

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

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

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Editorial Outlook

Prohibition of the liquor traffic by local option laws is growing much in favor in the United States. The area in which prohibition is enforced by this method is steadily increasing. The votes for the adoption of local prohibitory laws show a great and increasing host of citizens anxious to delegalize the deadly traffic. It is stated that throughout the United States last year fully fifty million voters declared in favor of prohibition. And this does not nearly express the full sentiment favorable to prohibition. In Canada, too, the feeling for local prohibition is taking on new life—notably in Ontario.

LOCAL OPTION

Some of the Boers find it difficult to reconcile themselves to British rule. It is not that any hardships are imposed on them, for they have the utmost freedom. Indeed, they have been treated with quite extraordinary favor, after the manner of British dealing with peoples recently their foes. But they simply do not like to be subject to the British. Some of them are now taking steps to establish themselves in German East Africa. A delegation which investigated conditions and opportunities there, recommends a section of that country as well suited for settlement, and especially for cattle raising. German newspapers are, of course, encouraging the movement.

THE BOERS

In Prussia, the Minister of Religion and Education has forbidden the various Protestant synods in that country collecting funds for the help of their co-religionists in other communities. The organ of the Lutheran church very aptly thanks heaven that the minister in question was not in authority in Rome when Paul went through Greece and Asia Minor collecting funds for the needy church at Jerusalem. The order, it seems, has been prompted by the Roman ecclesiastics in the Austrian empire, who are alarmed at the growth of the "Away from Rome" movement, and wish to cripple it by cutting off the help the new and small reformed communities receive from their friends in Germany. If Protestants in Prussia have a spark of the spirit of Luther left in them, we imagine they will make short work of this rescript.

ROME'S HAND

The "Smoot investigation," which involves the right of Senator-elect Smoot, of Utah, to a seat in the United States Senate, was resumed after the Presidential election. It had been adjourned some months ago, evidently lest it might affect the election.

The facts brought out in the investigation show that Mormonism has not really changed, and that all the promises about the abandonment of polygamy were sham promises. There is no doubt that among the ruling classes of the Mormon church, polygamy has prevailed scarcely less generally than before the law prohibiting it. There was an attempt to keep the fact concealed, but the violation of law and promises has gone on. Smoot is an apostle of the church, and he may be shut out of the Senate. The chief question, however, is not whether Smoot will get a seat in the Senate, but whether the persistent and defiant disregard of the law of the country will be permitted. Mormonism has so established itself in several states that it is a political power to be reckoned with. The longer definite action to cure the evil is delayed, the less likely is anything effective to be done. Canada has the beginnings of its trouble of the same

kind in the large Mormon colony in the Northwest. The Mormons there have made promises. But are they keeping them? Doubtful. The matter should be looked into. Later it will be more difficult.

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Mr. R. L. Borden has been re-elected leader of the Conservative party. He will be elected to parliament for an Ontario constituency.

BRIEF MENTION

The British parliament has been summoned to meet February 14th. The King will open the session in person.

Lieutenant Geary wants to make another attempt to reach the North Pole, but he needs \$100,000 more than he has yet secured.

Senator Bailey has submitted to the United States Senate a proposed amendment to the constitution fixing the term of the President at six years, and making him ineligible for re-election.

Hungary has expelled Mormon preachers, on the ground that they are undesirable, both from the standpoint of state policy and religion.

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Once a year, for the last twenty years, a congress of natives assembles in one of India's principal cities.

INDIA CONGRESS

It is composed of delegates of the different races, and is devoted to the informal consideration of the various matters which affect the people, to the criticism of rulers and the proposal of reforms. It is, doubtless, a good thing—a sort of safety valve, affording opportunity for the expression of political aspirations of educated young India. Their aspirations take form chiefly in a demand for more share in the government of the country. And by degrees they are getting it, as fast as they are fitted for it. The meeting this year, recently held in Bombay, was largely attended. The presiding officer was Sir Henry Cotton, a recently retired chief commissioner in the India civil service. In his address he said that "autonomy is the keynote of India's destiny." The ideal of the Indian patriot is the establishment of a federation of free separate states, on a fraternal footing with the self-governing colonies, each with its own local autonomy, and all cemented together under the authority of Great Britain. This is, of course, a distant forecast, but the tendency is towards it, and all the reforms are in that direction. The benefits of British rule in India have been greater than can be estimated, and the blessings flowing from the civil and religious liberty, and the removal of many of the cruelties of heathenism, are incalculable. Famine conditions have been greatly mitigated by irrigation works, transportation facilities, etc. And these benefits increase with each year.

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In all Mr. Chamberlain's speeches in his tariff reform campaign, he keeps clearly to the front the Imperial character of his programme. In this he is wise. The *Star* points out that his opponents seek always to narrow the discussion to its

THE IMPERIAL NOTE

trade features, as if it were wholly a matter of shop-keeping, and would brush away the Imperial phase of the question as something sordid and mean. "But, while the British people might be interested in a purely commercial preferential policy, as something calculated to secure to them the markets of kindred, when those of foreigners had been finally closed to them, there would be little justification for so tremendous a crusade as that led by Mr. Chamberlain, with its strong claim of urgency in a purely trade programme. The Imperial note is the clamant note. The effect of trade union upon the future of the empire is the thing which makes of Mr. Chamberlain an Imperial missionary. And it is curious that there should be any who imagine

that commercial unity does not make for political unity. If Canada, for example, were to sign an unrestricted reciprocity treaty with the United States, would those who are scouting the Chamberlain programme still argue that this commercial annexation of the two nations would have concealed in it no menace to the permanence of British connection? If so, they would not agree with the people of Canada, who have the closest knowledge of the facts, and who voted down a reciprocity programme largely because of its probable effect upon their political relations. . . . If trade union with the United States might possibly lead to political union, why shall we assume that this force will be absent from a trade union of the empire?"

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The License Commissioners in St. John are supposed to be doing better, that is, they are making a show of having some of the provisions of the

WHOLESALE VIOLATIONS

license law observed. But one of the licensees, J. Rhea, is far from satisfied that the law is being impartially carried out. He charges, through the press, that very special privileges are allowed to the holder of a wholesale and retail license in the Pugsley building, that there are entrances, contrary to law, between the wholesale and retail departments, and rooms in the wholesale store where liquor is served from the retail bar and consumed. He says there are five entrances to the bar from the streets on which the premises are situated. He thinks the Attorney General, the chief law officer of the province, may know something of this state of affairs, for he asks: "May I ask the Attorney General, who is reputed to be the principal owner of the properties in question, if he has any knowledge of such internal communication between the portion of such building occupied as law offices and court rooms and the licensed premises referred to? Surely it cannot have escaped his notice for so long a period of time, for I am told by very reliable authority that such violation has been going on for at least seven or eight years, and the communication is well known to the average lawyer. Can it be possible that a tenant would take such liberty with his landlord's premises as is above stated without first having his consent, and more particularly when the Attorney General is interested in the premises?" If Mr. Rhea's statements are correct—and he expresses himself like a man who knows whereof he speaks—there is a very rotten condition of matters in at least one licensed rumshop in St. John, and that one in premises under the control of the province's principal law officer. It is well that the charges are made by a rumseller. If made by a temperance man, certain people would answer them by calling him a crank. We hope Mr. Rhea will press the matter.

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The Russian authorities, in the habit of practicing deceit in their dealings with other nations, have evidently done the same with themselves.

THE WAR

General Stoessel, during the long months of his defence of Port Arthur, was led to believe that relief was near at hand. He was not only kept in the dark about the defeats Kuropatkin was suffering, but was led to believe that a relieving force was approaching him.

The fall of Port Arthur has enabled the Japanese to send large reinforcements to General Oyama in his movement against Kuropatkin.

The Czar has issued an address to the Russian army and navy, expressing appreciation of the brave defence of Port Arthur, and urging them not to be dismayed, assuring them that "Russia's strength grows with adversity," and that the time is coming when they will "break the force of the enemy."

The Japanese routed the Russians near Nen Chwang Friday.