

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

Rev. JOSEPH McLEOD, D. D., Editor.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 28TH, 1898.

The Sultan of Turkey does not look with favour upon the movement for the return of the Jews to Palestine.

Every voter who fails to poll his vote will be counted by the rum men as in favour of their abominable traffic. Do you want to be so counted?

Why is it that some people are forever praising each other? Even some ministers do a good deal of it. It is, to say the least, in very poor taste.

According to the statement of a missionary, there are now five hundred thousand widows and orphans in Armenia, in consequence of the massacres by the Turks.

A vote against prohibition is a vote in favour of a legalized liquor traffic. Every voter against prohibition must bear his share of responsibility for all the traffic does. Are you willing?

The Anglican Synod of Canada, in session in Montreal last week, decided in favour of creating three new bishoprics, two of them in Ontario, and one in Nova Scotia. The Nova Scotia one will be Cape Breton.

One of the liquor organs of the United States is commiserating the people of Porto Rico on their adoption by the United States. It says—"After they have a trial of local option, get temperance in traction in their public schools, have a W. C. T. U. and a prohibition paper in every town, they may think Alfonso XIII. was not so bad after all." What sympathetic souls these rum men are!

Rev. Dr. Chase, President of Bates College, Free Baptist, is, we understand the delegate from the Free Baptist Conference of the United States to the New Brunswick Conference, which convenes in Sussex this week.

We hear, also, that Mr. H. S. Myers of Hillsdale, Mich., the General Secretary of the United Society of the Free Baptist Young People in the United States, is intending to be at the Conference.

The Pope has made clear enough where his sympathies are in the troubles which have disturbed Italy. The bishop of Cremona issued a patriotic pastoral, denouncing the revolutionary propaganda of many Catholic newspapers, and exhorting the people to observe good order and be law-abiding and patriotic citizens. The Pope has suspended him for three months for having taken the part of the government during the riots a few months ago. The Vatican clearly endorses the revolutionary movements.

Dr. J. E. Wells, editor of the Canadian Baptist, died, in Toronto, his home, on Sunday night of last week. He had a stroke of apoplexy on the Friday evening previous. Dr. Wells was a native of this Province, having been born in Albert Co. He was a graduate of Acadia College. Most of his active life had been spent in Ontario, in educational and journalistic work. He was a scholarly man, and one of the ablest journalists of the country.

Hon. Sydney Fisher, minister of Agriculture, and Hon. Geo. E. Foster addressed a meeting in Ottawa in favour of prohibition. Both gentlemen spoke strongly in favour of the delegatization of the liquor traffic, and urged the voters to support prohibition. Since then Mr. Fisher has spoken in Montreal. Mr. Foster spoke in St. John Tuesday evening, and is to speak on the same subject in Sussex

this (Wednesday) evening. It is a good sign when gentlemen occupying leading positions in the two great political parties are found on the same platform in earnest advocacy of the prohibition of the liquor traffic.

A few days ago there went abroad from Ottawa a statement of interest to every Canadian, and which, if true, may well cause every patriot to wonder what may happen next. The Montreal Witness says there is reason to consider the statement well founded. They are to the effect that "communications have recently been exchanged between the Papal Secretary of State and Sir Wilfrid Laurier concerning the appointment of a successor [to Cardinal Taschereau as Canadian representative in the Sacred College]. Wishing to fill the vacancy, the papal court thought proper to consult the head of the Canadian Government as to the person and place that he would like to see honored with the high dignity. It appears that the Premier at once suggested Archbishop Bruchesi as the man of his choice, but that the Metropolitan of Montreal when consulted himself on the matter, declined the honor, giving as his reasons that, being still a young man, only recently consecrated, he would not feel justified in accepting a dignity which, in his view, belonged to some older brother in the hierarchy, and he suggested the name of Archbishop Begin, of Quebec. It is said, however, that Sir Wilfrid refuses to recommend Mgr. Begin, under any circumstances, and insists upon the appointment of Mgr. Bruchesi."

The question which will occur at once to everyone except those who think the Roman church must be supreme, is why "the head of the Canadian government," as such, should be consulted about the appointment of a cardinal or any other dignitary of the Papal church? The less the Premier has to do with such things the better.

Pray for Conference.

Before the next issue of the INTELLIGENCER reaches its readers the sixtieth annual session of the New Brunswick Free Baptist Conference will be practically over. It is hoped that the Conference will be remembered in the churches and homes of the denomination, and much prayer be made for it—that its deliberations may be in a true Christian spirit, and its plansings so wise and brave that the weak places in our Zion may be strengthened, and more forward work be undertaken.

A Last Word.

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We commend again to our readers the facts we have been presenting to them week after week, since the announcement of the date of the vote. All the objections that are urged against prohibition have been dealt with, and shown to be without foundation. It has been shown that experience proves prohibition of the liquor traffic to be the only effective way of dealing with it, in that, with all the defects of existing prohibitory laws, they have more restricted the traffic, reduced the drinking habits, and diminished the evils that attend upon the traffic than any other system by which it has been attempted to deal with it. Prohibition reduces drinking and drunkenness, lessens crimes, improves business, reduces taxes, increases savings, brightens homes, cheers the hearts of parents, saves the boys.

The statements, so plausibly made and so diligently circulated in these last days of the campaign, that the people must submit to additional taxation if they declare for prohibition, have not the slightest foundation in fact. It has been shown clearly that the liquor traffic is not, in any true sense, a taxpayer, but rather an increaser of the people's taxation. It takes every year \$40,000,000 of the people's money, for which it gives no equivalent. Seven-eighths of the crime, three-fourths of the pauperism, a large percentage of the insanity, and a considerable proportion of all the undesirable conditions from which the people suffer are the horrible things the liquor traffic gives the country in return for the millions the people pour into the traffic's coffers. And, then,

the country has to tax itself \$100,000,000 a year to take care of the awful fruits which it has paid the liquor traffic to produce. No man of ordinary judgment, with the facts before him, should allow himself to be deceived into the belief that the liquor traffic helps pay taxes. It is, indeed, a robber of the people. For many generations the traffic has been authorized to rob the people. Now the people have the opportunity of stripping it of that authority. May God help everyone of them to be faithful!

Our last word is an earnest appeal to every voter to do his duty in this crisis of the great moral reform. No such sacred duty has even come to the electors of Canada. Upon their discharge of it depends not only the country's material prosperity but its moral welfare through many generations yet unborn. How can any thoughtful voter fail to put himself on record in favour of the righteousness? No consideration of inconvenience, or loss of time, or cost of going to the poll, or personal friendship, or possible interference with business,—in a word, NOTHING SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PREVENT the polling of every good citizen's vote against "the sum of all villainies"—the rum traffic!

The Methodist Conference.

The General Conference quadrennial of the Methodist Church in Canada, which closed last Thursday, attracted a great deal of attention while in session. Several questions of large importance engaged the attention of the Conference, and were warmly discussed. The Million Dollar Fund scheme met the hearty approval of the Conference.

The resolution is to the effect that in grateful recognition of the many and great blessings which God has bestowed upon the country and His church in the century now so near its close, the Conference will signalize the dawn of the new century by raising within the Methodist Church in Canada a special fund of one million dollars, to be appropriated to such denominational purposes as Conference may direct. While the main resolution was quickly agreed to, agreement upon the details of the undertaking was not so easily reached. After much discussion, however it was decided that "every contributor shall be at liberty to designate how his contributions shall be appropriated, educational work, missions, superannuated or superannuating, local church debts or may be handed over to the general conference committee of distribution to be disposed of as the committee may determine."

The election of officers was, as always, some what exciting. The General Superintendency was not vacant, the term of Dr. Carman not expiring till next Conference, 1902. The editors—Dr. Courtice of The Guardian, Rev. Geo. Bond of The Wesleyan, Dr. Briggs of the Methodist Review, the Mission Secretaries and Superintendents, and the Book Stewards, were all re-elected.

The reports of the publications of the denomination show that the papers are not paying as it was hoped they would. Four years ago the prices of the papers was reduced, in the expectation that there would be a greatly increased circulation which would make up the loss by a lower price. Some of those who had long experience, the veteran editor, Dr. Dewar, among them, warned the Conference against the change. But the clamour for "a cheaper paper" carried the day. Those who thought they knew all about it know more now. It is proposed to amalgamate the "Guardian" and the "Wesleyan." They go on separately for the present, but if the Eastern Conferences agree the papers will be united in a year or two. It is decided to publish a monthly paper in the interests of the Epworth League—the Young People's movement of the denomination.

One of the most exciting debates of the session was on a proposal to change an article in the discipline of the Church. The section which it was sought to change is this:

"The general rules are to be understood as forbidding neglect of duties of any kind, imprudent conduct, including in sinful tempers or words, the buying or using intoxicating liquors as a beverage, dancing, playing at games of chance, encouraging lotteries, attending theatres, horse races, circuses, dancing parties, patronizing dancing schools taking such other amusements as are obviously of a misleading or questionable moral tendency, and all acts of disobedience to the order and discipline of the church."

For which it was proposed to substitute a statement "enjoining upon all members of the Church whatever is required in the Holy Scriptures and as condemning whatever is contrary to the letter or spirit thereof."

The discussion which arose was warm in the extreme. But when a vote was reached it was found that the Conference was overwhelmingly against any modification of the discipline in this respect.

During the discussion it was said, by those in favour of change, that in many churches there is no attempt to enforce the rule. There is, probably, too much reason for the statement. In other denominations, also, our own not accepted, open and persistent disregard of Covenant obligations is winked at. No wonder the world charges the church with inconsistency, and no wonder that the unspiritual in the churches seek to have the rules changed to suit their practices.

The Methodist people do not like the "order of precedence" which gives the Roman Catholic and Church of England clergy the first places at state functions. The Conference voted to memorialize the British Government to abolish the "order of precedence" nonsense. The last word is our characterization of it, not the Conference's.

There was a debate over the admission of women to membership on the mission boards. The proposal to admit them was negatived by a small majority.

The decision of Conference in the matter of the pastoral term is that the minister may on the request of a three-fourths vote of the quarterly board be appointed for a fourth or fifth year.

The Conference's declaration concerning the liquor traffic is clear and strong. All Methodist people are urged to use their influence to the utmost to secure a large majority for prohibition.

Notes On Current Events.

In Iowa the State authorities have made a rule that in the salaries paid in any of the State institutions there shall be no sex distinction. For like work, whether done by man or woman there will hereafter be a like wage.

The estimate of Manitoba's wheat crop, though very large, is being exceeded by several millions of bushels, and will be the greatest in the history of the west. It is being harvested in excellent condition.

The President has, after considerable delay, decided to have an investigation of the affairs of the War Department. He has appointed a Commission to make the investigation, and has charged them to make their examination most thorough.

The Post Master General has notified the newspaper publishers of Canada that postage on their newspapers will be reimposed on the first of January next. For the first six months the rate will be one quarter of a cent per pound, after that it will be a half cent per pound.

The Labour Congress, in session in Winnipeg last week, passed resolutions in favour of various kinds of prohibition, or compulsion, but declined to make any declaration about the prohibition of the liquor traffic. It was voted to ask to have the Chinese prohibited from coming into Canada by imposing a \$500 per head fee; to prohibit the use of labour-saving machinery in penitentiaries; and that prison made goods bear a prison label; that Provincial Governments should make the education of children to the age of 14 compulsory, and that books and other school supplies should be provided free by the Province.

The men who constitute such Conventions are, doubtless, very wise, but they are not showing their wisdom very much when they are anxious to prohibit a Chinaman, and decline to interfere with labour's chief enemy—the rum traffic.

How prominent a part is played by agriculture in the trade of Canada is shown by the fact that during the fiscal year ended June, 1898, farm produce and animals aggregating nearly \$90,000,000 were exported (chiefly to Britain.) \$46,136,000 were animals and \$43,727,000 agricultural products. Our exports to Great Britain amounted to \$104,000,000, and our total exports to all countries about \$160,000,000. The agricultural exports greatly exceeded all others combined.

The Dreyfus case continues to absorb the attention of France. The despatches have some days gone so far as to say that France is "on the brink of the gravest crisis since the birth of the third republic." The feeling in favour of revision in the case is very strong. Both in the interest of justice and of the country, the case of the un-

fortunate prisoner should be reopened. The declaration of Major Esterhazy that he forged some of the documents which were used as evidence against Dreyfus, and that there are several hundreds of forged documents in the case, has produced a great sensation and strengthens the belief that the prisoner of Devil's Island is the victim of a foul plot.

The St. John City Council has voted to grant a free site, exemption from taxation, and a bonus of \$2,500 a year for forty years to the proposed Dry Dock.

The International Conference resumed its sittings in Quebec on Tuesday of last week. After being in session a couple of days they adjourned till Tuesday of this week.

The feeling in Cuba in favour of the absolute independence of the island is strong. Havana advices say that Manifestos are being circulated inviting the co-operation of Spanish residents and merchants to this end, and pointing out that either annexation or an American protectorate would mean death to all trade with Spain in a couple of years. General Gomez, who only a fortnight ago gave expression to extremely moderate views, now expresses himself as strongly in favour of "absolute independence or nothing." He says the Spanish element cannot afford to delay uniting with the Cubans as "a necessary basis for the establishment of conditions that will forbid and prevent the United States grabbing and taking easy advantage of the treasure both Spaniards and Cubans have fought for at an expense of rivers of blood on each side."

The pictures of internal corruptions in Spain under the rule of professional politicians, given in the Contemporary, place in a more intelligible light the feebleness of Spanish resistance to American arms. Without accepting everything said by Carlist sympathisers against Senor Sagasta and his colleagues, there seems no reason to doubt the broad facts. Politicians who came to Madrid with a carpet-bag full of impedimenta a year or two ago possess palaces and country villas and extravagant mistresses to-day. But the soldiers have not leather boots that will keep out the water. The people have been systematically despoiled of their earnings, which have been squandered on idle supporters of the political parties; they are now positively perishing of hunger, and they will be shot down or bayoneted if they murmur. No wonder that some Spaniards look to Don Carlos to rescue them from the harpes that have reduced Spain to bankruptcy and despair, but it is not certain that absolutism backed by the bigoted priests and monkish orders, will improve matters.

REV. GEO. A. DOWNEY, of West Buxton, Me., has accepted a call to Lyndon Centre, Vt., and will enter upon his duties there at once.

THE PLAGUE.—As an illustration of the loss inflicted on the trade of Bombay by the plague last year, it is stated that, as a consequence of the epidemic, the population of the city was reduced from a normal total of about 900,000 to less than 400,000.

THE EXHIBITION.—The Exhibition in St. John, which closed last Friday, was in point of attendance, more successful than that of last year. The paid admissions were 47,832, being 6,856 in excess of those of 1897. In other respects, also, the exhibition was, it is stated, an improvement on former ones.

POLITICAL NEWS.—The Conservatives of Victoria Co. held a convention last week and nominated T. J. Carter and J. F. Tweeddale candidates for the Provincial Legislature.

Messrs. Stockton and Hazen addressed a political meeting at Hartland, C. Co. on Tuesday of last week; and Messrs. Emerson and Tweedie held a meeting at the same place on Wednesday.

The members of the new British Columbia government were re-elected by acclamation last week.

DEATH OF MINISTERS.—Dr. John Hall, the eminent Presbyterian divine, died in Ireland, where he was visiting, a few days ago. He was in his 70th year, and had for over thirty years been pastor of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church, New York. He was an admirable preacher.

CHURCHES BURNED.—Of the churches burned in New Westminster, B. C., the Baptist was worth \$10,000; the Methodist church the same; the Church of England Cathedral \$25,000, and the Presbyterian church \$5,000.

Free Baptist Conference Notes.

Canning, where the Nova Scotia Conference was held, is a place of great beauty. Perhaps none is fairer in the land of Evangeline, "where every prospect pleases," and heart and mind can be fed and rested by the charms and beauties of God's first book. It is a lovely vale, the delight of those who admire and cherish the beauty and grace of enchanting pastoral scenes, a joy to those who delight in the works of God, so beneficent and blessed.

But, with this fair beauty, death is found, and many realized it as they visited the village cemetery. Among the silent dead resting there are Rev. Father Norton, Rev. Edward Sullivan and Rev. E. Umble, all endeared brethren, whose memories are fragrant and precious. Regretfully, it was overlooked, to signalize our esteem for those who did noble and abiding work for us as a people by a visit to their graves, as a Conference, with a brief service. It was thought of when too late. But a large number did not forget to look at the outward memorials, and thoughtfully and silently pay the tribute of love to those who in earlier days labored, and so well "served their own generation."

The people of Canning—or, better still, the Free Baptists like all good Free Baptists, were hospitable and generous to a degree. They did their utmost to give the members of our visiting Conference joy and satisfaction, and under the leadership of their good pastor, Rev. J. K. West, they nobly succeeded.

Pleasant memories belong to the visit to Canning.

As to the Conference as a whole, it was one of uniform excellency. Harmony and good will prevailed from the beginning unto the close.

The good and wise spirit which prevailed, imparted power and strength to all interests.

The public gatherings were very largely attended, and the interest grew until the close, and all seemed to have the feeling that it had been a good and a most helpful Conference.

The social conference was one of quiet, but most impressive power. Is not that the evidence of lasting good? The quiet dew and gentle rain leave permanent results.

The Sabbath day was memorable. The annual sermon, by Rev. Wm. Miller, was packed full of good and earnest thought, and was most highly appreciated.

In the afternoon, Rev. Dr. Hartley preached the ordination sermon. It was in every way admirable. Text, I Cor. 16:9. The divisions were: (1) The man; (2) the manner; (3) the matter. The thought was clean cut, expressed with marked vigor, and in a most gracious spirit. At the close, the ordination of bro. F. S. Hartley took place. Rev. Edwin Crowell, made an impressive ordination prayer. Rev. Dr. Howe gave a charge of rare and pleasing ability; the thought and the expression were such as will not readily be forgotten. The entire service was excellent and long to be remembered. Following it was the blessed ordinance of the Lord's Supper, a holy season of joy and gladness, when Christ was indeed, within the doors, and His gracious presence cheered and strengthened all hearts.

In the evening, Rev. David Long brought us the Lord's message: "Abide in Me and I in you." It was just the word to crown the day; and was presented in a manner and spirit that clothed the message with gracious power. Every minister knows the difficulty and the trial of the last service of Conference Sabbath, one by no means to be desired, and which calls for much wisdom. Bro. Long, helped of God, was brought through a hard place with great blessing to all present. For he gave an excellent, earnest, helpful and most practical discourse. The effect was manifest when a large number rose to renew their vows, and some asking the prayers of God's people. Thus ended a day rich in precious blessings, and laden with undying memories.

The official report will give—perhaps has already given—your readers the many other good things of the session. Mention might here be made of a paper read by Miss Marion Hopkins, of Yarmouth, entitled: "The Modern Apostles." The request was made that it be published in the INTELLIGENCER. It is hoped this will be done; for, not only the striking manner of treatment of an interesting theme, but the beauty and wisdom of thought cannot fail to arrest attention and be most helpful.

Miss Edna Wile gave two good addresses, which were received with great interest, profit and pleasure.

Bros. Gosline and Prosser preached during the Conference, and their most interesting sermons were greatly enjoyed.

One face and voice we greatly missed!