

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

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

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Editorial Outlook

Replying to a question in parliament last week, the Minister of Agriculture said that "the census was finished, and that its cost was \$1,192,396."

"Finished," is it? A nice job they have made of it. If the other parts of the census are anything like that relating to the Free Baptists, it is a jumble of gross inaccuracies. The men in charge preferred to perpetuate wrong than to correct it, wholly regardless of the grave injustice they were doing a Christian body.

"Finished; cost \$1,192,396." Worth —. Pshaw!

The policy of the new ministry in France is not very different from that of their predecessors. The policy of separation of church and state, which was the chief plank in the platform of Mr. Combes, is retained, and will be carried out with, perhaps, some slight changes in methods. The new premier, Mr. Rouvier, is evidently more favorable to the Franco-Russian alliance than his predecessor, and in this respect more represents the monarchical element in France. It is possible he may not find this very popular with the masses. His reference to it in the Chamber of Deputies was greeted with cries.

The Federation of Labor in the United States, at a recent convention, adopted a resolution demanding the exclusion of Japanese laborers, not only from the United States, but from the Hawaiian and Philippine Islands and Porto Rico, now under control of that country. They make the same objection to them as to the Chinese. But they are likely to find them a different people to deal with, and not easy to exclude. Japan has entered the ranks of civilization as a first-class power; China, asleep and non-resistant, could be forced to accept a humiliating treaty, but Japan is strongly alert and fully able to assert its rights.

Bishop Potter has been making a speech about the Subway Tavern, at the opening of which he officiated a few months ago. He is evidently proud of the groggery and his connection with it. Though he says he has not been in it since the day he gave it his blessing and had the doxology sung, and knows very little about it, he commends it, and speaks in no kindly terms of those who have condemned it. He is very sure that it is a bad thing to interfere with the drink traffic. The people who favor prohibition are, in his judgment, for the most part, hypocrites and liars, who contribute to "the moral degradation of the country." The rum men generally praise the bishop, though some of them, a little franker than their fellows generally, have expressed surprise that a man occupying his position should be giving his approval to their trade. No doubt they all see the strangeness and wrong of his course, but his endorsement has a cash value to them, and they, therefore, tell what a great and good man he is.

Montreal is trying to cure its drunkards, or the worst of them who fall into the hands of the police, by a patent liquor-cure process known as the "McKay Liquor Cure." The police committee has appropriated \$500 to have the treatment placed in every police station, and the captains of the several districts have been instructed how to administer it to drunken prisoners. The prisoners are given the option of taking the treatment or paying the usual penalty of fine or imprisonment. It is well to try to cure the unfortunates who have become the slaves of the drink

habit, but how worse than absurd, how wicked, to at the same time maintain and encourage the vicious rum traffic which thrives by multiplying such slaves, and which presents an authorized temptation to the rescued at every step they take.

The war has been in progress a year. On the 9th of February last year the word went round the world that the Japanese fleet had attacked Port Arthur. During the year there have been many striking naval actions and land engagements, all costly in the number of men slaughtered. The Russian Asiatic fleet has been destroyed, Port Arthur has been taken, and in Manchuria the Russian forces have been steadily driven from one position to another. Victory has been almost continuously with the Japanese.

The War.

It is stated that Gen. Kuropatkin has asked to be relieved of the command of the Russian forces in the field. He is said to have wearied of the frictions with other officers.

Reports that the friendly offices of Great Britain and Germany are being sought with a view to peace proposals are persistent. There are, however, denials from St. Petersburg equally persistent.

Newfoundland's temperance record is quite remarkable. Of a total population of 220,984, nearly four-fifths live in districts in which no licenses are granted.

A Good Record.

There is only one Protestant district in the colony which has a license, and outside St. John's only three licenses exist in localities in which the population is partly Protestant and partly Roman Catholic. The *Methodist Monthly* says that outside the city of St. John's, "among the entire Methodist population of 54,651, only one person lives in a license locality, and among 6,074 Salvation Army, 542 Congregationalists, 495 Presbyterians, and 122 others, not one lives in a license district." To the fact that so large an area is free from the vicious enticements of the legalized grog shop, coupled, of course, with much faithful teaching about the evils of drink, is due the marked diminution in the consumption of liquors. Last year duty was paid on 156,427 gallons, whereas thirty years ago, with a population one-third less, the quantity was 212,616 gallons—a decrease of more than one-fourth. It is a good record, and is especially creditable to the Protestant population, and the teaching they receive.

The *New Freeman*, St. John, does not enjoy the treatment it receives from sundry of its subscribers.

It does not complain especially of the merely careless ones who, though they delay payment too long, are ready and willing to pay when their bills are sent,

but of those "who wilfully and persistently neglect" their obligations, and who "spend much time in dodging collectors" for the paper. Some of these persons, it says, "pose as good Catholics," though their conduct gives "a very erroneous idea of Catholic teaching with respect to dishonesty." It intimates that it "may print the names of some few scores of 'leading' Catholics who offend in this regard," and adds that "any one desiring to be worthy of the name of Catholic should at least pay his just debts."

Our contemporary, though in the newspaper field but a short time, is getting a taste of the experience of many publishers—the trustful ones. But the *New Freeman* manager, who is a man of affairs, is evidently disposed to deal sharply with the wilful delinquents, which is, perhaps, the better way. He rightly discriminates between them and the persons who do their best. The list, if published as threatened, would probably be filed by business men who have the habit of classifying debtors, present and prospective. They might profit by it. The listed would be angry, and the publisher would be execrated.

The Quebec Legislature, which had been summoned to meet on the 9th inst., has been postponed till March 2nd, owing to the trouble in the cabinet. Meantime the two sections of the dominant party are scheming for the lead.

Political News.

Judge Killam has entered upon his duties as chairman of the Railway Commission.

Judge Idington, of Ontario, has been appointed to succeed Judge Killam on the bench of the Supreme Court of Canada.

The Ross government (Ontario) resigned on Tuesday, and Mr. Whitney was called to form a new government. The members of the new government are: Hon. J. P. Whitney, Premier and Attorney General; J. J. Foy, Minister of Crown Lands; J. O. Reaume, Public Works; R. A. Pyne, Education; W. J. Hanna, Provincial Secretary; A. J. Matheson, Provincial Treasurer; M. Monteith, Agriculture; and three members without portfolios.

The election in Charlotte County, made necessary by the appointment of Mr. W. P. Jones to the Solicitor Generalship, is announced—nomination February 18th, polling February 25th.

The latest developments in the Quebec situation point to the probable overthrow of the Parent government. At a caucus of members of the legislature, called by the members of the government who have resigned, fifty-three were present, and forty-six of them signed a declaration against Premier Parent.

The British Columbia Legislature began its session Thursday.

The opening of the Nova Scotia Legislature was delayed from Thursday to Friday on account of the storm, which prevented the speaker and other members from reaching Halifax. The P. E. I. Legislature had a similar experience.

In his preparation of an article on "Canada's Attitude Towards Us,"—us meaning the United States—

W. S. Harwood corresponded with many leading men in Canada with a view to ascertaining the feeling here on the question of annexation. He discovered that there is no annexation feeling in Canada. One of the letters which he quotes in his article in the *World's Work* for February is from Mr. J. T. Schell, M. P. for Glengarry, Ont., is a good sample of the three hundred that reached him, and fairly represents the feeling of Canada's people from ocean to ocean. Mr. Schell wrote: "Compare Canada to-day with the United States in 1820 and everything is in favor of Canada. Compare her to-day on the percentage, or on the per capita basis, or on any other basis, except bulk basis, and everything is in favor of Canada. We do not want your negro problem, your south of Europe immigration, nor your laws, nor your disregard of law and order, as shown in your south and southwest. Canada is now growing fast and drawing her immigration from Britain, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Germany and the United States. Ninety-two per cent of our immigrants are from the north of Europe and the United States. Your immigrants are eighty-four per cent from the Latin races. We have three-fifths of the wheat area of North America; rich in minerals, timber and fisheries; with free lands, free schools, a free people, with the best administered laws in the world. Before 2,000 A. D. the Northern States will seek annexation to Canada. No; leave Canada alone; we are going forward under better conditions as we are." We have no doubt, however, that our friends across the line will go on believing, or, at least, saying, that Canada is yearning to become a part of "the great republic." It is so difficult for them to think anybody can be free and happy outside their borders. Canada has nothing to desire which the United States can give her.

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