

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

Board of Works dec03

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

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Editorial Outlook

POLITICAL NEWS.

The Liberal Conservatives of Nova Scotia held a convention at Halifax Tuesday of last week. The attendance was large. The object was to perfect the provincial organization. John F. Stairs was elected president.

The senate as now constituted numbers 77 members, with four vacant seats.

APPRENTICESHIP.

The apprenticeship system, which has largely gone out in Canada, is being introduced by the Toronto Employers' Association. Let us hope it may become general throughout the country. If, as says the *Dominion Presbyterian*, according to the Talmud, everybody is the better of knowing some manual trade, it is well there should be an indentured training extending over several years. A legal apprenticeship will turn out good workmen, besides giving foundation for steadier relations between those responsible for industrial operations and their employees.

YOUNG MORMONS.

It is stated that among young Mormons there is a vigorous protest, amounting almost to rebellion, against the intolerable tyranny of their leaders. Wholesale expulsions from the church are threatened as the result of the efforts of the Mormon priesthood to enforce implicit obedience to their mandates in business and politics. Ten young men, all officials of the church, who declined to promise obedience in business and political affairs, have been expelled, and twenty others have been told that they have seven days in which to submit.

A SUNDAY RESTAURANT.

The directors of the St. John Horticultural Society decided to have the restaurant at Rockwood Park open on Sundays. Mr. A. H. Hanington, one of the directors, and one who did as much as, if not more than any other to make the fine park what it is, has resigned from the directorate and severed his connection with the association as a protest against the desecration of the Lord's day. Others of the directors are understood to sympathize with his opposition to the Sunday restaurant scheme, but a majority of the directors overruled their objections. Mr. Hanington is acting consistently in withdrawing from the board of management. Time will show that no good and much evil will result from the Sunday restaurant business. Perhaps the directors, when they see the evils resulting will return to the rule of observing the Lord's day.

VERMONT IS LEARNING.

A year ago Vermont annulled its prohibitory law, substituting a license system with a local option feature. The increase of drinking and attendant evils under the new system has been so marked that a decided change has taken place in the feeling of the people towards license. Last week the annual town elections took place—the first since the introduction of the license system, with the result that instead of sixty cities and towns voting for license, as a year ago, only twenty-one of them voted in favor of the liquor traffic, and the places that voted for license did so by greatly reduced majorities. Even in the city of Rutland, where the high license campaign had its origin, and which a year ago gave a 1,200 majority for license, a majority was given against license this year. Vermont is evidently coming to its senses, and may be expected at the first opportunity to repeal the high license iniquity with which it cursed itself.

LEOPOLD THE CRUEL.

The officials of the Belgian King Leopold, in the Congo Free State, are, without doubt cruel almost beyond description in their treatment of the natives. Protesting against the native army employed by Leopold's officers to carry out their brutal administration, a missionary says:

The collecting of this army of natives, now numbering 18,000, cannibals for the most part; the arming of them with repeating rifles; the posting of them throughout the confines of the State; the tyranny and bloodshed and reign of terror which it has produced throughout the confines of the State, mark without doubt one of the darkest and most shameful pages in modern history—and all done under the cloak of philanthropy. True, the Arab slave raiding has been suppressed for the most part, but the Arabs were angels of mercy as compared to the armed cannibals of King Leopold. As a result of this slave raiding, going on more or less all the time in some part of the district, I can buy slaves at Luebo almost any day at from \$10 to \$15 apiece. Time and again I have reported these injustices to the government, but they always resent my inference in these matters. Everything is done by King Leopold to prevent the world from knowing the facts of the case. He has his agents in almost every country, men who have been or are now in the employ of the State, and they are expected to deny in toto, without any knowledge of the facts, the statements made by eye-witnesses.

POLYGAMY CONFESSED.

In an investigation now going on in Washington as to the right of Smoot, a Mormon leader, to a seat in the Senate, to which he was elected from Utah, facts have been brought out showing the disregard of the anti-polygamy law by Mormon leaders. The President of the Mormon church, Joseph Smith, confessed, under

examination, that he had continued a polygamous life since the anti-polygamy law of 1890, and that he has five wives and families, whom he said he had continued to acknowledge openly in defiance of law. What he has done, other leaders are doing, and doubtless the disregard of law is general among their people. And all this has been done notwithstanding the declaration of the church authorities that they and their people had ceased polygamous relations in deference to the law.

Canada has a colony of Mormons in the west. They are understood to have promised not to practise polygamy. But if the heads of the church have deliberately broken the law, and as deliberately lied about it, what can be expected of their followers in Canada. It is announced that several thousands more of them are soon to settle in the Northwest. It is the plain duty of the Canadian government to make sure that do not they bring with them their abominable polygamous system and that those already in the country do not violate the law in this matter.

WAR NOTES.

Sifting the war news of the week the following seem to be as near the facts as can be got:

Vladivostock is apparently cut off by sea and land. Tokio has a report that over a mile of the railway to the port from Harbin, the Russian base, has been destroyed.

Movements of troops in Korea point to the probability of an early clash there, though Tokio believes nothing more than skirmishing will occur south of the Yalu River. Russia's first stand against a general Japanese advance is expected there.

The harbor of Chemulpo and the approaches to the mouth of the Han River leading to Seoul are said to be filled with submerged torpedoes. The army base being thereby protected from a sea attack.

The exact conditions at Port Arthur are not obtainable. It is evident, though, from the extraordinary appeal to the fortitude of the garrison that the Japanese bombardments have created a panic, or that the supplies are running short. Certain it is that the defence of Port Arthur is already an arduous task. Rumor says that it may be abandoned after sinking the ships, as was done in the Crimean war, to prevent them falling into the hands of the Japanese.

It was reported Saturday that there had been a three days' bombardment of Port Arthur. Nothing later has come to hand.

THE INSANE.

Before the Historical Society in St. John, at a recent meeting, Rev. C. T.

Phillips read a prepared paper on the treatment of the insane. It has been published in *THE SUN* and has, doubtless been widely read, as it deserves to be. It contains much information on a subject of great importance in which all the people should be interested. Mr. Phillips traces the history of the treatment of the insane from a very early date. The first effort to provide for the care of the insane in this province was in 1836. Previous to that time the harmless demented were allowed to wander where they chose, begging for their support, or they were sent to the Alms House; and those regarded dangerous were confined in jail. The present Lunatic Asylum was established in 1848. It has been much enlarged since then, and in many ways improved. The superintendents have been Dr. Peters, Dr. Waddell, Dr. Steeves, Dr. Hetherington, and the present acting superintendent, Dr. Travers. The paper points out that none of the superintendents have been men trained especially in mental diseases. However conscientious work they may have done, and it is admitted that they have done their best, they could not do what a specialist could have done. It may have been difficult in the early years to secure a thoroughly trained alienist, but there is no such difficulty now. And if the asylum is to be what it should be—something more than a place of detention, its medical superintendent must be a thoroughly competent specialist in diseases of the mind. It is intimated that the Provincial Government intends during the present session of the legislature to make some changes in the law relating to the asylum. It will be well if the name of the institution is changed to hospital, but it is much more important that it be made more a place for the cure of the unfortunate people who are sent there. This can be only done by putting in charge of the institution a thoroughly trained and competent superintendent.

BRIEF MENTION.

Dowie has been having a boisterous time in Australia. He appealed to the United States consul for protection.

There are about 200,000 doctors in the United States, or about one for every 350 people.

The Canadian militia department has sent Capt. Thacker of the Royal Canadian Artillery to Japan to study war movements.

The Pope is reported in poor health. The annual report of the Indian department published Feb. 20, shows that births exceeded deaths by 168, and there has been a net increase of 121 in the Indian population of Canada. There was a decrease of 137 in Nova Scotia and an increase of 55 in New Brunswick.

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