

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

Board of Works dec04

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

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Editorial Outlook

THE WAR.

The latest assaults of the Japanese at Port Arthur have, it is believed, brought the end of the siege very near. At Mukden Oyama and Kuropatkin are marking time within a few hundred yards of one another, and the first blow on either side will probably precipitate the most serious battle of the war.

TO THE FAR NORTH.

On his next trip, Peary, the Arctic explorer, expects to take a party of consumptives to the far north. A physician who accompanied him on his last voyage believes the air of the extreme north will cure the consumptives. He says that among the fiords of Greenland are constant sunshine, and a dustless and germless atmosphere, which the consumptives need. Arctic explorers, it is said, never have colds when living in high latitudes.

DISESTABLISHMENT.

The English Liberation Society is intending to have the following disestablishment resolution presented to the next House of Commons:

That, in the opinion of this House, the establishment by law of the Episcopal church in England and Wales is a violation of religious equality; inflicts injustice on large sections of the people; deprives that church of self-government; imposes upon parliament duties which it is not qualified to discharge; impedes a just settlement of the education question; makes religion appear a matter of legal form rather than of spiritual force; and is injurious to the civil and religious interests of the nation and, therefore, ought no longer to be maintained.

If the result of the next general election is at all what Nonconformists hope it will be, the time will be ripe for bringing the subject before Parliament.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

It is stated that at the next session of the British Parliament Premier Balfour will introduce a bill providing for the redistribution of seats in the House of Commons, for the purpose of more nearly equalizing the representation. For each of the 670 members of Parliament the average number of electors is 10,183, but many constituencies have many more, while others have many less. The unequal representation from the several parts of the kingdom will be corrected. England, which now sends to Parliament 405 members, would be entitled to 499; Scotland, which has 72 seats, would have but 69, while Ireland, which now has 103, would have but 72. Wales has 30 members, exactly the number she ought to have. The friends of Ireland will, of course, resist any diminution of their representatives.

LEFT TO THE DEVIL.

A Finnish atheist made a will bequeathing his farm to the devil. The will was contested, and the courts, it is stated, has upheld the will. To carry out the wish of the man, the court has directed that the land be left untouched by anybody, and allowed to revert to its wilderness condition. Commenting on this the *Guardian* confesses to being "somewhat startled by the question that arose in our mind as we read the account. Do things that are left to themselves naturally and of necessity go to the devil? A great many things seem to let farms and some much more valuable things go to the devil, all that is needed to be done is to let them run wild. If that be so, then mere neglect may be one of the greatest and most awful of sins. If that be so, then what about that beautiful sentiment that tells us that there is a soul of goodness at the heart of things? Whatever may be the answer to some of these questions, most of us have at least found this out—that goodness, that is, a growing away from the devil, is an achievement. It does not just happen of itself."

A JEWISH COLONY.

A district of four hundred square miles in East Africa has been set apart by the British Government for a Jewish colony, and effort is being made to induce Jews in Russia, Germany, England, the United States and elsewhere to take up the land. Israel Zangwill, a leading Jew, is now in the United States explaining the colonization plan. He is not so much concerned to induce Jews in America to go to Africa, but desires the good will and endorsement of the scheme by the representative men of his race on this continent, and possibly their financial aid. The plan chiefly concerns the six million Jews of Russia who must go somewhere. England, he says, has all the Jews she wants, and though here Jews have done well, America has also reached the point of saturation. Experience has shown that "when the Jews increase beyond a certain point in any country there always develops an anti-semitic feeling." The plan is based upon the belief that the Jews ought to have a country of their own where they may learn to govern themselves. For nineteen hundred years they have been without a government; they have no country of their own. The originators of this scheme believe that colonization is the best way out of the difficulty.

IN SWITZERLAND.

Switzerland has a very good plan of dealing with the unemployed. There is a union, which has its branches in all the cantons, the sole object of which is to help workmen who are travelling over the country in search of work. The cantons are divided into districts, each

with a committee of administration, and at various points in each district there are relief officers. The canton of Zurich, for instance, has eleven districts and fifty-one relief stations. The applicant for help must produce his traveller's relief book, showing the place to which he belongs, his occupation, and also a certificate from his previous employer. Food—three meals a day—lodging, and, if necessary, clothing, are given to the traveller, and the relief is noted in the book, which contains 342 numbered squares for the stamps of the relief stations. No station may be visited oftener than once in six months, but, having his book, a workman can travel over the greater part of Switzerland, looking for work, and be sufficiently fed and suitably lodged. The union obtains its funds from subscriptions and congregational collections, and is also subsidised from public funds. Beggars and those who shirk work are severely dealt with, being sent for the most part to forced labor institutions which exist in almost every canton. At these institutions all kinds of work are often carried on, and the aim is to improve the men and make them useful members of the community.

ROME DEFENDS LEOPOLD.

Perhaps it is because Protestant missionaries have protested so earnestly against the cruelties inflicted by the emissaries of the King of Belgium on the natives of the Congo that Rome comes to the defence of the king. Leopold's latest Roman defender is Cardinal Gibbons, of Baltimore. The *Journal and Messenger* says the Cardinal has received from the king an expression of gratitude for the service rendered "in the cause of truth and justice," due to "the generous impulse" that prompted "His Eminence," and in behalf of "a sovereign who has done so much in the cause of Christianity and civilization, and who is ruler of a nation conspicuous, not only for Catholic faith, but also for the qualities that exalt a nation." In such phrases the two men have tickled each other. And all this in the face of the abundant testimony as to the horrible abuses practised in the indulgence of greed for gain coupled with fiendish cruelty. It is said, in defence of Leopold, that the stories about the atrocities on the Congo are prompted by a desire on the part of "interested Britishers" to make it appear that the Belgian is not competent to govern the Congo country, and therefore should be compelled to surrender it to those who can and will deal justly and according to treaty with the natives. But there seems to be, on the part of Romanists who stand for the king, a fear that Protestant missionaries will gain too much influence in the country, and they seem to be seeking an occasion to effect the banishment of these missionaries.

THE ELECTIONS.

The general election on the 3rd inst. resulted in a victory for the Canadian government. The returns by provinces are about as follows:

	LIB.	CON.
Ontario,	39	47
Quebec,	55	10
Nova Scotia,	18	0
New Brunswick,	7	6
P. E. Island,	1	3
British Columbia,	6	1
N. W. Territories,	8	2
Manitoba,	6	4

The members elected in New Brunswick are:

- Carleton—Carvell, Lib., 151.
- Charlotte—Ganong, Con., 306.
- Gloucester—Turgeon, Lib., 1,248.
- Kent—LeBlanc, Lib., 92.
- Kings and Albert—Fowler, Con., 103.
- Northumberland—Loggie, Lib., 280.
- Queens and Sunbury—Wilmot, Con., 206.
- Restigouche—Reid, Lib., 433.
- St. John City—Dr. Daniel, Con., 1,218.
- St. John City and County—Dr. Stockton, Con., 660.
- Victoria—Costigan, Lib., 1,098.
- Westmorland—Emerson, Lib., 872.
- York—Crockett, Con., 180.

In Nova Scotia the members elect are all Liberals:

- Guysboro—Sinclair, Lib., 465.
- Halifax—Roche, Lib., and Carney, Lib., 500 and 450.
- Hants—Black, Lib., 80.
- Inverness—McLennan, Lib., 300.
- Kings—Borden, Lib., 1,200.
- Lunenburg—McLean, Lib., 500.
- Pictou—McDonald, Lib., 400 to 500.
- Richmond—Finlayson, Lib., 400.
- Annapolis—Pickup, Lib., 187.
- Antigonish—McIsaac, Lib., 800.
- Cape Breton and Victoria—McKenzie, Lib., 25.
- Cape Breton, South—Johnstone, Lib., 300.
- Colchester—Laurence, Lib., 146.
- Cumberland—Logan, Lib., 842.
- Digby—Copp, Lib., 747.
- Shelburne and Queens—Fielding, Lib., 650.
- Yarmouth—Law, Lib., 800.

The figures following the names are the majorities.

Elections are yet to be held in Dauphin, Man.; Yorkton, N. W. T.; Yale-Cariboo and Kootenay, and the Yukon. They will be held this month.

Among the defeated are Mr. R. L. Borden, Halifax, leader of the Conservative party, and Mr. Aylesworth, Ontario, a member of the government.

Hon. Geo. E. Foster was elected in North Toronto.

BRIEF MENTION.

The Newfoundland elections last week resulted in the return of the Bond government.

It is stated that the Ontario Legislature will be dissolved in a few days.

The Quebec Legislature has been dissolved, and the election of a new legislature will take place on the 25th inst.

The Presidential election in the United States was held on Tuesday of this week. It is likely that President Roosevelt succeeds himself.