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RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

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

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Editorial Outlook

THE WAR.

It is now stated that Gen. Stoessel's recent report to the Czar informed him that Port Arthur was being starved out, and that its fall is inevitable. Reports of what is likely to be done are plenty; of real news there is little or none.

SPAIN'S ILLITERATES.

Illiteracy in Spain is very general. The last census showed the population to be 18,891,574, and of this number 11,000,000 were unable to read or write. There is an improvement, however, as is seen by a comparison of census facts. In 1860 only 19.97 per cent of the population could read and write; in 1877 the proportion had increased to 24.48 per cent, ten years later to 28.49 per cent, and in 1900 to 33.45 per cent.

AN IRISH LEADER.

The leaders of the Irish Home Rule movement are among those who do Ireland the most harm. For instance, Michael Davitt, one of the principal home rulers, being interviewed about the Russian attack on the North Sea fishermen, said: "Russia knew that when she was on the coast of England she was on the coast of the enemy, just as surely as though England had declared open war upon her. She was certainly justified, in view of the facts, in taking no chances." A man whose hate is so unreasoning can do only harm to the cause he espouses.

A MURDEROUS GANG.

Last week the residence of a prominent lawyer in Omaha, Nebraska, was wrecked by a bomb. The design was to utterly demolish the house and kill the inmates. Fortunately no one was killed. The lawyer's offence was that he had been prosecuting rumsellers—licensed rumsellers, who did not want to be interfered with in their violations of the license law on Sundays and at other prohibited times. What a blood-thirsty gang rumsellers are! Dynamiting a home, cutting a throat, or any like villainous thing is quite in keeping with their everyday business. And yet there are decent people, even some professing Christians, who seem to regard them as citizens.

MAY LOSE THE MONEY.

The renunciation of the Catholic faith by the Marquise des Monstiers Merinville, mentioned last week, may be followed by a withdrawal of all or part of the \$300,000 she gave to the Catholic university at Washington. She claims to have been unduly influenced when a young girl to give the money, and it is

intimated that she will bring an action for its recovery. Should such an action be taken and succeed, the university will miss it very much, especially as it has lately lost very heavily by the failure of its financial manager. One is sure, however, that the money will not be relinquished without a struggle. Rome does not easily give up what it has put its hand on.

THE ASYLUM.

Some long-needed reforms are being made in the Provincial Asylum under the direction of the new superintendent. Of the 554 patients now there, it is believed a considerable number should not be there. They could as well, or better, be cared for outside the institution, and their removal would enable the management to give better treatment to those who needed treatment. The condition of the inmates is now being carefully inquired into by the superintendent and other physicians, and it is probable that a number of them will have to be provided for elsewhere. It is proposed, also, to make some changes in the regulations concerning admissions to the asylum, so that hereafter only those who need the treatment they can receive there will be admitted.

A GOVERNOR'S NOTION.

Governor Bates, of Massachusetts, at the annual dinner of the Intercolonial Club, in Boston, stated his belief that the time will come when one flag—that of the United States—will float over the whole continent. Governor Bates was talking to a club which is made up of men from the Maritime Provinces who have forsworn their own country and become naturalized citizens of the United States, and he said what he thought would please them, perhaps. He was, also, giving voice to the bumptious notion of our neighbors that there is nothing worth while outside the boundaries of their country, and that Canada cannot long live apart from them. They simply don't know. Perhaps it may dawn on them by and by that there is absolutely no feeling in this country favorable to union with the United States, and that we do not care a copper for even trade reciprocity. Canada has its own national problems to work out, and is going about it with energy and independence, and with promise of the largest success.

INDEPENDENT VOTERS.

The independent voter was much in evidence in the presidential election in the United States. President Roosevelt received greatly more than the vote of the party to which he belongs; many thousands of the other party voted for him because they believed in him as a man. In some of the state elections,

also, the independent voters showed their strength. In Missouri the Democratic candidate for governor, Joseph Folk, was elected, while the vote of the state generally went Republican. The governor's election was because he had, in another office, proved himself an honest and brave man. He had made war on the dishonest officials of his own party. The people, without respect to party, declared their approval of his course and their confidence in his sturdy honesty by electing him to the chief place in the state.

The multiplication of independent voters is a most promising sign in any country. Canada needs more of them. They alone can purify their parties, and so deliver the country from the dominancy of dangerous elements.

A RUSSIAN MOVEMENT.

A manifesto, entitled, "The People and the War," has been spread broadcast throughout Russia by the organized party of liberty, which is, of course, a secret party. The manifesto declares that the Russian people did not want the war with Japan, and know nothing about the reasons for it. It says it is a war entered upon without need or end by the Czar, on the counsel of the great dignitaries. It adds:

In the same way the Russian Tsar never knows all the needs of the Russian people. And he cannot know them. The Tsar knows only the titled and powerful men who govern the country with the aid of the granddukes and the ministers. These great seigneurs—ministers and granddukes—trouble themselves very little about the misfortunes of the laboring people. Certain of the dignitaries administer the affairs of state not as counsellors, but for the end of lucre, for their pocket and for honors, and the rest are fools. . . . As for the needs of the people, those who know them best are the people themselves.

It goes on to show what representative government is, and what benefits would come to the country by it, and says that now is the time for the Russian people to demand a constitution from the Czar, so liberating themselves from the oppression they have so long borne.

POLITICAL NEWS.

Parliament has been called to meet January 11th.

In Wentworth, Ont., a judge has declared Smith, Conservative, elected by a majority of ten, instead of Sealy, Liberal, who, by the first count, had a majority of fifteen. The difference was made by a blunder of a deputy returning officer, who illegally numbered his ballots at the poll. The seat really belongs to Sealy (Liberal), who got the majority of the votes. The law should make it impossible for a stupid or designing official to nullify the will of the electors.

By-elections to fill seven vacant seats

in the Nova Scotia Legislature are to be held December 15th.

Sir Richard Cartwright is acting Premier in the absence of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Chief Justice Taschereau is acting governor general till the arrival of Earl Gray.

The Manitoba Legislature is to meet December 6th.

The Quebec elections, Friday resulted in return of Parent, government, by a large majority. Five independent Conservatives were elected. In the majority of constituencies there was no contest.

BOGUS BALLOT BOXES.

"Ontario the good" used to be quoted as an example for the other provinces. But it has lost its good name. So much that is bad has been done in late years that now Ontario politics are a synonym for systematic corruption. The latest revelations are of bogus ballot boxes. The boxes are so constructed that by the manipulation of a dishonest official the election of the candidate he favored would be made sure. The investigation is still going on. It has been made known and admitted to leave no doubt that there was a scheme by which it was intended to defraud the electorate. Whether it was very generally operated has not yet been made to appear. The boxes exist, and one has been exhibited in court. One candidate in the recent election is under arrest charged with complicity in the crime. Another candidate, for whom a warrant is out, has disappeared. How many are implicated in the criminal transaction, and who they are, has not yet been authoritatively stated. One of the men concerned—the one who gave the order for the making of the boxes—is a teacher in a college. A fine fellow, surely, to have to do with the training of young men.

The matter should be pushed to the bottom, and every one connected with the crime should be exposed and punished. The free institutions of the country are threatened, and their destruction can be prevented by hunting out and imposing the severest penalties on the men who are guilty of the dastardly crime of robbing, or attempting to rob, the people of their rights as free men in a free country.

ONTARIO POLITICS.

A convention of its supporters, called by the Ontario government, was held in Toronto last Wednesday. The attendance was large. The object was to get the views of the government's friends about a general election, and to decide on a platform on which to appeal to the province. The plank in the party platform which provoked most discussion, and concerning which there was the most difficulty in reaching anything

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