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The Importance of Educating the Immigrants and Good Citizenship.

The importance of educating the immigrants now coming in so large numbers into the Canadian Northwest in all that pertains to good citizenship, and to the development of moral and religious character, is a subject with which the readers of this journal are not unfamiliar. The task indicated, in view of the low moral and intellectual development of many of the immigrants and their total ignorance of the duties of citizenship in a country like Canada, is one of no small proportions, but in view of the issues depending upon the question whether or not these people shall become good and intelligent citizens of the country, the task must be recognized as one of imperative importance. It is learned from the Toronto Globe that two commissioners appointed by the Bible Society to report on the Canadian Northwest as a field of operations have brought back, after a personal visit, a very discouraging account of its sociological condition. "Many of the foreign immigrants, especially from European countries bring with them political and social ideas quite alien from those cherished in Canada, and if strenuous and persistent efforts are not put forth to promote the development among them of a thoroughly Canadian civilization, serious disadvantages, perhaps grave perils, may result." The Globe emphasizes the need of elementary education in the English language, especially for the rising generation of the people from European countries. It is only through understanding the language that they can become acquainted with the modes of thought prevalent in this country and the sooner they receive this training the better. In order to effect this in the sparsely settled districts, the Dominion Government should come to the aid of the settlers, devoting to this purpose a part of the revenue from the sales of public lands. Another desideratum is the organization of municipalities, since "foreigners soon learn the value of citizenship when they find that it entitles them to exercise the privilege of taking part in the raising and spending of public money," and besides, the exercise of the mind and the exchange of thoughts involved in the discharge of municipal duties are in themselves a high degree educative. But, after all, the element of religious education is most important for the development of the qualities of true citizenship. If communities can be permeated with the Gospel of Christ they will not fail in the cultivation of intelligence and all the qualities that make for good citizenship.

The Terrible Turk.

Accounts received from native sources in Macedonia and Bulgaria in respect to barbarities practised by the Turks on the defenceless people of the insurgent provinces, will no doubt justly be received with much suspicion of exaggeration, but the following statements, which are vouched for as authentic by a correspondent at Monastir, Macedonia, of the London Daily Mail indicate outrages on the part of the Turks, which have scarcely been exceeded in fiendish cruelty by any other reports which have reached us. The Mail's correspondent says: "The Turks have burned eighteen children to death in a baking oven at Pisoder near Maneskooven on September 12. They massacred two hundred women and children at Jervan in revenge for a defeat at the hands of the Insurgents. Fifty women and children returning from the mountains to their devastated homes were murdered by soldiers. Between Sept. 10 and Sept. 12 the Bashi-Bazouks destroyed four villages near Krushevo in the presence of the Kaimakan (the administrator) of Krushevo in person, massacring and mutilating the inhabitants."

Mr. Chamberlain's Attitude.

Since his resignation as a member of the government Mr. Chamberlain has written a letter to Mr. C. Pearson, chairman of the Tariff Reform League, who had asked if Mr. Chamberlain coincided with his view that the examination of the tariff may be considered as sufficiently advanced and that the league should now use its resources to advocate the employment of a tariff for the purpose of consolidating and developing the resources of the empire and defending the industries of the United Kingdom. Mr. Chamberlain expresses his agreement with Mr. Pearson's views. We have now, he says, sufficient material in the way of facts and

figures. We have now to state our conclusions and endeavor to get the people to adopt them. According to Mr. Chamberlain's view the objects of the Tariff Reform League are as follows: First a closer union with the colonies by means of preferential tariffs in order to endeavor to make the empire self-sufficing as regards its food supply. Second, the employment of a tariff as a weapon to secure greater reciprocity with foreign nations; or failing such arrangement, to prevent loss to the home industrial markets under competition of protected countries by retaliating upon them the treatment they meet out to us.

A Successful Literary Venture.

Mr. Balfour's pamphlet on the fiscal situation has enjoyed a popularity to excite the envy of the most popular novelist. The fact that the pamphlet is being sold and at a price which makes it a very profitable matter for the publishers, is the subject of general and caustic criticism. Probably no one supposes that it was the Prime Minister's purpose to make money, or to enable his publishers to do so, by the publication of his political views upon a vital issue in national affairs. His friends explain the matter by saying that his inexperience in business affairs has put him at the mercy of the publishers. The pamphlet, it is said, promises to reach a sale of a million copies, and it is estimated that the profits on 100,000 copies amount to \$17,000. The immense demand was probably as much of a surprise to Mr. Balfour as to anyone. A few days after the publication of the pamphlet copies were hard to be got and were selling at double price. The party managers were expressing dissatisfaction because they could not get copies of the pamphlet for their impatient constituencies, and because they objected to paying for literature which was supposed to afford most aid toward keeping the Government in power. The Outlook, a paper very friendly toward the Prime Minister, declares that Mr. Balfour's action "strikes a rude blow at our reverence for the traditions of English public life when a public servant's position seems to be used for private gain, no matter whose."

The Burning of the David Weston.

The burning of the Steamer David Weston on the St John River on the 19th inst, and the loss of three lives, besides the total loss of steamer and cargo, is a disaster of a kind happily rare in connection with the navigation of the river. One would have thought that such a disaster would have been impossible, and in view of its recurrence under the circumstances, passengers will be apt to ask what assurance they have that their lives will not be put in jeopardy on any similar occasion. The officers in charge of the boat and the crew seem indeed to have done their best under the circumstances, and to their calmness and efficiency it is due that there was not a greater sacrifice of life. But the accident is certainly one which strongly calls for a thorough investigation of the circumstances, and the more so from the consideration that if the fire had not broken out until the steamer should have reached the wide bay farther down, a much greater loss of life would have been inevitable. It was in some bales of hay that the fire broke out. If a steamer cannot carry hay without involving its passengers in such peril as in this case, then it is evident that the carrying of hay by passenger steamships on the River should be prohibited. If the requirements for the safe-storing of hay were not complied with, the fact should be brought out and the necessary requirements should be rigidly enforced. One can hardly imagine a more perilous combination on shipboard than carelessly stored hay and careless smokers. Another proper subject of inquiry will be as to the means available for extinguishing a fire on the steamer when it was first discovered. One would suppose that with sufficient apparatus it should have been possible, if not to put out the fire, at least to hold it in check until the steamer could be beached.

The Crash at the "Soo."

Financial disaster has overtaken the business of the Consolidated Lake Superior Company. The industries controlled by this company centre at Sault Ste. Marie and are commonly known as the Soo industries, the business being under the personal direction of Mr. F. Clergue. The enterprises of

the company are of a very extensive and varied character, including mining, railroading, iron works, steel rail manufacture, pulp manufacture and other important industries. By the collapse in the company's business more than 3,000 men have been thrown out of employment and there are also arrears of wages due them. Mr. Clergue, it appears, is very hopeful of the outcome. He is quoted as saying, "The Soo plant will be running in a few weeks. We will pay all our debts and will have the plant running as good as ever." It does not appear that the enterprises undertaken by the company were of an unprofitable character and there appears to be no question as to the integrity and the business capacity of Mr. Clergue. The secret of failure in this, as in other recent instances, appears to be that the business undertaken was much too great for the capital at command. It is said that when Mr. Clergue began operations, money was easily obtainable for the enterprises, which he was promoting, but the organization of the Morgan steel trust and other trusts had the effect of tightening the money market and of lowering the price of stocks, and Mr. Clergue and the other promoters of the Soo industries found capital more and more difficult to obtain, and the crash came because there was not capital available to run the business. The Syndicate which underwrote a loan of \$5,030,000 to the Consolidated Lake Superior Company has given notice of its intention to sell at auction the assets of the Company held by them as collateral for the loan. Mr. Clergue seems very hopeful of interesting English and other capitalists in his undertakings and thus securing the means of going on. In view of the great extent of these undertakings and the interests involved it is to be hoped that his optimistic hopes may be realized.

British Politics and the King.

So far as can be learned from the English despatches the gaps left in Mr. Balfour's cabinet by the resignations of Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Ritchie and Lord George Hamilton have not yet been filled. If a despatch of the Associated Press is to be credited, the King has taken a very active interest in the present political situation, and in the matter of the reorganization of the administration has interfered in the exercise of his prerogative to an extent never dreamed of in the reign of Victoria. It is represented that King Edward is making his authority so influential that he is now almost regarded by the inner circles as more the cabinet maker than Mr. Balfour himself. With intelligent persons such talk will be received with a smile of incredulity. It is no doubt true that the King takes an earnest and intelligent interest in the political affairs of his realm, and it is not impossible that his personal influence would be felt in determining the personnel of an administration, but there is no ground to suppose that King Edward is disposed to depart from traditional usage by obtruding his advice upon the Prime Minister or exerting any such strenuous part in Cabinet building as the Associated Press despatch represents. The King is doubtless wise enough to understand that his influence for the nation's good can best be exercised in less obtrusive fashion and he is careful enough to choose ways in which his purposes can be accomplished without the risk of friction. It may or may not be true that the King has not shared the public indignation against Lord Landsdowne aroused by the report of the South African War Commission and believes that Lord Landsdowne's unfortunate record as War Secretary was due more to the badness of the system in vogue than to any defect in Lord Landsdowne's own judgment.

Strong Drink and Mental Disease.

More and more in every civilized country the drink business is being arraigned at the bar of social science and is receiving the condemnation which it deserves. In illustration of this it may be noted that the German Association for the Investigation of Mental Disease has been making inquiries about the influence of drinking customs on mental disease. As a result of these inquiries it is found that out of every 100 cases of mental disorder in state asylums 73 per cent as the result of intemperance, either personal or inherited. Last year 140 persons afflicted with mental disease took their own lives, of whom 298 were drunkards or the children of drunkards. Among these 140 persons were 27 children, all addicted to drink. The number of lunatics committing suicide in asylums is small owing to the strict watch upon them. The 140 mad persons who killed themselves last year killed besides 89 persons, of whom 52 were their own children. The statistics of the past four years show that lunatic mothers killed four times as many of their own children as lunatic fathers. In all cases where a mad woman killed her child her madness was caused by drink.