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Forest Fires - A National Menace.

During the past summer the forest fires have been devouring the growth of centuries with ruthless rapacty. Northern Ontario, Minitoba and British Columbia have suffered most. Fine tract; of merchantable timber worth millions of dollars have been de troyed, square mile up in square mile of young Conference list week the unselved prollims growth coming on to supply the demands of of Divite sovereignty and buman free-will the future has been wiped out of existance. In Northern Ontario, where but a thin layer of vegetable mould covers the rocks, the soft, be staggered by any theoretical cilemma. It cozy forest floor, the only hope of vegetation and equable stream flow has been completely destroyed, leaving a cheerless rocky waste for The contradicton which the older controvergenerations to come. Even if no thought be sialists held to be irreconcilable has been given to the number of lives lost, it must be admitted that the loss occas oned this year by

forest fires has been nothing short of appaling. Can nothing be done, then, to prevent this loss? The answer is that much can be done. two words-pub is sentiment. The two principal causes of forest fires are campers and railways, and public orinion must be brought to bear upon these. The touris'-camper does not at all realiz the extent of the damage which his unextinguished camp fire may do. Liws against leaving camp fires burning are already on the statute books, but it is quite evident that the observance rests mainly with the tourist himself. He must be impressed with the very serious nature of his offence. If a man sets fire to a building, he is convicted of arson and sent to prison as a felon, but If his unext nguished camp fire burns down millions of dollars wort's of timber and perhaps destroys human life as well, he is, at best made to pay a small fine. When public opinion views this carelessness of the camper as a criminal act and frowns upon him accordingly, considerable progress will have been made in lessening the number of forest fires

from to's cause. But it is the railways that spread the most destruction. Traversing, as they do, the great lone stretches of uninhabited timber areas, the sparks from their locomotives start numerous fires that gin great headway before being detect d. Too often the right of. way, piled thick with inflammable rubish, fur wishes a tinder-box for these configrations, The owner of destroyed property along the line has found it almost impossible under the present laws to get damages from the railway company, so difficult is it to fix the responsibility, and so expensive is the process of litigation. In order to lessen the number fices due to this cause, the Committee on Forest of the Commission of Conservation has proposed to make the railways pecuniarily responsible. It has recommended that there be added to the Railway Act a clause making them liable to a fine of \$1,000, recoverable by summary prosecution before a stipendiary magistrate or two justices of the peace for every fire started by sparks from their locomotives. It makes no difference whether the fire begins outside the right-ofway or spreads therefrom to adjoining land. The railways are exempt from this fine if they can show that they have the best modern appliances on their locomotives to prewent the emission of sparks, that their employees have not shown negrizience in conducing to the staating of the fire, and that they have maintained an efficient and properly equipped staff of fire-rangers. In other words the Committee proposes to lessen the number of fires caused by sparks from l comot, ives by having the rail ways fined for the dam age they do, unless they take every possible precaution to prevent such damage. This is obviously a fair recommendation as regards both the railways and the public, and the effort to have it made law is worthy of public support. Every Canadian 's deeply interest ed in the protection of our forests; for each forest fire means that he and his children will have to pay higher prices for every foot of lumber they use. Such a measure, for the preservation of our forests as that recommended by the Committee on Forests of the Commission of Conservation should, therefore, commend itself to every publicspirited citizen and newspaper in Canada.

Another Answer

In a primary school examination, over which I once had the pleasure to preside, one of the questions was with regard to the five young man but even today he bears a marksenses. One of the bright pupils handled the subject thus: "The five senses are: Saeczing, sobting, crying, yawning, coughing. By the sixth sense is meant an extra one which some folks have. This is snoring."-From Woman's Home Companion for September.

Church Union Moves Forward

The union of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches in Canada moves stead ly forward. In June last the Gar. eral Assembly of the Presbyterian Church took a decisive step involving approval of the principle of union and submitting the bai: for the judgment of the Church. On Friday list the General Conference at Victoria took similar official action for the M thodist Church. The Congregational Churches, being more independent in their polity, are expressing themselves similarly in their own way. Even the chronic doubters are beginning to take the problem seriously. It looks as though Canada would lead the nations of Christendom in organizing the forces of the Church for the most efficient service is the evange iz stion of the world.

It is int rest ng to note how the old probems of philosophy and theology come to the surface, and how the modern attitude differ from that of last century. At the General were debated, just as in the days of the Schoolmen. But the Conference refused to was Calvinist enorgh tobelinve in sovereignty and A minian enough to bel eve in freedom swept out of he way by the change in phil. osophical postulates. The clier controversi dists on both sides hell that responsibility was determined by the freedom of the will to do or not to do a given act. The newer The solution of the problem is indicated in philosophy swept aside all such speculations with the verdict of personal conscionsness that in the doing of an act in the making of a choice, the wl is free. It is a matter of unimportant speculation whether the wil would be free to make a different choice which never had to be made. Moral responsi i i y is predicable only of those choices in which the will is conscious of its own free dom. No matter what antecedent conditions no matter what predetermining decrees, the w l in making to choice is conscious of no compulsion that destroys its own sense of free and responsible action. It is this doct rine of the will that cut the Gordian knot for philosophic thinkers like the late Pro fessor George Paxton Young, and that en alls modern theologians like Chancellor Burwash to hold to both pillars of the Christ ian f-i h-the doctrine of Divine sovereignty and the doctrine of human freedom.

But it is not differences of theological doctrine or of Church polity that keep the Churches apart. At bottom it very often is personal preferences and prejudices and the things least worthy of the first place in the Christian character. But Church union is on the way .- Toronto Globe.

New Brunswickers Organize

[Vancouver World August 31.]

The New Brunswick Picnic Association was organized at the Second Beach, Stanley Park, on Sa urday last. Those present were: Mesers. W. H. Higgins, Harris Everet, W. B. Everett, A. B. Everett, John Burpee Hard Burpee, Harris D. Hipwell, Arthur Briton, C. S. O mstead, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Olts, M. and Mrs. COP Ol's, Harry Olts, Mr and Mrs V. D. Dennison, Mr. and Mrs. Georges Holmes. Mr. Gideon Phillips, Mr. and Mrs Parking, Mr. and Mrs. E Fisher, J. B. Appleby, A. J. Irving Mrs. W. B. Everet, Mrs. R. H. Dow, Mrs. A. B. Everett, Mrs Richard Irving, Miss Cassie Irving, Miss J B Harper, Miss A Burpes, Leonard McConchie, Miss A M Burpee, A C Curri, Miss T M Burpee, J G Jonah, Miss E B Burpee, A M Mooses, R P Cowan, O H Sullivan, Miss Lily Smith, Miss Alice Horseman, Miss Laura Holmes, Willie Olive, C Marion, Leander Holmes, Frank McCormack, Harley Shaw, Miss D Johnston, Mrs George Johnston, Miss S T Baker, Miss Gela Currie. Miss Lena McLeod, Miss Hattle Flanagan, Earl Flanagan, Ward Flanagan, Miss Jen nie Phillips, T Pail ps, Mrs E Lewis, J R Andrews, T Prentice, Miss Olive Jones, Miss L Larkin and Miss Nelson. The following officers wore elected: President John Burpee; vice-pre-ident, Gideon Phillips and secretary, W B Everett.

IS McBRIDE THE COMING LEADER A unique inverest attaches to the Septem. ber number of the Busy Man's Magazine because in it is to be found a striking prophecy about the future of the Hop. Richard Mc-Bride, Premier of British Columbia, based on the extraordinary I keness he bears to three great political leaders. These three men are Benjamin Disraeli, Sir John A. McDonald and Sic Wilfrid Laurier. This striking likeness is brought out cleerly in the portraits of the four men which illustrate the article and which are placed together for purposes of comparison. Richard McBride is still a ed resemblance to all three men referred to and in his manneriams he is astonishingly like Sir John A. McDonald. All interested in the political situation in Canada, Conservative and Liberal alike, should not fail to see

this convincing prophacy.



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A CENTURY OF PEACE.

A committee, entitled 'The National Com-Hundredth Anniversary of Peace Among English-speaking Peoples,' has been formed to celebrate the one hunbred years of peace now nearly completed be tween Great Britain and the United States. Mr. Carnegie is chairman, and Mr. Taft is to be invited to become hon orary president, but a brilliant young Canadian-Mr. Mackenzie King, the Min ister of Labor-has the honor of making the suggestion

It was on Christmas Eve, after long and sometimes acrimonious discussion with much risk of the negotiation proving futile, that the Treaty of Ghent was signed, and that John Quincy Adams could write next day, as he saw the end of his labors, 'the day of all others in the year most congenial to preaching peace and goodwill to men.' It will be a hundred years in 1914 since at the banquet given by the municipality to the diplomatists he was able to propose the toast of the City of Ghent as 'the City of Peace,' and to express the hope that it would be the last occasion on which it would be necessary to conclude a treaty of peace between the two nations. One cannot say that the settlement was hailed with enthusiam or even much satisfaction in either country. Few forsaw its beneficent consequencea.

Since that Treaty there has been peace between the two great divisions of English-speaking people, with every prospect of its permanency. The Jay Treaty of 1794 first revealed the aptitude of the two countries, angry feelings notwith standing, to settle differences in a businessliks fashion. The Ghent Treaty was a fresh proof of the instinct common to both for terminating disputes by legal methods. The process of settling all the questions in dispute between England and the United States has been attended by some circumstances which redound to the credit of both countries. They have shown the world for the first time on a large scale how difficulties as to frontiers and the like, dependent ou physical facts and legal considerations, can be determined amicably and, on the whole, satisfactorily. If arbitration is now almost univer sally resorted to for the settlement of such questions; if war about purely geoga water-shed, the true continuation of a treal Witness.

particular chain of mountains, the head waters of a river, seems nowadays absurd mittee for the Celebration of the One and wicked; if in fact, there be a clear and reasonable hope behind that move ment of the human conscience which, as Count Taube said in his speech of welcome, has brought about the meeting of another Peace Congress at Stockholmthis is due in a large degree to the ex ample set by Great Britain and the United States, first by the Jay Treaty and afterwards by the many arbitrations which followed the Treaty of Ghent.

While Corea becomes put of Japan in name as well as in fact, having now been officially annexed under the title of Cho Sen the principality of Montenegro has been el. vated to a full fledged kingdom, with its ruler a real king. Gilbert and Sullivan have a bright little song in one of their operas to the effect that, 'It is a glorious thing, I ween, to be a Royal Queen. No half and half affsir, I mean, but a right down regular Royal Queen,' and the Royal sensation is perhaps similar in the case of a king. Court. iers, no doubt as is related at the elevation of the Queen, will say, 'How clever' at what soever he condescends to say. At any rate he has been made a king amid much cere" mony, and the Czar has caused him at the same time to be made a Field Mushall in the Russian Army. So that if his cup of happiness does not overflow, he must be hard to please. Montenegro has long been an independent European principality, in the northwest of Turkey, bounded north by Bosnia and Herzegovina, east by Bosnia, south by Albania, and west by the Adriatic Sea and a strip of Dalmatia. It has an area of 3,486 square miles, or about half as large again as Prince Elward Island. Nearly a hundred such kingdoms could be squeezed into this province. Montenegro i very hilly, has a good climate, and its pec-11) are robust, hospitable and courteous exkept to the Turks, whom they have hat d for centuries. The principality has always claimed to be independent, and this was recognized by the Treaty of Berlin when the front ers of Turkey were 'rectified.' It is, however, rather a poor affair for a king, as the population is less than a quarter of a million; and the only manufactures are coarse woollens. A representative parliament was granted in 1905. In the case of Corea, its final passing as an independent country cannot fail to arouse sentimen al regret, although the change was inevitable, and will almost certainly be for the good of the Coreans themselves in the long run. The country had got very backward at the time of the Japanese occupation, and abuses on the part of the Corean government were raphical problems, the actual position of many, and in some cases monstrous. - Mon-

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