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**To Pastors and Churches.**

The letter of the Conference Committee on Baptist Union has been sent to pastors for their churches. For churches that are without pastors, the letter has been sent to their clerks. The result of the vote in each church should be reported to the undersigned. It is hoped that churches that have not voted will do so as soon as possible.

Jos. McLeod,

For the Com.

Fredericton, N. B.

**EDITORIAL OUTLOOK.**

(Continued from page one.)

the Chumbi valley beyond three years. Since the return of the mission, the government, as "an act of grace," has reduced the indemnity to \$1,250,000. That this is very generous there is no doubt, but there is grave doubt about its wisdom. If, as one comment on the act remarks, the next generation is obliged to undertake another invasion of Thibet, then British diplomacy will be credited with another misdemeanor, and it must be admitted that it has already a goodly number of these black marks to its score. The weakness which cost the life of Gordon, the martyr-soldier, at Khartoum, the Majuba Hill folly, and the indecision and vacillation which brought on the last Boer war, are instances which will occur to anyone at all familiar with these events. But we need go no further afield than Tibet itself for illustration. Had British statesmanship showed more of the iron and less of the lath in 1886, we should not have had the present expedition.

It is almost incredible that Britain would blunder twice in the same manner with the same power, and so we may take it for granted that, despite the advantages foregone, there remains a solid understanding which will forever settle the Tibetan question.

Of course our United States friends and some others will continue to frequently assail Great Britain as a land grabbler, an armed ruffian among the nations, always ready to hold up some little country and extort territory or trade privileges, when, as a matter of fact, no nation on the face of the earth is so fair and generous, sometimes foolishly generous, in dealing with other powers, great and small.

The Manitoba government, acting on the recommendation of a committee of the Legislature, will make inquiry into the telephone service of the province with a view to taking over the present system or establishing a new one, to be owned and operated by the government for and in the interests of the people. The telephone has become a necessity, not only in cities, but in the country districts. Farmers will very soon have talking communication with each other, and with the nearby villages and towns. The system which will be worked most economically and in the interests of the people is the one that should be adopted. The Manitoba government's action will be watched with interest, and the course determined on there will, perhaps, show the way for other provinces.

Some curious statements about the date of next Easter were set out in a paper read at a meeting of the British Astronomical Association lately. The writer of the paper said that next Easter day will fall on April 23rd, according to the Nautical Almanac, while, according to the Prayer Book rules, it should fall upon March 26. He said that the

explanation of this contradiction is that the "moon" of the Prayer Book is an imaginary body, controlled by conventional tables which make it become "full moon" at dates that may differ by as much as three days from the actual full moon of the heavens. Moreover, though the Easter full moon is that which occurs next after the equinox, the Prayer Book equinox is not the actual (and therefore shifting) one of astronomy, but the fixed moment of six a. m. on March 21. That ecclesiastical astronomy should have a sham equinox and a sham moon is a little strange.

During the past five months 75,160 Russian Jews arrived at New York. Not a very desirable addition to the population.

**Brief Mention.** It is stated that Russia's war bill up to date is as follows: Lost, human lives, 100,000; lost, one fleet, \$50,000,000; lost, one fortress, \$20,000,000; general expenses, \$300,000,000. Total expenditures, \$550,000,000 and 100,000 lives.

Florence Nightingale, the venerable heroine of the Crimean War, lives in Hyde Park, London.

An Ottawa woman, whose husband was killed while drunk, has sued for \$10,000 the hotel keeper who sold him the liquor. Hope she will win the suit.

A new sun spot, the largest ever recorded is now visible. It is egg shaped, and will be visible for seven days. It may be seen through smoked glass.

**PIANOS FOR THE HALIFAX CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC.**

Unquestionably the most important of the musical educational institutions in the Maritime Provinces is the Halifax Conservatory of Music, which is in affiliation with the Dalhousie University. Originally planned as a single department of the Halifax Ladies' College, it has grown by leaps and bounds to its present splendid position, much of its success being due to the unflinching energy and great ability of its President, Rev. Robert Laing, M.A., assisted by an unusually strong staff of specialists in music. All branches of music are taught by artists and pedagogues of recognized standing, and the education provided, not only in practical work, but in theory as well, compares very favorably with that given by any other similar institution in Canada.

When these facts are taken into consideration, the people of Canada will be able to form a correct estimate of the value of an opinion from that Conservatory. Recently the president of the Conservatory, Rev. Robert Laing, with the assistance of Mr. Percy Gordon, chief of staff, inspected the "Gourlay" piano, and subsequently gave an order for two "Gourlay" pianos for use in the Conservatory. A sample instrument has been in the warerooms of the "Gourlay" agents, the J. A. McDonald Piano and Music Co., of Halifax, and its beauty of tone had attracted attention. Mr. Laing's letter says that it is only fair to the Conservatory to state that pianos could be bought for use there at a good deal less money, but that they were desirous of having the College equipped in the very front rank, and therefore had selected the "Gourlay."

Such good words from the musical authorities of Halifax are greatly appreciated by Messrs. Gourlay, Winter & Leeming, of Toronto.