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Apples in Ontario.

Writing of the apple crop in Ontario, particularly in the central counties of the Province, Mr. J. A. Aiken, a special correspondent of the *Toronto Globe*, says: "The apple crop is by no means an easy one to estimate. Last fall most of the published estimates were quite astray, and I have no hesitation in saying that those predictions of a light apple crop already published for this year are also in error. I have not found a poor apple crop anywhere in Ontario. In places it is light, but not so in any large section. The total crop in the Province will be considerably above the average in quality and quantity. There is a heavy crop of fall apples reported uniformly. Of the winter varieties there will be a big supply. D. L. Simmons, one of the earliest buyers and largest shippers, estimates the crop to be as large as usual. Back from the lake the yield is not so large, for the farmers do not cultivate apples so thoroughly, yet on the whole there is likely to be a large output. The acreage in apples is increasing each year, and more farmers are going into the apple business and making it the chief source of income."

Goldwin Smith on Home Rule.

A letter of Professor Goldwin Smith's written to a friend in Dundee, Scotland, regarding the reconstruction of the Liberal party in Great Britain has lately been published. Professor Smith alludes to the question of Home Rule and says that question must be settled. "Better downright separation," he says, "than the perpetual presence in the British parliament of an unassimilated and politically hostile body, playing on the balance of British parties and distracting British councils for its own ends." Professor Smith, as is well known, decidedly rejects the Gladstone scheme of Home Rule for the settlement of the difficulty. "The proposal to give Ireland a Parliament of her own, and at the same time, a representation in the British Parliament to control it in her interest, though it passed the House of Commons, will not bear discussion. Not less untenable, though less monstrous, is the proposal to take the United Kingdom to pieces in order to supply materials for a Federation. Disestablishment and reform of the Land laws, had they been carried earlier, might have sufficed to extinguish disunion. But it seems that in the course of the long struggle there has been developed a spirit of Irish nationality for which, unless Ireland is to be ruled by force, some satisfaction will probably have to be found. An Assembly of some kind, held not at Westminster but at College-Green, may be required to satisfy the Irish heart. Perhaps as safe a situation as any might be an annual session of the Irish members of Parliament at Dublin for legislation on purely Irish questions, subject to ratification by the United Parliament at Westminster in which the representation of Ireland would continue as at present. Such a solution might not be altogether free from difficulty or danger, but a solution of some kind must be found. The British Parliament cannot be left in its present state distracted and dragged down by the Irish vote." It is not surprising that Dr. Smith feels some apprehension that his proposal of an Irish Parliament meeting in Dublin under the conditions he mentions is not free from difficulty or danger. If he believes, as he has said, that to create "a vassal Parliament" in Ireland would be almost certainly to "set on foot a struggle for legislative independence" it is difficult to see why an Irish Parliament so subject to authority as that he suggests would not have as much effect in promoting a struggle for legislative independence as would a system which guaranteed a much larger measure of home rule.

Trade in Great Britain

In its financial supplement of August 1st the *London Times* says: "The grain trade is firm but not excited. Prices have hardened, but not much if any more than sixpence per quarter. There are increasing complaints of the harvest prospects, not only in our own islands, where probably the wheat yield will this year make a low record, but practically in every country on the continent, none of which has entirely escaped the harmful effects of the great drouth. It was, therefore, most welcome news that the American prospects were less depressing than a short time ago; that Canada would harvest a record crop, and that India, Australia and Argentina were all favored with plenty of moisture to bring on the new crops. A preliminary estimate of

the world's wheat crop brings out a total deficit on the last year of only about 11,500,000 quarters, and one hopes that the harvest results on the continent may justify the estimates which are, according to present accounts, certainly too optimistic." The cotton trade in Great Britain, the *Times* says, is in a healthy condition. The wollen industry everywhere is passing through its dead season, and business in raw material is at a low ebb, but prices are firmly maintained. Iron and steel reports are of a varied character, but as a whole are not discouraging.

Scheelite.

A discovery of Scheelite in the Willow Creek region of Cariboo, B. C., which may prove to be of very considerable value, is reported. The discoverers are Johnson and Fry, gold miners and prospectors of Ashcroft, and the deposit is said to be a very rich one. Scheelite, which was named from its original discoverer, H. W. Scheele, a Swedish chemist, is a very valuable mineral. It is the mineral from which tungstic acid is manufactured, is used in the manufacture or development of steel and is said to have the effect of making fourteen cent steel worth sixty-four cents. Hitherto the only place in the world where Scheelite was obtainable has been in northern Australia.

Russia and Port Arthur

According to Mr. Perceval Gibbon, St. Petersburg correspondent of the *London Daily Mail*, the Russians have an almost superstitious feeling in regard to Port Arthur, so that the fall of the fortress would so dishearten them in respect to the issue of the war that they would gladly welcome the efforts of any friendly power to bring about peace. "There is superstition in their view," says Mr. Gibbon, "but not superstition alone. Port Arthur to Russia, so far as street patriotism and fire-side statesmanship go, is what Gibraltar is to Britain; and its fall would be much more than a dreadful calamity to Russian arms,—it would dismay and abash the nation, carry it out of its bearings and altogether alter the tone in which the uncomprehended and underestimated war is treated." The blame for such a disaster as the fall of Port Arthur would not, Mr. Gibbon believes, be apportioned to individual men or a body of men, but would be attributed to the principle of autocracy. "When great destinies are at stake something you may call Providence ordains that the judges of public men, the people in the mass, shall be clear-eyed, and if the inviolacy of Port Arthur is to prove a fraud deliberately imposed on the people, the adherents of tyranny will be called to answer for the deception, will be judged, and, in the end, as surely as the processes of nature, will be condemned." Recognition of the possibility that Port Arthur may be taken has disposed the Russians, as Mr. Gibbon thinks, to look toward their western neighbors for friendly intervention, if their apprehensions should be realized. When a short time ago there was a half-credited report that the stronghold had fallen there was "a flutter of thought toward Germany." There is also a perceptible movement to conciliate British opinion. "It is not easy to quote instances of it, but it is very plain to the resident here and particularly so to the humble correspondent who is the conventional scapegoat of the nations he belongs to. There is a new cordiality and a new and delightful submissiveness in the big, haughty man behind the walnut wood desk. One is invited to see this and that for oneself, to aid one in concluding that after all it is a better and more comfortable thing to be moujik than any other kind of peasant. "Russia is not as black as she is painted. Tell your readers so," is what they say in effect. A pleasant mannered officer put the thing to me in a nutshell quite recently:—"Russia cannot change," he said. "Our system is immemorial. But others can change us if our ministers had courage to invite them. Now, with this war going all wrong, an invitation of some kind seems inevitable. The Japanese cannot march across Asia and take Moscow, and therefore they cannot beat us to a standstill, and it is clear we cannot beat them. So there will be a good deal of gratitude to spare for any power that will bring this war to an end—at almost any price. If they only knew that!"

The Tele- phone.

A new invention reported from Copenhagen is the "telegraphone" which is described as "a telephone which talks of itself." That is to say it will save a message which has come

in your absence and repeat it to you when you return. The inventor is Herr Paulsen, an electrical engineer of the Danish capital. The use to which the telegraphone is put is described as follows: A telephone subscriber wishes to leave his office for a time, yet is anxious that he shall not miss any messages which may come while he is gone. He switches the telegraphone to the telephone, and on his return looks at a dial on the former contrivance. There is an indicator on the dial, and if this has moved he knows at once that someone has called him up. He sets it in motion and it repeats the message word for word as clearly and distinctly as it was originally uttered. . . . Herr Paulsen is also credited with having invented an electrical apparatus by which he can set in motion, without wires or connection of any kind, the keyboard of a typewriter. Up to the present he has been able to set the typewriter in motion at a short distance only. He places his apparatus in one room and his typewriter in another, and by working the keys of his instrument he sets the typewriter in motion. Having thus discovered the principle, it is believed that its successful application to long distances is only a matter of time and experiment.

The Remnant Prevails.

A decision rendered by the Imperial Privy Council last week has produced consternation in certain ecclesiastical circles in Scotland. In October, 1900, a union was consummated between the United Free Church of Scotland and the United Presbyterian Church. A comparatively small minority of the Free Church of Scotland refused to enter the union. This remnant claimed to be the Free Church of Scotland and held, accordingly, that in it were vested the legal right and the property of the Free Church. This claim was contested in the Scottish courts, and the claim of the remnant was disallowed. But the case was finally taken to the Privy Council, with the result that the judgment of the lower court was reversed and the comparatively small minority of the Free Church, consisting for the most part it is said of Highland ministers and their congregations, are declared to be the rightful possessors of Church funds amounting to about a million pounds sterling and of Church property to the value of many millions. The case, it appears, turned chiefly if not wholly on the question of adherence to the principles and creed of the Free Church. The remnant contended that the majority in uniting with the United Presbyterian Church surrendered the principle of State establishment, which the original Free Church maintained, and virtually surrendered as their creed the Westminster Confession, and that accordingly those who remained outside the union constituted the Free Church as it existed prior to 1900. The majority of course contended against these claims, but the majority of the law lords of the Privy Council did not recognize the validity of that contention. Under all the circumstances it seems evident that it would have been a wise course to have sought legislation in the first place authorizing the act of union. The *Montreal Witness* speaks of the decision of the Privy Council in the case as "astounding" and concludes an interesting article on the subject as follows: "What will follow cannot but prove interesting to the whole world. The case has been pronounced upon by the last court, which has decreed the most stupendous confiscation since Henry VIII. relieved the monks of their landed accumulations. Henry did it in the name of the nation, and in the interests of the nation, however ill, he used his acquisitions. But this, if the despatches do not mislead us, takes enormous property belonging to a national body and bestows it on a trifling remnant, incapable of using it for the purposes for which it was contributed, which purposes and uses were in no sense to the public hurt. These objectors had, we think, a fair right to their share, but certainly to no more. There is no further legal appeal, unless it be to the high court of Parliament. A similar question which arose over the coalition of the Presbyterian churches in Canada was dealt with by an act of Parliament. Something must certainly be done in this case as Scotland will certainly not submit to so gigantic a wrong."

—In Taylor's "Virginia Baptist Ministers" we are told that "one William Crocker had conceived such malignity to the Baptists that he used to say he would rather go to hell than to heaven, if going to heaven required him to be a Baptist, but afterward by converting grace, he was saved and became a pious Baptist."