

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

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

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Editorial Outlook

The Emperor of Germany has followed the good example of his uncle, King Edward, in announcing that his health may be drunk in water or any non-alcoholic beverages. The announcement was made in reply to a member of a society for the promotion of temperance. The statement the Emperor has authorized is this: "No compulsion exists to partake of toasts in alcoholic drinks, and that it may be left to the movement now in progress to advance this idea in all circles." Temperance reform makes progress.

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E. B. Devlin, Liberal, was elected in the Wright Co., Ontario, bye-election last week.

Political News. Friends of ex-Premier Ross will present him with a cash testimonial of \$30,000 before his departure for the Bahamas, where he is going soon for his health.

Solicitor-General Jones, of the New Brunswick government, was re-elected by acclamation in Carleton County on Saturday.

The judge's decision in the West Huron re-count gives the Liberal the seat in the Ontario legislature.

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The Governor of Kansas, in his message to the legislature at the opening of the session a few days ago, said things about the prohibitory law of a Governor's that State which people who hear much about the failure of prohibitory laws would do well to remember. He said:

"Prohibition has now been a part of the organic law of this state for twenty-four years, and while there are honest differences among good people of its wisdom, and while it has been defective in operation, its benefits must be conceded. The conditions are not all that good citizens desire everywhere in the state, but, with all its defects in operation, the conditions are much better here than in states sustaining a different attitude towards the subject. I do not believe an equal number of people can be found anywhere more intelligent, more moral and freer from poverty and crime than are the people of Kansas. Especially may we be proud of the young people of the state as a class. We are raising a high class of citizens here. It is better civilization than can be found among the environments of the legalized saloon. I hope, therefore, that this legislature will take no backward steps on this subject."

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The British parliament is again in session. The opening, last week, was with much ceremony, the King and Queen being in attendance, and His Majesty reading the speech from the throne. The only reference to the war was that the government "has been careful to observe in the strictest manner the obligations incumbent upon a neutral power." The first vote of the session showed the government to have a majority of sixty-three.

In the House of Lords, Lord Lansdowne, Foreign Secretary, replying to Earl Spencer, said the government would avail itself of the first opportunity to help end the Russian-Japanese war, adding that an attempt to do so now would, probably, retard the object desired.

Speaking of Macedonia, he said there was a consensus of opinion among the powers in favor of drastic reforms, and a scheme would be proposed which he hoped would meet with sympathetic criticism. He spoke of the Anglo-French agreement as having been of great value in settling many long standing difficulties. Of South Africa, he said the government was prepared to give the colonies representative institutions but not full self-government.

Russia's internal troubles are not lessening. The spirit of revolt is abroad, and will not down. The assassination of the Grand Duke Sergius on Friday is an evidence of the spirit of the revolutionary party, a feeling which is shared by the great mass of the people. The Grand Duke was an uncle of the Czar, and was regarded as one of the most determined opponents of the people's rights movement. He knew he was living every day in the shadow of death, having received repeated warnings of what would be his fate. In spite of all the precautions taken to ensure his safety, the destroyer reached him within the walls of the Kremlin Palace grounds, where he thought he was safe. A bomb was thrown beneath his carriage, and its explosion tore his body into fragments. The assassin was arrested. He declared his membership in the revolutionary organization, and expressed satisfaction that he had killed the Duke.

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The bill for the establishment of new provinces in the Northwest, which is to be introduced during the present session of parliament, will bring up the question of separate schools. The Roman Catholic hierarchy will make, already making, determined efforts to have separate schools provided for in the constitution of the new provinces. The feeling in the majority of the people in the Northwest is probably correctly stated by the president of the Calgary Board of Trade, who says: "The unanimous sentiment in the Northwest is that we should strongly resent any interference on the part of the Dominion government in dealing with our educational matters. We want to be left as free to deal with them as the other provinces that have come into confederation since 1876. I believe we would not accept autonomy if there were attached to it any rider affecting our educational system."

This matter will be watched with the deepest interest not only by the people of the West, but those in every part of the country who are opposed to interference with the right of the people to deal with their own educational affairs.

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A movement to check the growing disregard of the Lord's day is about being inaugurated in England.

The leader of the movement is a high official of the King's household, which Majesty's sympathy with it, probably that he is its real originator. The archbishops of Canterbury and York, the bishops and many clerical and lay leaders in the church are giving the crusade their active support. The principal offenders against the sanctity of the Sabbath are the society people known as "the smart set," who, not satisfied with six days of frivolous living, extend their amusements into the Lord's day, making it the day of their most flagrant worldly pleasures. The non-conformist ministers and churches can, of course, be counted on to do their full share to preserve the sacredness of the Sabbath. It is to be hoped that the movement may awaken public conscience.

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There is some agitation in favor of the establishment of a Provincial Reformatory in Nova Scotia. Among those who have written on the subject in the newspapers is Archbishop O'Brien of Halifax. There are already two reformatories in Halifax—one Protestant and one Roman Catholic. The archbishop evidently does not see that much good would result from the establishment of another, to be under government control. He is given to plainness of speech in all matters with which he deals, and certainly is writing up to his record in this case. He says: "Let us be honest and

speak plainly. Would not a government reformatory be managed by faithful 'party workers?' What does that mean in the present corrupt state of politics? Just this: Men who should be in the penitentiary for bribery, or perjury, or for promoting such crimes, would be set over the work of reforming boys whose petty thievings were due to lack of moral instruction, and, often, to only thoughtlessness. By all means have a 'children's court,' and a 'children's code,' but for pity's sake speak not of a government reformatory,—not, at least, until the methods, by which governments themselves attain power, have been reformed."

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What was expected has happened. The United States Senate has blocked the arbitration treaties that had been arranged with Great Britain, France, Germany, and other European powers. President Roosevelt and Secretary Hay were anxious that they should go through, and the President told the Senate that any radical changes would necessitate their withdrawal. The Senate made an amendment which destroys them. Amongst the better thinking people there is a good deal of indignation at the action of the Senate. Instead of our own comment on that action, we quote from Boston papers. Both paragraphs were written while the matter was pending.

The *Christian Register* said: "Our country is now on trial before the nations. . . . If this session is allowed to pass without the ratification of these treaties, we shall have a proof of moral obtuseness and mental incapacity of which some day every member of that august body will be ashamed. Nothing is asked of us that a self-respecting nation may not assent to with gladness. . . . To let any antipathy to Great Britain or any jealousy of Germany interfere with this intelligent act of good will would show us to the civilized world as the victim of petty politics. The President and the Secretary of State are asking nothing more than is expected of us by the common sense of the civilized world."

The *Morning Star* said: "It may as well be understood at the outset that if the Senate fails to ratify the arbitration treaty with England it will be due to Irish influence. Organizations of Irishmen in this country are adopting resolutions against ratification. How far can American politicians afford to indulge our Irish citizens in their hatred of England?"

They, evidently, understand the feeling that influenced the Senate. Not a very high feeling.

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The United States is after Venezuela. Certain disputes between the two countries are having a disturbing effect in the South American republic, and nobody need be surprised if some day the United States assumes a protectorate and eventually ownership, as in some other recent cases. In the current *Review of Reviews* there is an interesting and instructive article on "The Industrial and Commercial Outlook in Venezuela," the writer of which, by the way, is a Canadian, Mr. G. M. L. Brown. Venezuela is the fourth largest republic in South America, and ought easily to rank next to Brazil and Argentina, both in population and in importance. Yet it stands sixth in population and fifth in trade. In climate and resources, Venezuela is peculiarly favored. Owing to the altitude of her mountain valleys, there is a large temperate area, principally given up to coffee and sugar cultivation, but producing as well a great variety of fruits and vegetables, maize, yams, beans and peas. On the lowland slopes and along the coasts and rivers are found the famous cacao estates. In this region is grown every kind of tropical fruit. Of wealth and extent of the forests no estimate can be made. At the World's Columbian Exposition Venezuela displayed one hundred and sixty-five kinds of wood, most of which are, as yet,

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