

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

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

VOLUME LII.

ST. JOHN AND FREDERICTON, N. B., AUGUST, 24 1904.

No. 34.

Editorial Outlook

HUDSON BAY.

The report of Major Movdie, who has recently returned from the official trip to Hudson Bay, on which he started last fall by direction of the government, is favorable. He is satisfied as to the feasibility of the Hudson Bay route, and says vessels should have no trouble in getting in and out of the Bay from June 1st to about October 10th. He found no disposition there to dispute British sovereignty.

IN IRELAND.

Writing on "Catholicism in Ireland," Mr. Henry d'Avray condemns what he calls the church building folly of the Irish bishops. He points out that at Armagh, a town whose population decreased between 1881 and 1901 from 10,070 to 7,569, a cathedral has been built which has cost £240,000. He declares that not a quarter of the Irish emigrants to America remain in the religion of their ancestors. Either they join the Protestant sects, or they abandon religion altogether. Out of 350,000 Irish in London, not more than 50,000 attend Catholic places of worship, and of these two-thirds are women. M. d'Avray says, "The Irish clergy may have lofty cathedrals opened by Roman cardinals, but the number of the famished, wretched and stupefied sheep they assemble in them diminishes day by day."

OPIUM RESTRICTIONS.

The committee appointed by the United States government to investigate laws and conditions with regard to the opium habit in various Oriental countries, and to report concerning the opium in the Philippines, have made report. They recommend: (1) That the opium traffic in the Philippines be made a government monopoly at once; (2) that at the end of three years the importation of opium be absolutely prohibited with the exception of what is needed as medicine; (3) that only confirmed users of the drug who are over twenty-one years old shall receive a smokers' license; (4) that an educational campaign against the use of opium be started in the schools; (5) that the habitual users of the drug be treated free of charge in government hospitals; and (6) that the punishment of Chinese found guilty of importing opium be deportation from the island.

WAGES AND LIVING.

The United States Commissioner of Labor has made exhaustive investigation into the question of wages and cost of living. The investigation was carried on by field agents of the Bureau of Labor, who personally called on the heads of 2,567 families in all parts of

the country, and on 3,429 commercial or industrial establishments. The report shows that so far as the field was covered by the investigation, the cost of living has increased from an average of \$296.76 per family in 1896, to \$342.75 in 1903. The investigation was applied only to families whose income from wages or salary was less than \$1,200 a year. The figures here given refer only to food. The report shows that while the cost of living decreased slightly in 1903, the average of wages advanced. No general average of wages is stated, but the wages of men employed in various trades and occupations are given in great detail. It is shown that while in 1903 the average wages per hour increased 16.3 per cent above the average of the period from 1890 to 1899, retail prices for food advanced 10.3 per cent.

LENGTH OF THE SERMON.

A London newspaper, the *Daily Express*, is carrying on a crusade against long sermons. Correspondents differ considerably about the proper length of a sermon; the majority favor twenty minutes to a half hour, while the *Express* itself thinks ten minutes quite long enough. Another secular paper, the *Mail and Empire*, commenting on the discussion, says these sensible things:

When the manner of the discourse is its chief feature it is safe to assume that there is something defective in the matter. But the fault does not always lie with the preacher. Rarely is there a sermon so dull that it does not convey strength and consolation to some listeners who are in the proper frame of mind. The demand for eloquence, brevity, flowery imagery and brilliancy of diction is natural enough, but it fails to appreciate the fact that the true mission of the pulpit is to tell simply, directly and sincerely the great truths of all time. We are not invited to church to be entertained, but to be instructed. If it sometimes happens that the sermon does not appeal specially to us it is quite probable that it gets very close to the needs of some one else. Nothing could be further from the spirit of the occasion than for the preacher to be controlled by a stop-watch. There are sermons for which ten minutes are too long, and others for which three-quarters of an hour is too brief. There are sermons which are a weariness to the flesh, and others that change the course of a life-time. How is it possible to lay down one rule for all? Let the preacher be assured of the sympathy of his listeners, and the congregation of the earnestness of the preacher, and none will know, or care, whether the sermon is short or long. Truth is not measured by quantity, but by quality. We shall have reason to fear for the influence of the pulpit when sermons are scheduled like trains, and required to pull up at "lastly" to the second.

POLITICAL NEWS.

The Northwest Territories are to have two new senatorships. It is stated that Messrs. Wm. Ross, M. P.,

and T. O. Davis, M. P., will be appointed.

The commission to supervise the construction of the Winnipeg-Moncton part of the G. T. Pacific will, it is said, consist of F. B. Wade, M. P., Jas. Duffield, C. A. Young and M. Burnet.

Mr. R. L. Borden, M. P., was given a welcome by his Halifax friends on his arrival home from parliament last week.

Mr. Parent, Premier of Quebec, will, it is said, represent the government on the directorate of the G. T. P. Railway.

It is reported that Mr. Aylesworth, Toronto, is likely to become a member of the Dominion Government.

An Ottawa despatch says extra hands have been put to work on the voters' lists, and that the printing staff is working over-time. Some people think that it points to an early election.

There are three vacancies in the Senate—one each for New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Ontario.

It having been reported that the Premier's health is not good, Dr. Prevost, Sir Wilfrid's physician, says: "You may say that while Sir Wilfrid is tired after the arduous work of the session, he is in good general health, and is not under treatment of any kind whatsoever."

The by-election in British Columbia—Thursday—resulted in the return of A. McDonald, Conservative.

THE WAR.

The Russian Vladivostok squadron came to grief on the 14th inst. Vice-Admiral Kamimura attacked the Russians in the State of Korea and won a signal victory.

The Russian cruiser Rurik was sunk and the cruisers Rossia and Gromohoi fled to the northward, having sustained serious damage. The injuries to the Japanese vessels were slight.

The Japs are now masters of the sea in the Far East. The Port Arthur Russian squadron is almost entirely dispersed, and it is thought that Vladivostok can send out only four cruisers. Most of the Russian vessels which got away from Port Arthur have taken refuge in neutral ports in disabled condition. Monday the Russian flag was hauled down on the Tsarevitch and on three cruisers at Tsing Chou. The German government has given instructions that the ships be disarmed and detained until the war is over. Admiral Togo reports that of the six Russian battleships engaged in the fight with him, five were seriously damaged.

The Russian ships at Port Arthur made a sorti Tuesday. Nothing happened. They returned.

On Sunday the Japanese fleet sunk the Russian cruiser Novik off Sakhalin.

The commander of the Japanese army besieging Port Arthur on Tuesday sent an officer, under flag of truce, with the

offer to allow the removal of non-combatants, and also demanding the surrender of Port Arthur. The Russian commander refused to capitulate, or to send out the non-combatants.

It is reported that the condition at Port Arthur is serious. Japanese shells have ignited lighters in the docks which contained supplies of coal, resulting in a terrific conflagration. Many of the buildings have been demolished and the hospitals are crowded.

The latest news from Port Arthur indicates that a tremendous conflict is raging, and that victory is hanging in the balance.

BRIEF MENTION.

The British parliament was prorogued last week.

Mrs. Carrie Nation, a few days ago, sent \$1,150 to the Home for the Wives of Drunkards at Kansas City.

The Hon. Hamilton King, for eight years United States Minister to the Court of Siam, is a native of Newfoundland.

It will, it is said, take five years to survey and mark the boundary between Alaska and British Columbia. The work cannot be carried on much more than three months in a year.

The director of the United States mint says there will be no more silver dollars made. Nobody will regret the disappearance of the "cart-wheel."

Six Presidential tickets are now in the field—the Republican, Democratic, Prohibitionist, the Populist, the Socialist Labor, and the Social Democratic.

The wife of Mr. Henri Joly de Lotbiniere, Governor of British Columbia, died last week.

Lord Minto will leave for England October 21st.

THE CONFESSIONAL.

The confession is creeping into favor in some of the Ritualistic English churches. The following words of a converted Italian priest are timely:

"Oh, how I shuddered with horror and shame each time that I had to propound the precepts of the confessional to unmarried women! Oh, what bitter remorse has the confessional caused me. When I entered the confessional, the sweat-drops stood bold upon me; when I had to put certain questions to innocent children and listen to their replies, how ashamed I felt of myself. How I pitied those poor children! 'Poor little ones!' I inwardly exclaimed: 'you come into the church with the purity of a lily, and in one moment it is destroyed.' Confessional! Satanic invention! Thou that hast been the cause of perdition and scandals, thou that hast dethroned kings and monarchs, be thou accursed! I abhor thee, I despise thee! Would to God that I could snatch from the hands of the presumptuous priest that which he has wrested from the Lamb of God, 'who taketh away the sin of the world!'"