

THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER

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

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Editorial Outlook

INVESTIGATE.

From statements freely made in some of the papers it is not unlikely that the recent railway disaster on the I. C. R. at Windsor Junction, N. S., was due to drinking. The investigation should be thorough.

PETROLEUM.

The world's output of petroleum last year was 165,385,733 barrels, of 42 gallons each. The United States and Russia together furnish about 93 per cent. of the supply. Since 1898 Russia's production has exceeded that of the United States. Perhaps the new oil fields of Texas may change this. And who can tell what Canada's oil product may be in a few years.

POLYGAMY.

A Mormon apostle, John Henry Smith, in a recent speech in Salt Lake city, spoke of polygamy as a "God-given law of the Mormon church." Canadians may well keep this fact in mind. Notwithstanding any assurances given by them, and any appearances, the Mormons in the Canadian Northwest are likely to be obeying what they regard as "a God-given law."

FAMINE IN JAPAN.

The north of Japan is suffering from the failure of crops and from very cold and stormy weather. The *Japan Gazette* tells that the poor peasantry in the famine districts are reduced to living on sprouts which means only a lingering death for them if help is not afforded. A considerable famine fund has been raised in Yokohama, and is affording a measure of relief.

POLITICAL NEWS.

The Conservatives of Cumberland Co., N. S., had a convention Wednesday, and nominated T. S. Rogers as their candidate for Parliament.

Mr. Curry, of Windsor, N. S., who was recently appointed to the Senate, has declined the appointment.

Several names are mentioned in connection with the Senate vacancy caused by the death of Hon. A. H. Gilmour, among them being Messrs. Todd, Domville, Hill, Robinson, Thomson, Burpee.

The investigation into the Gagey charges against the Ontario Government is going on in Toronto. It is likely to occupy some weeks at the present rate.

THE DOUKHOBORS.

The Doukhobors seem to be settling down to sensible ideas of life. Recently 1700, who had before refused, have taken their homesteads like other settlers. They are buying horses, and in other ways are showing a disposition to go to work. The presence amongst them of Peter Vergin, the leader who arrived in this country about the time they were getting through with their strange pilgrimage, has evidently had a good effect.

JAPAN.

Last month Japan elected a new Parliament. The results in some places, notably in Yokohama and Tokio, are gratifying to the friends of progress and to Christians. Mr. Shimada, who has represented Yokohama for ten years, was elected by a vote one-third larger than he ever received before. And this in spite of a concerted effort to defeat him. In Tokio Mr. Yebara, another Christian, was elected by a large majority. It is gratifying to note these evidences of real religious liberty and appreciation of personal character.

SENATOR GILMOUR.

Hon. A. H. Gilmour, Senator, died suddenly Monday night of last week, on the train, en route to Ottawa to resume his Parliamentary duties. Though nearly eighty, he was a well-preserved man, and seemed in as good health as usual. For nearly fifty years Mr. Gilmour had been in public life, having been elected to the N. B. Legislature for Charlotte Co. in 1851. In the Confederation struggle he was an "anti," as those opposed to Canadian confederation were called, and was Provincial Secretary in the Smith-Anglin Government in 1865. He represented Charlotte Co. in the House of Commons from 1874 to 1896, and later was appointed to the Senate. He was a Liberal of the old school and was true to his principles on all occasions. He was on the right side of moral questions, and stood up for what he believed. He had many friends; indeed, all who knew him liked him. A large-hearted, kindly man, he will be missed by a great many. His home was at St. George, where the funeral took place Friday.

LICENSE COMMISSIONERS.

The Liquor License Commissioners in St. John have the habit of issuing more licenses than the law authorizes. A committee of citizens met the Commissioners the other day, and protested against this. The Commissioners promised consideration. Protest was

made, also, against the large number of beer licenses issued. A beer license seems, in many cases, to be merely a shield under protection of which stronger liquors are sold. And some beer shops are said to be places of evil resort in other respects. The Evangelical Alliance has made representations to the Government concerning the evils of beer shops, and has asked that they be abolished.

The amendment to the License Law giving the Government power to remove a commissioner at any time, means that there will be a less careful and honest administration of the License Law. Perhaps those temperance people who talk about the benefits of regulations of the liquor traffic by license will some time learn that no system of dealing with the traffic is so much and so flagrantly violated as a license system.

THE NEWSPAPER WINS.

The Charlottetown, P.E.I., *Guardian* charged that a member of the government, Mr. Whear, had used his position to further the interests of the Dominion Packing Company, a concern which is seeking tax exemption. Mr. Whear denied the charge and asked for a committee of the Legislature to investigate. A committee was appointed, one member of it being a member of the Government. The editor of the *Guardian*, Mr. J. E. B. McCready, represented his paper before the committee. He called attention to the composition of the committee, but was ready to go on. A few days later the leader of the Government announced that the matter would be dropped, giving as the reason that the House committee had no power to administer oaths to witnesses, or to punish for breach of privileges committed outside the House. They, doubtless, knew as much about a committee's powers before it's appointment as afterward. It looks very much as though when they found the *Guardian* ready to stand by its charges they concluded it was wiser not to have the investigation go on.

IN THE SOUTH.

Prohibition of the liquor traffic has spread over much of the south. A recent report shows that the larger parts of the states of Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana have been brought practically under prohibition. One may travel entirely across some of these States, it is said, without passing through a single saloon district. Even Texas, which, in years gone by, very unjustly gained the reputation of be-

ing loose and lawless, has been almost captured by the prohibitionists. Three-fourths of the State is now said to be under the local option law excluding all liquor. To be more precise, of the 236 counties of the State, 104 are wholly dry, and of the remainder, 74 are largely dry, very many of them wholly dry save the county seat, and only 58 are wholly wet. And the counties that are either wholly or largely dry represent a total population of 2,218,039, while the wet counties represent only 725,825. A movement is now on foot in Texas to pass a prohibitory law applicable to the whole State, and on the basis of the figures quoted it looks as if the thing would be done.

THE CHAIN GANG.

In some places, especially in southern cities, the output of the police courts is put at work on the streets, and is known as the chain-gang. The gang is made up, chiefly, of drunks. It seems that the unfortunates have been able to get drunk even while working on the streets, chained and under guard. The city council of Augusta, Ga., to prevent this, has ordained that hereafter "any person who shall, without the express permission of the chain-gang guard, give, sell, lend, or deliver to any person while serving upon the city chain-gang any intoxicating liquor, shall be fined, or be sentenced to work upon the public works or to be confined in jail." It is good of the city council to seek to protect the poor fellows from getting drunk while paying the penalty of previous drunkenness. But how much better to have made an earnest attempt to protect them in the first instance. Instead, the city authorizes and protects the traffic which makes the drunkards. If the city must have a chain-gang let it be composed of every wretched creature who desires to sell rum and persists in doing so. A chain-gang of that sort would not only be a protection to the weak and tempted, but would also, be a first-class object lesson to the boys of the city.

NOTES.

A new issue of Canadian postage stamps, bearing the King's head, will be out in July.

The actual cost of making the Suez canal was \$120,750,000.

A proclamation has been issued this week fixing May 25th as the day for celebrating the King's birthday.

The bar-tenders of Jersey city are talking of forming a temperance society—for their own benefit, and that

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