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REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, for the deliberations of which the Whig has a high regard, has voted to pass on the union question to the Presbyteries and the people.

A shortness of doctors at the front. And likely to continue unless the discrimination of the Militia Department ceases, and all are professionally put upon the same level.

BUSINESS IS REVIVING.

The Canadian Northern Railway System has placed at the disposal of the press a mass of most valuable information, and relating to the condition of trade now as compared with its condition in the summer and fall of 1914.

According to the reports of the Canadian Northern Railway System trade in Canada has passed the period of greatest depression and already exhibits signs of a sound revival in many lines, appears to be the opinion of the majority of representative business men throughout the Dominion who have contributed their views to a comprehensive survey of conditions which has just been completed by the C.N.R.

The value of rain is seen in local surroundings. Some of the early seeding, in consequence of the cold weather and absence of growth, has been a failure, and if one visit the country he will see men ploughing in anticipation of a second seeding for later crops.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

German influence has been very active in Washington, and the White House has not escaped it, but it has not affected the President and his independence of thought.

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ROYALTY AND ITS RELATIONS.

If the story told about Queen Sophia, of Greece, be true, the episode that led to the King's illness is without a parallel. If it be not true—that a quarrel did not occur in the royal household over the eventualities of war, and that His Majesty was not stabbed by her in a moment of anger—then an unfortunate woman, and still a woman, though the wearer of a crown, has been grossly and wickedly libelled. Queen Sophia is a sister of the Kaiser. He may have forfeited the respect of the whole world, may have deserved the execration of all high-minded people, all advocates of righteousness, and yet retain the admiration of his sister. All the world may go back on him and regard him as the blackest hearted man that ever lived, and the members of his family and household esteem him without blur or blemish. Family ties are not easily broken, and family connections cannot be strained without hurtful effects. The crowned heads of Europe have been closely related by marriage, and one of the hardest things of the war is the savage destruction of the friendships that have been of lifelong duration. Even our own King has had painful experiences in this respect, and has not hesitated to remove a relative from public office and stripped kings, princes and nobility, also related to him, of the honors that had worn on his account. Everything goes in war—save the love of home and all that it implies and a Queen cannot smother her affection and forget the regard of those of her own flesh and blood through the exigencies of national affairs.

MR. BRYAN IS LET GO.

The resignation of Mr. Bryan, United States Secretary of State, from Mr. Wilson's Government, comes as a surprise. It was not anticipated. It was not looked for. There was no indication of it. The announcement that he had differed with the President on the German note, and that this difference in opinion caused the severance of their administrative relations, had the effect of a bolt from the sky.

In advance of the breach in the Cabinet there were rumors of German influence at Washington. "Men of the pacifist school," said the New York Herald, on the morning of the day when the Cabinet crisis took place, "are at work saying in high quarters, 'We must not have war.' They are stuffing men of straw in order to point their argument. Who has been talking war? A plain blunt demand on Germany does not necessarily mean war, but every sinister influence is at work in Washington to make it appear that this administration must step softly or the very deuce will be paid! That intangible thing known as German diplomacy is at work everywhere. We do not believe that President Wilson will be swayed, but there is not the slightest doubt that every subtle, sinister influence that Bernstorff, Dernburg, and their crew can put in operation to gain time and latitude for Germany, is in operation."

The conclusion is that Mr. Bryan fell under the influence of this powerful lobby. He should indite the notes that pass between Governments on national or international affairs, as Sir Edward Grey, of England, indited those of Britain, and Von Bethmann-Holwig has written them for Germany. The Government may consult with the Secretary of the State, but the Secretary writes the precisely worded letters. Mr. Wilson wrote the original note, the pith of which Germany ignored, and without any refection upon Mr. Bryan, who wields a facile pen, he could not improve upon it. Yet, Mr. Bryan may have taken umbrage at this, or he may see the political advantage of a milder policy and one which will not widen the breach between the hyphenated Germans and the Government. Possibly Mr. Bryan has an eye to the possibilities of another presidential campaign, and is trimming upon a great issue.

The Secretary of State, it now seems, was not in favor of a note which was tantamount to an ultimatum. Mr. Wilson in the original communication said fairly that America would not omit the act or word which would give effect to its demands, and having done that he could not recede without humiliation. It means a question of standing by his declaration, or of letting the Secretary of State go, and as the lighter sacrifice he has parted company with Mr. Bryan.

German influence has been very active in Washington, and the White House has not escaped it, but it has not affected the President and his independence of thought. Fancy the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, part of Canada's permanent force, still in England, and chafing because it is not sent to the front. It cannot be said that these are unfit for service. They represent the only force in Canada that can be said to have a training that

qualified them for immediate action. Several church bodies have endorsed Mr. Rowell's position, namely, that the License Commission may be an improvement upon the Hanna Bureau, but it is not working for a prohibition of the bar, and it is the menace which the church attacks.

The Street Railway is a great city asset, and Kingston would be dull without it. This is a powerful reason why the Council should assume the responsibility of taxing the people for any part of the power it needs short of its actual cost.

What kind of insurance has the city of Toronto effected for the soldiers that their beneficiaries can orderly secure it in the event of death, by showing that they are in poverty or in want? Surely the great city of Toronto has not been practicing any fire-flam scheme at the expense of the men at the front.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

The Bicycle Club held a ride to the outer station. The Canadian Order of Foresters' convention is being held in the city. Thieves stealing flowers in the city parks are causing a lot of trouble. A convict tried to escape from the "pen" to-day, but a shot from Guard Fowler's rifle persuaded him to stay at home.

CROSS RIVER ON BRIDGE OF DEAD

The Russians Walked For Half a Mile Over Bodies of Dead Men.

London, June 9.—The fiercest fighting of the war as far as the Baltic Provinces of Russian are concerned, occurred a few days ago in a battle for the mastery of the Dubysa River, according to the Post's Petrograd correspondent. The river changed hands five times in one day, and at nightfall the stream was completely choked with bodies of thousands of dead, so that plank roadway for artillery was laid by the victorious Russians across a solid bridge of bodies, the correspondent says.

The Dubysa, although wide, is so shallow it can be crossed on foot at some places. The Russians and Germans met at a ford half a mile wide, north of Rossiony, where they fought all day in the water. There were several bayonet charges in mid-stream, and all who fell, even though they were only slightly wounded were drowned. Troops on both sides in their attacks and counter-attacks late in the day advanced over the bodies of the dead.

Despatches to-day say Austrian defensive on Isonzo river is completely broken, and that Italians are advancing rapidly all along the line.

British Admiralty issues warning to neutrals that Germany is again straining waters with floating explosive bombs. Turkish armored cruiser Medjidiah, sunk by mine early in April, has been raised by Russians for Russian navy.

SUNK IN LAKE NYASSA.

German Armed Steamer Destroyed By British Tars.

London, June 9.—The German armed steamer Hermann von Wissmann has been destroyed near Sphinx Haven, according to a statement given out by the British Official Press Bureau.

The statement says that Hermann von Wissmann was destroyed by the shell-fire of a British naval force. The steamer had been lying in Lake Nyassa, South-east Africa, since her disablement by the Nyassaland steamer Gwendolyn last August. Sphinx Haven is a German territory on the eastern shore of Lake Nyassa. It was bombarded and captured May 7th. The Germans were driven out with considerable loss by a bayonet charge. The only British casualty was one man slightly wounded.

Suppressing Use of Absinthe.

Fontarlier, France, June 9.—One hundred tons of leaves in the manufacture of absinthe were burned publicly here to-day by order of the Government in accordance with the legislation suppressing the manufacture of absinthe.



THE POOR TOWN

You say that things are on the blink at Punktown-by-the-Dump; there's no chance there for any gink, no odds how he may hump. The town has moss all up its back, it isn't up to date, it's outback's poor, its trade is slack, you think you'll pull your freight. I've met some bright and hustling lads from Punktown, now and then; they say it's the best of grads for active, hustling men. They say you'll find the finest jail, the largest village pump, the longest list of men with kale, at Punktown-by-the-Dump. The Punktown climate has no taint, so now their joyous song, the Punktown girls, their paint, the Punktown boys are strong. If you would join that boozel bunch, and shoe your crouch away, you soon would have a better punch, and put up far more hay. For when a fellow blames his town because he isn't doing the third one lookers set him down as one who lacks a spine. There never was a town so bum it looks like it's up to date, it's outback's poor, its trade is slack, you think you'll pull your freight. There never was a town so fine that it would give all good to one who springs an endless whine, while others saw their wood.

THE KIRK IN COUNCIL

(Continued from Page 1.)

Dr. R. Campbell, who halted a moment, in one of his old-time stirring speeches to remark that he was a fortnight of being eighty, never fails to provide exciting reading for the public. He flayed the Basis unmercifully. His body is as nimble as a charioteer, and his words cut to the quick. He contrasted the historic office of elder, according to the old and new system, in the following terms: "With us it is a scriptural office," he said, "balancing himself on tiptoes, where men are solemnly ordained, but in the new scheme they are only to be clubbed together in a committee." Then he charged that there are six articles in the Confession of Faith, which are not in the new Basis, or have any equivalent. Hence it is an illusion to hope that the new union would really turn out as harmoniously like that of Presbyterianism in 1847. "No, there is this difference," and he brought another big gun into action, "at that time principles were equally shared by both sides, while it was mere sentiment that divided. Now both principles and sentiment are in a committee." Then he closed, he quoted Luther—"Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise!" But Dr. Forrest rather spoiled the effect by ironically saying, "Amen!"

Dr. John Neil, Toronto, claimed that he was not a debater, but made his best speech when everybody was in agreement with him. But he plunged into what was one of the best vote-getting addresses of the debate. He admitted that his sentiments were all Presbyterian, but that union would conserve all that was good in his own material. He illustrated by means of an Irish story, which took the Assembly by storm. An Irish cobbler lived in a very poor house, and wanted a better one. He decided not to repair the old one, but to pull it down and build another out of the same material. The inference was that in this learned difference's mind the new church will, after all, be Presbyterian material. Mr. G. M. Macdonnell has not been heard in the Assembly since his memorable conflicts over the "old Queen's" question. When he therefore ascended the platform to give a five-minute address on Church Union he was greeted with applause. He immediately went into his case in true lawyer fashion by hustling his opponents. "If we forget names, we forget the things for which names stand," and his voice sounded like a shell. "And I blame the ministers because they neglect to teach us the things for which names stand." He was all keyed to the highest tension, and when the bell rang he looked as if he would give dollars for minutes. But he respects the authority of all courts, and smiled good-naturedly, as he had to yield to the house.

Dr. Herridge made one of his greatest speeches. The Assembly will never forget it. It was, however, not a fighting address, although he was in the khaki. He referred to his trip as Moderator over the whole church. "If I had been an ardent opponent of Church Union, that would have converted me." (Applause.) "We are told," he continued, "like an officer giving the last word to our many Canadians, 'that you should hold the trench, but I say, men you are to advance.'" Then there was some noise in the camp of Israel.

Judge Farrell, Moosomin, Sask., is a popular and loyal member of the Kirk. He does not pose as an orator, but he can get in some good evidence to be weighed by the Assembly. He referred to home rule being postponed, and why not Church Union, and explained that the organization to continue the Presbyterian Church was only a practical means of doing the business of those opposed to union. From his observation of union churches lately introduced into the west they were not to be admired. There was the same old minimum salaries and the same stinkiness regarding the missions. The whole thing looked too much like penuriousness.

But it takes an Irishman to relieve the tension of a debate. For wit he still has no peer. Rev. J. J. L. Gourlay, Lancaster, is the last instance of this we have on record. Even Mr. Macdonnell, against whom the fun began, enjoyed the laughter. Referring to the argument of "names and things," the last speaker said his name was Scotch, but he was Irish. He also had a dear little girl whose name was Jean, but she got "Winnie for short." He intimated further that if the things were to be buried because they lost their names, he was one of those who could offer some consolation at the funeral.

(Continued on Page 5.)

The Allies are still making gains in Gallipoli, where the offensive is general and vigorous. Italian troops have begun a general advance on Trieste.

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