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Scottish Church  
Union Imminent

General Assemblies of Two  
Branches to Meet Last  
Time

Edinburgh, Scotland.—The General Assemblies of the two great Presbyterian churches will meet for the last time as separate bodies near the close of this month in Edinburgh, when the eyes of Scotsmen and Scotswomen the world over will be turned towards the city. During their sittings the assemblies will come to a decision of momentous import to the Scottish people; after 20 years of negotiation union is at last to be an accomplished fact. The final steps which constitutional procedure requires will be taken in the autumn. Many questions concerning church life and work at home and abroad will be discussed but the subject of union will overshadow all others.

The Church of Scotland membership is practically unanimous for union. At the last assembly an amendment for the rejection of the scheme received only seven votes. In the United Free Church, however, although an overwhelming majority are keen to go forward into the larger union, there is a minority led by Rev. James Barr, with a vote at the last assembly of 48 ministers and elders, which is determined to prosecute with all energy the arrangements for a continuing church.

FREE FROM STATE. The majority maintain that by the acts of 1921 and 1925 the Church of Scotland freed herself of state control and interference and that the financial bond between church and state was broken. The minority believe the action proposed is against the principle of religious equality which they count as sacred a principle as spiritual freedom itself, and to the principle of voluntary support of religious ordinances.

In the debates which have taken place in the United Free Church Assembly in recent years there has been an absence of rancor in the speeches, the majority having always admitted that those who have consistently identified themselves with the minority have taken the stand in response to the dictates of conscience. There is no suggestion that the parting when it comes will be bitter.

The General Assembly of the United Free Church, having in November last voted by an overwhelming majority in favor of the union, the Presbyteries, Kirk sessions and congregations were asked to express their opinion. The great majority in each case was in support of the scheme. The figures now made public are: Presbyteries, 63 for and none against; Kirk sessions, 1,302 for, 91 against; congregations, 1,320 for, 104 against.

DUKE'S APPOINTMENT. The appointment of the Duke of York as Lord High Commissioner of the Church of Scotland has given great joy to the Scottish people. It is regarded as a signal act of Royal favor. At the close of the assembly last year it was tentatively agreed that in the event of union taking place Their Majesties the King and Queen would attend the service in St. Giles' Cathedral at which the uniting consent would be signed. The King's illness, however, made that impossible and it is considered a graceful act on His Majesty's part to send his son. The Duke will be the first member of the Royal family to attend the assembly since James VI. did more than 300 years ago.

His Royal Highness and the Duchess will take up residence at the Palace of Holyrood for 10 days and carry through a busy program of visits to the General Assembly and the numerous charitable and philanthropic institutions in the city. Members of the Church of Scotland have chosen as their moderator the Rev. Dr. Joseph Mitchell, Mauchline, who has been a warm supporter of the union movement and a valuable servant on committees of the church. The United Free Church moderator is Rev. Dr. Alexander Martin, principal of New College, Edinburgh, who was moderator also in 1920. He has given years of labor to the cause of union. The moderator of the Free Church is Prof. J. R. Mackay, a distinguished theologian and scholar.

W. M. Birks Finds  
Britain Improved

Head of Chamber of Commerce Returns After Long Visit

W. M. Birks, president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, accompanied by Mrs. Birks and Miss Lois Birks arrived in Montreal in the special train from the Empress of Australia which docked at Quebec. They spent some time in Europe, in the course of which Mr. Birks motor-ed through five countries besides Britain.

"The progress of Canadian industry and commerce is greatly appreciated in Great Britain," he said. "A proof of this is the fact that the Chambers of Commerce in London, Birmingham and Manchester were sending delegates to the Alberta convention next September. Trade is improving in England. I thought the improvement might be largely fictitious and that the leaders of industry might just be wishing to keep their courage up."

Wet Weather Halts  
Farming Operations

Grain Growing Districts of  
Ontario Are Most Seriously  
Affected

The wet weather that has prevailed this spring in York and adjacent counties has had a somewhat adverse effect on farm conditions. Seeding is reported two weeks to a month late in some localities. Grain growing sections are affected most, but gardening conditions are reported as less serious. A late season for the gardener, however, may mean the loss of the early market.

Farmers of Scarborough are anxious to see a few days of dry weather, said W. D. Annis, clerk of the township. He stated that many of the prominent farmers had reported that their farming operations were retarded a full month.

Market gardeners and vegetable producers in East York Township report fairly good conditions prevalent. James Muirhead, of Agincourt, states that crops, such as oats and barley are coming along nicely in most cases. Fall wheat, on the other hand, requires dry ground, and the general effect of the recent storms has been to rot a good deal of it. In my estimation this is going to be an off year, though an immediate drying up of the weather may yet allow a fair crop," Mr. Muirhead considers that the hay crop is the most promising at present.

The Donalds Farm in York Township, the property of Mrs. D. A. Dundas, is very well advanced in seeding, according to the superintendent, Dr. R. M. Jenkins. "We are fortunate in being on fairly high ground. Some others have their fields so wet that they have done very little seeding."

"In Markham Township the fall fall wheat came along very well in the early spring," said Norman Porter. "The cold wet weather that followed held it back considerably, and a week ago it seemed pretty bad," he went on. "The last few days of warmth, however, have improved it fifty per cent."

Jess Baker, of Vaughan, who farms 250 acres, said that he had let the cattle out to grass on Friday, which is rather late. Continued rains in Ontario County have greatly retarded the seeding and planting operations, according to W. M. Crookery, district representative for the department of agriculture. The grain-producing lands of Peel County are still half unseeded, according to G. R. Patterson, of the Department of Agriculture. He said that the northern section of the county in the vicinity of Caledon was in much better shape than the central and southern sections. The season opened earlier in the north on the sloping land and the few days of dry weather had given the section an early start. Spring wheat will be short, hay crops good and alfalfa, except in the low-lying parts, exceptionally good.

"The season is much delayed," said A. P. McVannel, of Milton. "There has been a heavy rain each week and that has held back operations, especially on the heavier land. The seeding around Georgetown and Acton is well on, but other places are not so fortunate."

Vehicles

Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph (Ind.): The opposition of the farming class to a general provincial law is part prejudice, part obstinacy and part laziness, but if the driver of a horse-drawn vehicle were risking only his own life the Government might well take the stand, under the circumstances, that his blood is on his own road. In point of fact, however, he is as much a potential menace to all other traffic upon the road as speeding motorists can possibly be to him.

Note the Bouquet



JAPAN OPENS AIR MAIL. Inauguration of air-mail service in Japan, showing pilot about to leave Takakawa, airport for Osaka, with full cargo.

Flashing Signs Barred by Edict of Regent Street London's Rue de la Paix and Fifth Avenue Combined Sets High Standard

London.—The merchants whose shops and stores have turned the rebuilt Regent Street into an English Rue de la Paix and Fifth Avenue combined are strongly in favor of newspaper advertising and just as strongly opposed to garish electric signs and other objectionable means of attracting attention. This attitude received pronounced expression at the first annual dinner of the Regent Street Association, at which the Lord Mayor of London and many other distinguished guests were present.

A great deal of Regent Street is the property of the Crown, and one of the speakers at the dinner was A. S. Gave, Commissioner for Crown Lands. "Regent Street is not going to shrink from advertisement," he declared, "for advertisement is the sort of stimulant without which no trade in these days can enjoy health and vitality. But there are many ways of advertising. Within 100 yards of this room we can see a form of advertisement by electric signs."

"We shall fight against anything of that sort being introduced on any large scale in Regent Street. There are plenty of other ways of advertising, particularly by our shop windows and in the press. In relying on newspaper advertising we should intrust the work of language and for our pictorial art we should employ the finest talent available."

Canada's Diversified Natural Beauty Attracts Many Tourists



ONE TYPE OF BEAUTY WE IN THE EAST CANNOT ENJOY. Waterton Lakes, National Park, on the international boundary in Alberta, is the most southerly of Canada's scenic reserves.

Ferocious Beasts  
Affright Bathing

Shallower Beaches in Southern Pacific Dangerous For Summer

Sydney, N. S. W., May 18.—(A.P.)—Ferocious snakes, giant octopi, and salt water crocodiles have given a dangerous aspect recently to shallower sections of much of the Southern Pacific, which hitherto have been free from these menaces.

T. Vangioni while swimming in Akappa Harbor, New Zealand, endured terrific agony in the grip of tentacles of a giant octopus. A friend dived into the water and beat off the sea brute with a club, Vangioni being on the point of collapse when rescued.

He said he had dived into deep water when what he described as two devil's eyes, glowing and ferocious, seemed to dart down upon him, and even before the tentacles grasped him he felt utterly powerless. An uncanny fascination or paralyzing horror made him almost incapable of effort against the muscular and tenacious grip. At most more terrifying than the amazing strength of the tentacles was an electric wire, which they seemed to impart, but whether this was real or due to terrified imagination he could not say.

People of North Queensland who have abandoned the practice almost everywhere of the distinct hot days have abandoned the practice almost altogether as consequence of invasion of salt water crocodiles.

At Carns three youths were bathing in an inclosure near the shore when one of them, Kevl Conlin, age 14, who was in water only 18 inches deep suddenly leaped into the air with a cry of agony. His companions were horrified to see pointing from the water the long jagged jaws of a crocodile wide open ready to snap again at the boy.

One happened to have with him a long pole, with which he had been engaged in some water sports, and with great presence of mind he raised this and brought it crashing down on the snout. Seizing their dazed and bleeding companion, they made for the shore, but the crocodile followed and made another vicious snap at Conlin, this time just missing his left leg, which, on account of a terrible gash in the hip, was trailing helplessly in the water.

After three human tragedies attributed to sharks at Bondi Beach, near the heart of Sidney, a commercial shark fishing company spread huge nets between two ships and secured 29 sharks, one of them a tiger shark, the most ferocious of the species, 20 feet in length and weighing between 800 and 900 pounds.

Several of these catch were "whaler" sharks, a kind which preys on whales. Some of these were found to have received amazing wounds, presumably in battles with the mammals, two being so maimed as to be half eaten away.

"The Raiding Chancellor"

Economist in the Review of Reviews (London): Mr. Churchill may go down to history as a bold but not as a successful Chancellor of the Exchequer. His first Budget was responsible for saddling the nation with a pension scheme which will not become self-supporting, even on his own calculations, until the year of grace 2005. In every other Budget he has raided one fund or resource after another, and has thus cleared out every nest-egg. He has the highly dubious record of having, by a species of financial legerdemain almost without parallel, imposed upon the super-taxpayer an extra year's tax. By the device of changing its name and calling it a surtax, he collects both super-tax and surtax on the same year's income.

Former Shah of  
Persia is Dying

Ahmed Kadjar, Dethroned  
and Forgotten, Nears  
Death in Exile

Paris.—Persia's king of kings, dethroned, forgotten, abandoned by almost all of his followers, is slowly nearing his death in exile, his doctors agreeing that there is little hope of his recovery and giving him but a few months longer to live.

The former shah recently underwent an operation at the American hospital at Neuilly, in the suburbs of Paris. The surgeons found that his condition was far more critical than the diagnosis had indicated. He is suffering from severe kidney trouble which has reached a stage where there is little that medical science can do. Since the king of kings has learned of the seriousness of his situation he had grown morbid, which is a handicap to his recovery. Since his dethronement, Ahmed Kadjar has been abandoned by almost his whole suite of followers. He receives very few visits at the hospital. Samad Khan, former Persian Minister to France, and Hassan Mohamed Mirza are about the only visitors the king receives, except a few members of his former household.

Before he became ill the former Shah was a popular figure in French society, in the theatres and in the restaurants of fashion, where he was always accompanied by strikingly beautiful women. His finances appear sound, following his 1,000,000 franc coup on the Paris Bourse, although he did lose heavily in an industrial and oil slump.

He has engaged in politics but little. Even before he was dethroned he spent most of his time in Paris and very little in Persia. He often remarked that power was thrust upon him when his father abdicated the throne, before Ahmed Kadjar had a chance to play. He was only 11 at the time. He is but 31 now.

Even his death would cause almost no political concern in Persia, for he has no political followers. His brother, Hassan Mohamed, 30, has political ambitions, according to prominent Persians. If death overcomes the Shah his brother is expected to replace him as pretender to the throne. Hassan is ambitious to become the eighth Shan-in-Shah of the Kadjar dynasty. He insists that he alone is able to restore the dynasty.

Spain's King  
Opens Fair

Release of Thousands of White Pigeons Adds Brilliance to Scene as Alfonso XIII Declares Ibero-American Exposition Open—Dictator Attends Ceremony

SEVILLE EXHIBITION

Seville, Spain.—Despite all misgivings as to the success of the Ibero-American exhibition, Seville has suddenly become a city of crowded streets. The big fair was solemnly opened by King Alfonso in seven short words. The ceremony took place in the Plaza de Espana in the center of the exhibition grounds, the imposing spectacle being witnessed by a crowd estimated at 70,000 gathered under a serene blue and cloudless sky.

The arrival of the King, Queen and Infanta was announced by salvos of guns, the signal for a tremendous ovation, while thousands of white pigeons were liberated over the tribune amid the waving flags of Spain and Portugal and the purple standard of Castile. On each side of the semicircle were seen the diplomatic representatives of the American republics, resplendent in gold-braided uniforms. Opposite were the Cabinet ministers and Spanish grandees, and on the left the flower of Spain's aristocracy.

Gen. Primo de Rivera in the course of his speech said: "Our words vibrate across the world to tell it of the close embrace which unites brothers and sons and members of the same race."

Apart from its political significance the fair is regarded as an event of unusual importance. Only after the greatest difficulty did authorities succeed in completing their preparations. Even now some of the buildings are not ready for the inauguration, as, for instance, the Argentine pavilion. The Government meanwhile is determined to end the harmful propaganda about conditions in Spain, and it is announced that a Madrid newspaper has been fined 50,000 pesetas for publishing an untrue item regarding an alleged brawl in Seville. This in fact was the only discordant note in the news of the inaugural ceremonies.

It is always risky to give a man who can not control his own man-power fifty or seventy-five horsepower to control.—"Boston Herald."

"How can I tell if my daughter has the gift of painting?" asks a reader. You can usually see it in her face!—"Glasgow Eastern Standard."

King Gustave, of Sweden, and the Queen, have been married forty-eight years now. Sweden, as you may know, is the home of safety matches.—"Key Features."

Vaccination Bill  
Opposed By Ivens

Measure in the Manitoban  
Legislature is Criticized  
by Labor Leader

Winnipeg, Man.—A bill introduced into the Manitoban Legislature providing for compulsory vaccination and inoculation of the mining, lumbering and construction camps of Northern Manitoba was strongly criticized by William Ivens, a member of the Labor Party. Although the bill was given a second reading, it is generally expected that its provisions will be considerably modified in committee, as a result of the effective arguments advanced by Mr. Ivens.

That it was a step of retrogression rather than of progress and that it was not in accord with the spirit of the times were some of the characterizations employed by Mr. Ivens in his speech against the bill. He said that England, after trying vaccination for a century, and compulsory vaccination for half a century, had changed the law to optional vaccination.

The bill was done on the recommendation of a Royal Commission, which had spent eight years in its inquiry and which had taken the testimony of experts of Europe and America. Holland also had abandoned compulsory vaccination last year, following a discussion of the question by representatives of the League of Nations.

Three of the five medical members of the House agreed to support the bill, which was sponsored by Mr. Montgomery, Minister of Health, in the Provincial Government. The other medical member said he would not support compulsion in vaccination or inoculation, except in cases of those who might be exposed to a disease when there was an outbreak.

Mystery Cleared

The Lost Sentry of Buckingham Palace Found

The mystery of the guardsman who vanished in his scarlet uniform three weeks ago from a sentry post at Buckingham Palace, the first palace sentry in British history so to disappear—was solved last week. The solution came, not through Scotland Yard but from the missing sentry himself.

He, Signaler George Siveright, 1st battalion, Scots Guards, dressed in dusty civilian clothes, stumbled into his mother's home in Aberdeen, Scotland. As he soaked his aching feet (Aberdeen is 500 miles from London; he had walked), he confessed that he had wilfully deserted. His reason: Although only 19, he had been made a lance corporal. His jealous fellow-guardians had made his young military life unbearable. When he was publicly reprimanded for lack-lustre buttons at guardmount, the sensitive sentry could stand no more. He threw his rifle and fur bushy into the Buckingham bushes and stole away. Siveright now faces a two-year imprisonment. Were England at war, even technically, he would face a firing squad.

Alberta Tests  
Radio Education

Edmonton, Alta.—Radio education in Alberta schools was tested out for the first time on May 23, when a special patriotic program for Empire Day was broadcast from the Calgary and Edmonton radio stations to every school in the province.

The Department of Education will check carefully the results of this trial radio-casting program in order to ascertain to what extent practical use of the radio can be made in connection with Alberta's public schools, as a means of amplifying and supplementing the teacher's work. The radio program consisted of the Empire Day message of King George and Queen Mary, and addresses by the Lieutenant-Governor, the Premier, and the Minister of Education.

Mr. Baldwin's Campaign

Watchman in the Spectator (London): Mr. Baldwin is playing a lone hand very deftly. In many respects he is the best electioneer of the lot, and he still possesses the ear of the electorate. His intuitions are uncanny. He knows, as no one else appears to know, what the "ordinary man" is thinking—and the "ordinary woman." And he plays upon their instincts, as against their passions or emotions, with a hand that never falters. Mr. Baldwin's speeches—broccoli and all—have been first rate. And if he holds to the course he has marked out for himself he may well pull off a victory over both the other parties. One thing is certain. There will be no landslide against the Unionists now.

The great scientific accomplishment of the last two years seems to have been taking the sound out of iceless refrigeration and putting it into the silent drama.—"Detroit News."

A cow, it is estimated, moves her jaws 41,000 times each day. It might be added that the cow has something to show for it at the end of the day.—"Christian Science Monitor."

If you would have unbounded contentment you must have bounded desires.