, ten of which made a cent, and therefore the mill corresponds with the rin. But 100,000,000 yen is a tremendous sum in Japan, where according to the *London Chronicle*, "the wages of the skilful artisan are not more than three yen a week."

—An evangelistic campaign is progressing in Columbus, O. Fifteen churches have united in the movement. The meetings are in charge of Dr. Wilbur Chapman.