

dups. 1905, Vol. 53, nos 1-41 listed

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

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

VOLUME LIII.

ST. JOHN AND FREDERICTON, N. B., JANUARY 4, 1905.

No 1.

Editorial Outlook

The Ontario election campaign waxes warm. Voting takes place on the 25th inst.

POLITICAL

It is stated that the G. T. P. R. Commission will be enlarged by the addition of two more members, one of them to be from Quebec.

The elections in St. John for the Provincial Legislature, Friday, resulted in the election of Robert Maxwell (Opposition) for the city, and James Lowell (Government) for the county.

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Recent investigations by the actuaries of leading life insurance companies have made clearer than ever that taking risks on drinking men is extra-hazardous. The investigations show that in thirty-six years the deaths of drinkers numbered 57,891, as against 46,956 total abstainers. The actuaries figures confirm what temperance advocates have asserted for decades, that even moderate drinkers, as a class, are much shorter lived than teetotalers, for they are that as a class teetotalers live 20 to 50 per cent longer than the former. The insurance men have not been looking into the matter from the moral point of view, but solely with a view to protect their companies against the loss of unsafe insurance. For this very reason their testimony is the more emphatic in favor of temperance.

STRONG TESTIMONY.

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Just how much depressing poverty there is in a great city may be judged from this statement: "One free lodging-house in New York City fed and housed forty-one thousand out-of-employment men since the first of the year. A majority of the inmates are men of middle-age, who are able to work—men who want work, but cannot get it. The average age of these men is forty-one years. This is the sort of prosperity which the great mass of mankind votes for—homeless men willing to work. Homeless in a great city teeming with millions of dollars of wealth." And this fact suggests that many more thousands of women and children are suffering want and even starvation. Lack of work has something to do with this, but the rum traffic has the chief responsibility.

IN A GREAT CITY.

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The Czar has made an announcement of reforms proposed to be considered. Nothing is promised definitely, but several things will be referred to the council of ministers to be reported on. The reforms that may be conceded are,—the enlargement of the power of the Zemstvos (municipal councils) and their representation in a general council, security of citizens against arbitrary arrest, religious freedom, modification of repressive laws, the liberty of the press, more equality of citizenship. It is not at all certain that any of these things will be realized, for the Czar's advisers, who have, practically, more power than he, are not agreed about the reforms. Those advisers who can read the signs of the times are urging him to concede a national constitution. Others who are more anxious for royal favor than the popular progress, urge the Czar to concede nothing that will impair the power of the autocracy. The demand of the Russian people is plain enough. Through their Zemstvos they have asked the Czar to convoke a National Assembly to prepare a programme of reforms. The Czar refused to do this. And yet he has probably no truer friends than the members of the Zemstvos. They are not revolutionists nor extremists, and are anxious to avoid revolution. The vagueness of the official proclamation, and the fact that it may be interpreted as the reactionaries from time to time determine, discounts its value.

RUSSIAN REFORMS.

The Montreal *Witness* thinks it about time Canada became ashamed of being wholly a dependent. She has passed the period of infancy, when she could without discredit be dependent, and yet "in all matters of defence she is still holding on to her mother's apron string—and has occasionally made some pretty strong and confident tugs at it. Our demands for protection have been as assured as though we were paying large assurance premiums to secure it." It goes on to say that the English press is becoming somewhat reproachful of us in this respect, and suggesting that it is time Canada lent a hand. The cry, "No contribution without representation," the *Witness* calls "miserable huckstering, while we owe a debt and do not pay;" and adds, "Not for the sake of the Empire, or of the mother state, or of our fellow citizens there, who have borne so much for us, but for our own sake, our own dignity, and our own self-respect, we are bound to contribute to the imperial naval defence, and we look to the party which gave us the imperial preference to remove this reproach from our country. We do not say in what form the aid should be given, but that we should put our shoulder in some way to the big burden is too obvious to need argument.

A SUB-NATION.

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The St. John License Commissioners have admitted the truth of the charges made against them by Mr. Eben Perkins. After his speech they complained of being unfairly criticised. He then laid a charge against them before the police magistrate for violating the law they were supposed to be administering. They made a show of defence, but when it became evident that he would press the charge against them, they acknowledged their guilt, and promised to faithfully carry out the law in future. As all he wished was faithful observance of the law, he withdrew the complaint. Now we will see how well the promise is kept. It will not be a mistake to watch the business somewhat closely.

LICENSE LAW.

In the attempted justification of the loose administration of the law, the lawyer of the commissioners urged that they had to be merciful to the liquor sellers whose livelihood depended on their traffic. There was no suggestion that their business is most merciless in its effects on the patrons and their innocent and helpless wives and children. Only the rumseller seems deserving of consideration, in the judgment of some people.

In the case of a North End man, in whose behalf the commissioners had violated the law, it was stated that nobody complained but the North End Baptist church. Of course the protest of a church should not count! What business has a church to interfere with a rumseller!

It does not appear that the Attorney-General has made any reply to the charge against him—that at the request of a beer manufacturer he raised the percentage of alcohol, allowable in the beverage, to permit its sale as a pretended non-intoxicant.

There has been more talk of mediation, it being stated that the Czar is not unwilling to consider proposals.

THE WAR.

The Japanese captured another fort, Rihlung fort, Thursday. It is part of the inner circle of the chain of forts defending Port Arthur.

The withdrawal of the principal part of Admiral Togo's fleet from the entrance to Port Arthur is proof that there is nothing to fear from the Russian ships there. Admirals Togo and Kaminura are free to give their attention to the Baltic and Vladivostok squadrons, and will probably keep them apart. When they come against the Baltic fleet, the Russians are likely to discover that they are not dealing with a North Sea fishing fleet.

Gen. Kuropatkin is reported as saying that he is confident of ultimate success.

The Japanese around Mukden are said to adopt cunning expedients to defeat the surprise attacks of the Russian scouts from which they have suffered. They cover the steep approaches of their trenches with water, which freezes and forms ice slides, and the scouts slip and fall in confusion. In other places they scatter millet and stalks over the approaches, the crackling of which gives them warning of the presence of Russian scouts.

Admiral Togo and Vice-Admiral Kaminura, with their staff, arrived at Tokio Friday. They were given a great reception. They will remain about a week.

The Japanese stormed and captured Wan Tai Sunday.

Port Arthur capitulated Sunday night, on terms honorable to the Russians.

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The Governor-elect of Missouri, Joseph W. Folk, in opening his campaign, said: "If I can get public opinion turned against bribery, we won't have to invoke the law. If you people will show the politicians that it is bad politics to boodle, boodling will be stopped." And the people became

CLEAN POLITICS.

sufficiently turned against the various forms of corruption in vogue to elect him their governor. He put the responsibility where much of it belongs—on the people themselves. Political leaders and heelers may devise corruption schemes, but if the people are robust enough in their moral sense they can quickly make an end of all boodling schemes, and of boodlers, too. The *Christian Guardian*, after applying Governor Folk's statement to the Ontario situation, says some things which need to be considered in every part of the country. "The great mass of the people view with abhorrence and disgust such political incidents as 'the cruise of the Minnie M,' the recent ballot-box frauds, and other notorious incidents which have put us to shame. It is not a question of party, for neither party can claim clean hands all round. It is for the decent people to hound these things and similar things to the death. The political machine, and machine politics, on both sides, are the curse of the country. And they will continue to curse the country till the country curses them—and kills them, root and branch. It is high time that political leaders among us of both parties—and by that we mean not the heads of the parties merely, but all those in leading positions—agreed among themselves to shut down, resolutely and absolutely, on the contemptible healers and camp-followers, who, like the maggots they are, live and move and have their very being in political corruption, revelling and growing fat in the very putrescence by which they make the country which tolerates them to stink in the nostrils of the world. At all costs, at any cost, let us get back to decent politics."

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Judge Killam, of the Supreme Court of Canada, has been appointed Chairman of the Railways Commission in place of Mr. Blair, resigned.

BRIEF MENTION.

A number of temperance workers Montreal have formed an Anti-Trading League. Clergymen in all denominations are taking the matter up using young men in their congregations to themselves to abstain from treating.

There are now 133 Canadian criminals on the and the system is reported to be working very

The National Woman's Christian Temperance of the United States has resolved "to secure patronage," and to recover "so, from any store."

Three Indian soldiers were reported to have been killed in a battle with the British.

The four men who are causing so much trouble, fanatical pilgrimages of the Doukhobors, which are now under arrest in Winnipeg as vagrants. They had become a nuisance about the city.

