

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

"THAT GOD IN ALL THINGS MAY BE Board of Works dec04 | JESUS CHRIST." -Peter.

VOLUME LII.

ST. JOHN AND FREDERICTON, N. B., MAY 11, 1904.

No. 19.

Editorial Outlook

A TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.

It is proposed to hold a Provincial Temperance Convention in St. John in June, probably during ter-centenary week. All temperance organizations will be asked to send representatives. The design is to unite the temperance forces of the province for action. It is a wise move, and we hope may be successfully carried out. Further particulars will be given out later.

NOT A GOOD KIND.

Of the immigrants who entered the United States in the last year, 185,667, being nearly one-fourth of the whole, could neither read nor write. Over a half million of them were practically paupers. The Italians were more numerous than any other nationality, and they made the most showing as to illiteracy and poverty. Nearly one-half of them could not read nor write, and they did not average \$1.00 each in money. Canada needs to be careful not to encourage such people to come here.

SUNDAY IN HOLLAND.

The government of Holland, as announced in the Queen's speech at the opening of parliament, intends to enact a law for the better observance of the Lord's day. The purpose is to secure to all laborers, even to those employed upon the railways, absolute cessation of toil. It calls for the suspension of all business, and the closing of such amusements as require the labor of others to constitute the entertainment; so that if adopted, it will not only shut up the factories and the forges, but the theatres and beer gardens.

MRS. NATION'S WORK.

Mrs. Carrie Nation having recently visited this province and Nova Scotia, our readers will be interested in hearing that she has given the Kansas W. C. T. U. a valuable piece of property, consisting of five lots and several buildings in Kansas City, for a school where girls may receive special training in evangelistic, missionary, and W. C. T. U. work as well as along domestic lines. The members of the controlling board shall be members of the prohibition party. The W. C. T. U. will take possession of the property in June.

A HEALTH CLUB.

Chicago has a woman's organization which calls itself the Progressive Health Club. "No marriage license without a physician's certificate of health attached," is the slogan of the club. It is circulating for signatures a petition to President Roosevelt, asking his cooperation in the endeavor to secure the

establishment of a federal bureau "to teach all citizens the ideal possibilities of marriage. Federal legislation that will prevent the marriage of any person who cannot show a clean bill of health and prove that he has no chronic disease, and never has been convicted of any crime, also is asked.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

In *The Nineteenth Century*, Lord Thring has an article on the political and fiscal relations between Great Britain and the colonies, in which he sets forth some interesting facts about the British Empire. The Empire covers an area, he says, one-fifth of the globe, and is ninety-eight times the size of the mother country. Of the forty-three dependencies, Canada, the largest, is thirty times the size of the mother country, and Gibraltar, the smallest, covers an area of but two square miles. Canada and Australia have, respectively, one-eighth and one-eleventh of her population. The commerce of the British Empire is eight hundred millions of pounds sterling, or four thousand millions of dollars. Of this, three thousand millions of dollars are with foreign nations, and one thousand millions of dollars with her dependencies. Her commerce with India amounts to \$314,438,000, with Australia \$227,242,315, and with Canada \$137,856,230.

IN QUEBEC.

The educational facilities in the Province of Quebec are so poor that the *Montreal Witness* says they are a shame to the province, and cries out vigorously against them. It says: "Many of our children are permitted to grow up without any education at all, and many others receive what passes for an education, but which leaves them hopelessly ignorant. . . . In this city and province nobody cares officially what becomes of the youth of the population which is pouring in and multiplying fast. There is not even any compulsion to secure to the native children any school training. When the Protestant School Commissioners get more money from the real estate tax things will doubtless be better in this city, as those willing to be taught will no longer have to be excluded, but there will be no improvement worth the name in the province as a whole until the government doubles at least the miserable amount it now considers it decent to devote public education. Despotisms consider themselves stronger with a stupid and ignorant people, but in a free democratic country the untaught are the greatest public menace."

THE SWEDES.

Dr. Wickstrom, editor of *Jamtlands-posten* (it is not necessary to pro-

nounce it), and representing several other Swedish newspapers, is in Canada to examine it as to its suitability for his countrymen. If the conditions here are favorable, he thinks there will be a large Swedish immigration. Speaking of his country, he says: "Sweden is in mortal dread of Russia. We know what has happened to Finland. We know what will happen to ourselves if Great Britain and the United States do not come to our rescue one of these days. Russia wants, especially, the open ports which she can get by force from Sweden. Sweden is a pacific country. We have about five million people. There is not a man, woman or boy or girl in the country who cannot read and write. We do not think England and the United States, who are the true friends of freedom, would allow us to be extinguished by Russia. We and Norway have buried our political differences for the time being, in order that we may present a united front as against the aggression of Russia." He represents those in his country who prefer to have their emigrating population come to Canada rather than to the United States. Canada will welcome them. They make good citizens.

DRUNKEN LEGISLATORS.

If the statements of the *Toronto World* are correct, the Ontario legislature has in it a considerable number of members who are wholly unfit to occupy representative positions. It says:

The Ontario Legislature is not free from the influence of liquors as directly exerted for the purpose of serving both political and private interests. It is a notorious fact that the enormous railway subsidies voted at a recent session of the Legislature were carried through in an all-night sitting, in which liquor flowed in copious quantities.

It is no secret that members of the Legislature have been deliberately incapacitated with liquor in order to keep them away from a critical party division in the House, or to exclude them from a vote in a committee in which heavy corporate interests were at stake. These practices are no stranger to the present session of the Ontario Legislature. . . . That the members who have thus been used represent only a small fraction of the strength of the House, it is needless to explain. The evil is nevertheless glaring and potent. . . . There have been at the present session of the Legislature members too intoxicated to attend divisions. Members sitting on the floor of the House too obviously the worse of liquor to be admitted to a reputable assembly. Members whose attendance at important committee meetings was prevented by a free administration of stimulant.

The *Pioneer*, the Toronto prohibitionist paper, adds: "It is true that the Assembly has been disgraced by the misconduct of several members." Why do constituencies elect such men? There is, surely, not an electoral district in Ontario the majority of whose voters

are correctly represented by men guilty of the conduct described. Sober, reputable citizens of both political parties, owe it to themselves, to the country and their parties, to refuse to support such characters,

THE WAR.

Later reports show that the battle of the 1st inst. was a more serious affair than even the first reports indicated, and was a very decided victory for the Japanese. The Russian losses appear to have been well up to 4,000; the Japanese lost about 800. Prisoners to the number of 300 or 400 were taken by the Japanese.

Admiral Togo made another attack on Port Arthur. At first it was reported that it was not successful, but later reports say that he succeeded in effectually blocking the port. Official reports are awaited.

The latest reports leave no reason for doubt that the Japanese have Port Arthur at their mercy. They have landed many thousands of troops on the Liao Tung peninsula, about forty miles from Port Arthur. At other points, also, it is reported that landing was effected. While the landing was proceeding Thursday and later, Japanese battle ships made a demonstration off Port Arthur to prevent the possible egress of Russian torpedo boats.

A St. Petersburg despatch Friday night says: "A despatch received tonight says that Port Arthur is cut off from all communication by land, the Japanese having disembarked in its rear, occupied the railroad and cut the telegraph. Vice-Admiral Skrydloff, en route to Port Arthur to take over command of the naval forces, will be unable to reach his destination."

BRIEF MENTION.

It is announced from Ottawa that the government has purchased the Canada Eastern Railway for \$800,000. It will be a part of the I. C. R. system.

Bishop Hartzell, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who presides over the mission work of his church in Africa, declares in favor of Chinese labor in South Africa, as a temporary expedient to meet the emergency that has arisen there.

The U. S. government is trying to prevent the movement of its people into Canada.

The Supreme Court of Kansas has decided that the Bible may be read and the Lord's prayer repeated in the schools of the State.

Ex-President Kruger is reported in a very weak condition. He is in France.

Senator Reid, of British Columbia, died Wednesday. He went to Ottawa for the session, but was taken ill and returned home.