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DAILY HERALD

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1906

CHURCH UNION.

The joint committee of Methodists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists in session at Toronto, further arranging the details of the basis upon which it is proposed to consolidate these Christian bodies, is evidently making good progress, and if they had the authority, would doubtless proclaim union without leaving the queen city.

But the people have to be consulted. There will be no practical step towards union until all the congregations of the three denominations all over Canada have had an opportunity of expressing themselves on the question, and there may be an adverse vote, although the clergymen and laymen, who have been conducting the negotiations, appear to think that union will carry.

The Anglicans and Baptists have also been asked to come into the federation, but it is doubtful if much progress will be made in that direction during the present generation. If the Anglicans come they want to bring their "historic episcopate" with them, and the Baptists will be loath to part with the surplus of water in the rite of baptism.

However, it is an age of union and all barriers to a full confederation of all Protestant bodies may come before the end of the present century.

ANTARIO REFORMER.

Mr. W. F. McLean, M. P. for Centre York, Ontario, takes up much of the time of parliament in putting forward his pet propositions, a two cent railway rate, municipal ownership of public utilities etc., etc. and is easily one of the distinguished figures in the present House of Commons.

Some of his schemes are good and have been endorsed by the leaders of both parties, some are rather chimerical, but Mr. McLean receives credit for being in dead earnest and may hope to see several of his propositions on the statute book of Canada.

Mr. McLean is a journalist of note as well as a politician. His Toronto World, while rather sensational, is a live newspaper which has a hard fight to attain its present prominence, but Mr. McLean knows no such word as fail, receives snubs in parliament and out of it with equanimity and keeps pounding away. A recent writer remarked that if Mr. McLean had a more taking personality and knew better how to present his arguments, he would make much greater progress, yet few reformers have been personally popular.

In a political sense Mr. McLean is considerable of a free lance. While a Conservative he does not always follow his party, occupying a position in it similar to Mr. Bourassa with the Liberals.

RUSEVELT'S DEFECT.

Thruout President Roosevelt's career he has shown few defects, and is a man who hates interference with his plans.

The President, however, has at last met his Waterloo, after successfully facing the Spaniards in Cuba, conquering the Democrats in the race for the New York governorship, reaching the White House, and vanquishing mountain lions in the west.

Mr. Roosevelt tried to introduce simplified spelling in the United States but found himself up against Congress and has been compelled to surrender. The good old fashioned way of spelling will remain and the President seeks cover before the onset of his enemies.

Everybody will be glad that the old order of things will remain. We have tried to introduce the new system in this article but it is such hard work that we are heartily glad that Congress has sat upon the President.

Webster is good enough for us.

CURRENT COMMENTS.

The Christmas season would be a good time for the police magistrate and chief of police in St. John to kiss and make up.

What is the matter with the St. Mary's Ferry aspirant for a place on the opposition ticket after lecturing on "political integrity."

There is talk of the present military force in Fredericton being exchanged for garrison artillery, and if that happens we shall have more big guns in Fredericton than the members of the legislature.

Santa Claus Emmerson is evidently not prepared to bestow those two New Brunswick senatorships just now. Perhaps he wants to get some pointers from the Liberal convention, which meets at St. John Dec. 27, before deciding whom he shall call to the "seats of the mighty."

Isn't it about time for Mr. Oswald Septimus Crockett, M. P., to rise in his place in parliament and ask the government about the Transcontinental route. It is fully a week since Mr. Crockett has put a question to the ministers, and the public business seems to be languishing because of his inactivity.

"Busted and a long way from home," is the refrain of a couple of New York theatrical companies which have been trying to do a paying business in the Maritime Provinces, and have failed. Our people are apparently thinking so much just now of the joys and the responsibilities of the Christmas season that they haven't the time for cash for theatricals.

St. John is doing a big export trade these days in humanity. Some thousands of former old countrymen who have been living in the west and have prospered, are going "home" to spend the Christmas season, and they are brought to St. John by the C. P. R. and ship in the company's magnificent steamers. The Empress of Britain, which sailed today, took over 1200 of this class of people. They will probably all come back, some bringing friends with them, thus becoming active immigration agents in the interests of Canada.

History on a Watch Face.

Almost the last work of the Belgian astronomer Howzeau was an article in which, while arguing in favor of a decimal division of time, he pointed out the origin of the double set of twelve hours represented on our watch and clock faces. The ancient inhabitants of Mesopotamia chose the number 12 as an arithmetical base because it has four divisors—viz. 2, 3, 4 and 6, while 10 has only two divisors—viz. 2 and 5. They counted twelve hours in the day and twelve in the night, measuring the day by the progress of the sun and the night by the progress of the stars across the sky. This system, prevailing over all others, has come down to us, and so our watches bear on their faces a souvenir of those ancient days when the sun served for a clock hand half of the time and the stars the other half.

Written on Glass.

Miss Harriet Auber's beautiful lines, "Our Blessed Redeemer, Ere He Breathed," were written by the authoress on a window pane in her house at Huddersdon. A dealer in curios tried to purchase this interesting and peculiar manuscript from the owner of the house after the death of Miss Auber in 1862, but he was unsuccessful. The pane of glass was subsequently stolen, and it has never since been found or its fate discovered.

Centuries ago Theodolph, bishop of Orleans, while in prison at Metz composed the hymn, "All Glory, Laud and Honor," which he wrote on the window of his cell. As the usual Palm Sunday procession passed through the town the emperor heard sounds of singing proceeding from the prison. He thereupon liberated the bishop, whose hymn was afterward regularly used on each succeeding Palm Sunday as a procession, the choir taking up each quatrain and the public joining in singing the chorus.

How Warm Is Ice?

Ice is a comparatively warm substance for its absolute temperature is 491 degrees. Scientific men, that is to say, invite us to believe that below the freezing point of our thermometer there are 490 degrees before we reach absolute zero—the absence of all heat.

Elephants' Teeth.

Elephants, like human beings, have two sets of teeth. The milk teeth, which are smaller than the permanent molars, fall out when the animals are about fourteen years old. These baby teeth, which are nevertheless enormous, are occasionally picked up by circus men among the fodder and preserved as curiosities.

Gold Abrasion.

A gold coin passes from one hand to another 2,000,000,000 times before the stamp or impression upon it becomes obliterated by friction, while a silver coin changes hands 3,250,000,000 times before it becomes entirely defaced.

From Sour to Sweet.

A plant in tropical Africa has a fruit which can change the flavor of the most acid substance into a delicious sweetness. It is seldom found near the coast. The fruit resembles a small plum with the seed invested in a thin soft pulp, wherein lies the peculiar sweetening property.

He Laid.

"Don't waste your time in clipping off the branches," said the woodman to his son, "but lay your ax at the root of the tree." And the young man went out and laid his ax at the foot of the tree, like a good and dutiful boy, and then he went fishing. Truly there is nothing so beautiful as filial obedience. —Strand Magazine.

REMARKABLE OPINIONS.

Irish Particularly Prone to "Break Down" Mentally.

A special report of the Inspector of Lunatics in Ireland was issued the other day in the form of a blue book. It shows that the proportion of insane to the total population in 1901 was 56.2 per 1,000, compared with 15.3 in 1851. The number of patients in public asylums rose from 8,667 in 1880 to 13,332 in 1895, and 18,094 in 1901. There was a proportionate increase in the inmates of private asylums. The figures do not include the insane outside of asylums, which is believed to be considerable.

The inspectors attribute the increase in the ratio of insanity to population partly to the reduction of the latter by emigration of the mentally fit and partly to the return to Ireland of emigrants suffering from mental breakdown. Available statistics do not permit of a definite conclusion as to whether there has been an actual increase in insanity, but the inspectors believe that but for the emigration of the strong and healthy the ratio would have been very small.

They declare, however, that the Irish are "peculiarly prone to mental breakdown," directing attention to America, where, they say, the proportion of insane among the Irish is greatly in excess of other nationalities, and pointing out that in Connecticut it is more than double.

Caution is enjoined against the danger of hastily drawing conclusions from returns as to numerical increase which may be influenced by many factors, as, for example, the widening of the medical opinion as to the degree of insanity, justifying certification and transfer to institutional care.

In conclusion the report says that the question of the influence of emigration on the development of insanity has not hitherto received the attention it deserves, adding: "There is every reason to fear that a large number of our people crossing the Atlantic in search of fortune in a climate and environment so different from that to which they are accustomed leave behind them the good humor and peace of mind so happily characteristic of our peasantry, and in the strain and stress of American city life, and especially of American city life, quickly break down physically and mentally. Of the large number who become insane many like hunted animals, seek to return to their friends and former homes in Ireland, while those unable to return find refuge in the lunatic asylums of America."

Open to the Warning.

Old Quiverful—And so you want to take our daughter from us—you want to take her from us suddenly, without a word of warning? Young Goslow—Not at all, sir. If there is anything about her you wish to warn me against I'm willing to listen.

The secret of progress lies in knowing how to make use not of what we have chosen, but of what is forced upon us.

CASTORIA

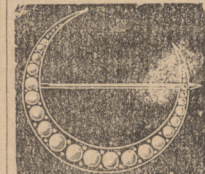
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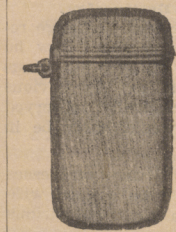
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