

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

Board of Works dec04

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

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Editorial Outlook

SUNDAY TRADING.

There is much Sunday trading in Montreal, and it on the increase. A few days ago a petition was presented to the city council asking for the enforcement of the by-law respecting Sunday trading. The petition was from the Protestant Ministerial Association, and was signed by representative men in all the Protestant churches. It set forth that more than a thousand stores, in various branches of business, are open every Sabbath. The city council may pay some attention to the petition, but it is doubtful.

A PROPOSED CHANGE.

A proposed amendment to the License Law of Quebec, taking away the control of the municipal councils over the granting of licenses, has provoked much opposition. Some of the bishops and priests are objecting strongly. To give the control of licenses to the Provincial Government leaves the people of a municipality without power to prevent or even limit the traffic within their borders. The amendments are favored by the rum-sellers, whose influence with the Quebec Government is great. The bishops, however, may succeed in preventing the proposed changes.

NOT FLOURISHING.

Zion City, Dowie's headquarters, is not prospering. The temple meetings are thinly attended, and there are other signs of waning interest. The people are dissatisfied because they are not given steady employment. The factories are running only partly, and people can be seen standing about the stores and corners wondering what they are going to do to better themselves. It has just been announced that few improvements are to be made this year, and no new enterprises are coming, so there is really nothing to keep the residents' courage up. Humbugs, like water, find their level, sooner or later.

POLITICAL NEWS.

It is intimated that the Ontario government may bring on a general election soon after the close of the legislature. The government of this province is to establish a Labor Bureau. It will be in charge of an officer appointed for that purpose. The object is to collect and publish information relating to employment, wages, hours of labor, strikes, labor organizations, the relations between labor and capital.

It is rumored that there is a possibility of Dr. Kendall, M. P. for Cape Breton, running as an independent in the next federal elections.

Arthur G. Doughty, of Quebec, has been appointed Dominion archivist.

MRS. NATION.

Mrs. Carrie Nation, widely known as the vigorous wielder of the hatchet in the destruction of bar fixtures in certain Kansas towns where illegal rum-selling was being carried on, spent two days in St. John last week, and then visited Fredericton. In St. John she spoke twice to large audiences, and visited several rumshops, talking with the keepers, telling them plainly the character of their business, and urging them to give it up. Other places she essayed to visit, but they were closed against her. In Fredericton, where she arrived Friday, she visited the legislature and talked to the members; she visited the university and gave the students some good advice; she also visited some drug stores and hotels, and conversed with the proprietors. In the evening she addressed a very large meeting in the City Hall. She held her audience well, and made a good impression. Doubtless many went expecting to hear the ranting address of a fanatical woman; instead, they heard a plain, sensible practical talk by a woman with strong convictions and a warm heart—an address that left a good impression on many, and the good effects of which will, probably, abide.

RAFFLES FOR SOULS.

Writing of the superstitions in vogue in Mexico, under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church, Dr. A. B. Leonard says that "raffles for souls" are still practised on a larger scale. He tells of a visit, in company with another minister, to a church, on the walls of which, in a conspicuous place, was posted a written document, of which the following is a translation: "List of the dead who drew prizes in the mass which was said in the raffle for souls which took place October 31, 1903, in the parish church of El Oro." Then follows a list of twenty-three names of deceased persons who drew prizes, to which the signature of the parish priest is affixed. He says that in front of a church in the city of Pueblo there is a cross mounted upon a stone pedestal with this inscription in Spanish: "Ten thousand years of indulgences for each one who, in a state of grace and before this cross, shall repeat five times the words of the Lord's Prayer and Hail Mary with glory in memory of the ascension of Jesus Christ." Dr. Leonard calculates that as the form can be repeated four times an hour, one hour's repetition would lay up indulgences for forty thousand years, and twenty-four hours would secure indulgences for nine hundred and sixty thousand years! The letter contains many instances of just such shocking trading upon superstition in Mexico, and includes a quotation from the New York Evening Post of March 12 last, giving an account of a procession

in the mountain valleys of New Mexico, U. S. A., of almost naked "penitents" whipping themselves with soap-weed scourges till their backs were "literally raw and running with blood."

SENT TO PRISON.

Five of the Toronto election officers who were charged with fraud in connection with the last municipal election, have been convicted and sentenced to terms of imprisonment varying from one to two years. Several others await trial. One has gone out of the country. An effort is being made to secure the pardons of those sentenced to imprisonment. The Toronto city council passed a resolution petitioning the Minister of Justice to release them. The Attorney General of Ontario has instructed the Warden of the prison to make them as comfortable as possible. The *Christian Guardian*, of Toronto, commenting on the sentences, expresses thankfulness that the investigations have resulted in convictions, and adds: But they are incomplete. They should continue, and the citizens should see to it that they continue until all who are guilty, whether as principals, accessories, or even more, instigators, of crime of this nature, are brought into the light and made to smart for it. Not only those who do these things, but those who induce men to do them, must be somewhere among us. Wherever they are, whoever they are, they ought to be known and punished. For they are far worse criminals, far more dangerous criminals, than those who have suffered for being their tools. And whether they are individuals, or companies, controllers or corporations, however high placed, however influential, however wealthy, the sword of justice now unsheathed should not be returned again to its scabbard until they are smitten.

THE WAR.

Russia has suffered another severe blow. The most serious disaster to Russian arms since war was declared occurred Wednesday morning at Port Arthur, when the battleship *Petropavlovsk* was lost, Vice-Admiral Makaroff, commander of the naval forces, and practically the entire crew going down with the vessel. Of 650 officers and men on board, but 38 were rescued, all of them more or less severely wounded.

According to Russian official statements, the disaster was due to the warship accidentally striking a mine. Makaroff, it is said, had gone out with the vessel to the rescue of a cruiser which had been cut off by the Japanese fleet, but finding himself outnumbered, returned to the roadstead, in entering which he struck the mine.

Other accounts say that the Russian ship was torpedoed by the Japanese. And this view gains strength from the

latest reports. In either case the destruction of the ship is regarded as a Japanese achievement. Admiral Togo was evidently pressing Admiral Makaroff hard when the disaster occurred. Driving the enemy on a field of mines was equivalent to driving him ashore or otherwise effecting his destruction.

The news caused consternation in St. Petersburg and throughout Russia. It has had a most disheartening effect.

A cable to the *London Times* says: Sinister reports are afloat regarding the situation in Russia, but no confirmation of them has been received, save an account of a bomb outrage in St. Petersburg and reports of demonstrations against the war by workmen at Kharkoff. All accounts agree that the Russian state of mind is depressed both for military and financial reasons, while the Czar is said to be inclined to despondency.

WHEN QUEBEC SPEAKS.

The bill proposed by the Lord's Day Alliance will not become law this year, if ever. The government, it is stated, will have the bill introduced, and then it will be referred to the Supreme Court for a decision as to the power of the provincial legislatures and the Federal Parliament in this kind of legislation. If necessary, it is to be carried to the judicial committee of the Imperial Privy Council. It is likely to go there, and possibly two or three years will pass before the matter will get back for parliamentary action.

La Presse, of Montreal, has something to say about the Lord's Day Alliance and the proposed law. This is what it says:

"A certain number of reverend gentlemen living in Ontario or forming part of the minority in our province have asked Sir Wilfrid Laurier to impose a severe restriction upon the people of this province regarding Sunday observance. This step, is to say the least, an injudicious one. We have already suggested in the best spirit possible, that if this association would place a reasonable limit to its demands the Catholics of Quebec would not hesitate to second their efforts. . . . If this delegation had taken means to know the views of the majority in the province of Quebec, if it had also been accompanied by the authorized representatives of this majority its movements would have been perfectly constitutional. As it is it is simply a disturbing factor sowing discord amongst the different races and religions. We call the attention of these gentlemen to the very imprudent nature of their manoeuvre, which can only produce opposite results from those wished for."

This shows where the opposition to the Lord's Day Observance Bill comes from. Petitions from nearly half a million citizens don't count when the people represented by *La Presse* say nay. I was the same when the plebiscite on prohibition was taken. It counted for

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