

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

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

VOLUME LIII.

ST. JOHN AND FREDERICTON, N. B., JANUARY 25, 1905.

No. 4.

Editorial Outlook

The Pope is evidently giving some attention to the finances of the Vatican. He is lopping off extravagant expenditure in various directions, and million francs a year. He is seconded will, it is thought, make a saving of a

THE POPE ECONOMIZES.

in his economies by the Papal Secretary of State, but most of the cardinals do not like his policy of retrenchment. They dislike to give up any of their suites of unused rooms, horses and carriages, troops and servants, and their extravagant living generally. They think the "Peter's Pence," the offerings of the faithful—the most of them very poor—well spent in supplying them in luxury. The Pope shows good sense in reducing expenses.

◆ ◆ ◆

A bill has been introduced in parliament to establish a census and statistical office. The next census is to be taken in June, 1911, June being considered a better month for the work than March, the month in which the last census was taken. A permanent census and statistical bureau would,

A CENSUS OFFICER.

probably, be a good thing if properly managed. But it is intimated that the bill provides that it shall be in charge of Mr. Archibald Blue, the gentleman who made the census of 1901 a misleading and worthless muddle, and made it cost more than twice as much as a fair census should cost under competent management. Mr. Blue has shown himself wholly unfit to have the control of a census. If put in charge of some one capable of directing an intelligent enumeration and compilation, and honest enough to correct, when pointed out, such errors as may occur in so large a work, the census office will be of value. Otherwise it will be a costly humbug. Let us hope that the government will select a competent and honorable head of this important public service.

◆ ◆ ◆

A dinner for thirty-six people, given in New York recently, cost \$50,000—about \$1,400 for each person. A lot of millionaires of the new-rich sort.

A FOOL FEAST.

While this feast of fools was going on, many thousands in the same city were hungry, and even starving. Commenting on it, a paper which reports the feeding from golden plates, amidst gorgeous surroundings, remarks that "there are 70,000 children in New York who go to school hungry every day; that there are 660,000 people in the great city in distress; that out of every ten who die in the New World metropolis, one is buried in the Potter's field." These startling statements are made on the authority of Robert Hunter, former head of the university settlement. He says: "These figures seem appalling even to me, and I have made a ten years' study of poverty, and ought by now to be used to the conditions. But I cannot steel myself to the truth. It is there in all its glaring sordidness and cannot be denied."

◆ ◆ ◆

The Attorney General of Manitoba has introduced a bill providing for the lessening of the number of licenses issued in the province, and increasing the fees. The following are the proposals: Granting of restaurant licenses is abolished; no wholesale licenses can be issued in villages; no

A NEW LICENSE LAW.

licenses in Winnipeg are to be issued to houses of less than fifty bedrooms; in Winnipeg the standard is raised from one in five hundred to one in twelve hundred of population. The license fees are to be as follows: In Winnipeg, \$500; in cities between five and ten thousand, \$350; in towns and villages between two thousand five hundred and five thousand, \$300; less than two thousand five hundred, \$250; and in rural municipali-

ties, \$200. A like amount for wholesale licenses and \$300 for commercial travellers' licenses. The age limit for boys employed in hotels is raised from sixteen years, as at present, to eighteen years. The promoters of this legislation may think they will thus lessen drinking and its evils. But it will not have that effect. It simply gives the monopoly to a smaller number of licensees. The larger fees deceive the people into the belief that the traffic is important as a contributor to the revenues. The licensees will more industriously push their trade to raise the increased fees. The money to pay the fees and the large profits for the licensees comes out of the pockets of the people. In return, the people will get what always and everywhere results from the drink traffic—injury to the drinkers, poverty and unhappiness to their families and friends, disorders and crimes, and the greater taxation of the sober people to pay the bills of pauperism and criminal courts.

◆ ◆ ◆

The Roman Catholic boast that many churches in New York, built by Protestants, have fallen into their hands, has about as much truth in it as many other boastful claims of that church. There is truth in the statement, the way of stating it gives a wholly false impression. The facts,

A FALSE BOAST.

as stated by the *Journal and Messenger*, are these: Lower New York was once occupied by a Protestant population, very few Roman Catholics being there during the first century of its history. Then the citizens built their homes and their churches in what has now become the downtown district. Many of the old homes of Protestants have fallen into the hands of others than those who built them, and are tenement houses, in which foreigners—mostly Roman Catholics—have located. Very few members of evangelical Protestant churches now reside in that portion of the city. It is filled with foreigners, thousands of them Jews, and other thousands Roman Catholics. Of course, these people have, as far as practicable, obtained for their use the churches from which the former occupants have moved, going miles farther uptown, into better residences, or farther up the river, or over into Connecticut, or into New Jersey, or out on Long Island, to Brooklyn, and far beyond. Where, fifty years ago, were only occasional and sporadic Protestant congregations, are now hundreds of churches, the Roman Catholics having comparatively few where Protestants are numerous. All that is meant by the boast is, that Roman Catholics now live in the old tenements of the Protestants, while the latter have gone to better homes in the suburbs of the great city.

◆ ◆ ◆

The war with Japan is not Russia's only trouble, nor its greatest. The internal conditions of the country are, evidently, most alarming. Russian correspondents of the English

RUSSIA'S TROUBLES.

situation. There is a very general papers express the gravest views of belief that the great strike now on is much more a political than an industrial movement. And there is certainly much to support such view. The shooting incident of Thursday, too, is regarded very generally as not an accident, but a premeditated attempt on the life of the Czar. There are many indications that the Empire is on the verge of a revolution. Late reports from St. Petersburg say it presents the appearance of a beleaguered city. The military is in complete possession. The great strike involves about every industry, and the strikers are continuing their agitation with unabated activity. They seem determined to appeal directly to the Czar and present their petition for political rights. Father Gopon, a priest who has great influence with the people, is urging them to persist in their demands, and is reported to have declared that he will lead 100,000 of them to the palace to present their demands to the Emperor. He says they must be ready for any emergency, even to fight and die in their struggle for citizenship rights.

There may be more or less exaggeration in the reports, but even taking the most moderate view of the situation, it is one full of threatening.

◆ ◆ ◆

Correspondents at Port Arthur say that the fortress could have held out much longer, that there was much food, plenty of guns and ammunition, and that the soldiers were able and willing to fight. And yet if General Stoessel knew the surrender to be inevitable, which he evidently did, there was no use holding out longer. Indeed, he might better have given up the struggle sooner.

THE WAR.

It is reported that citizens of St. Petersburg are agitating in favor of peace. They have drawn up an address to the Czar representing the uselessness of the war, and urging that the government be not allowed to continue to prove its incapacity at the cost of the blood and tears of the nation.

It is stated that Chinese regulars accompanied the Russian raiders in their recent expeditions planned to cut the line of Japanese communications.

The Japanese authorities are not taking much stock in the story that Chinese regulars have joined the Russian raiders, but are regarding much more seriously the report that the Russian troops are disguised as Chinese.

It is stated that there are 18,556 sick and wounded Russian prisoners at Port Arthur. Of these, 3,657 are connected with the navy.

Some of the heavy guns used by the Japanese in the siege of Port Arthur have been sent north for the use of Gen. Oyama's army.

The capture of blockade runners goes on in Eastern waters, and scarcely a day fails to bring under Japanese guns a steamer, loaded with coal or provisions, and bound for Vladivostok. Other activity has seemingly succumbed to the rigours of the Manchurian winter.

◆ ◆ ◆

Judge Weatherbee, of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court, has been promoted to the Chief Justiceship, in room of Chief Justice McDonald, resigned.

BRIEF MENTION.

Every seat in Ontario is being contested in the Provincial election now going on. Wednesday of this week is polling day.

The Standard Oil Company expects to have in operation soon a pipe line from Indian territory to New York, a distance of about 2,000 miles.

The new building of the *New York Times* is believed to be the tallest building in the world—being thirty-one stories high.

Senator Wark will be 101 years old on February 19th. He is in very good health. He thinks he may not take his seat in parliament this year.

The Coombes ministry in France has resigned. The Canadian Dead Letter Office handled last year no fewer than 1,228,431 letters, and of these 12,519 were registered. There are still on hand 11,029, which have not yet been disposed of.

Hon. John Charlton is again critically ill. The International Commission appointed to inquire into the North Sea incident began its public sessions in Paris on Thursday.

◆ ◆ ◆

A STRIKING DIFFERENCE.—The difference is striking between the war spirit in the two countries. In Japan the soldiers march in procession to enlist, accompanied by their triumphant friends; we hear of none running away. In Russia the conscripts hide away and flee the country by thousands, while mobs resist the conscription. There must be a reason for the contrast, to the credit of one country and the discredit of the other. Let Russia once give its people as much liberty as does Japan, and we shall see there as much patriotism.—*The Independent*.