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Manager and Editor

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, AUG. 25, 1909.

On three recent occasions dynamite has been found in coal for the use of the British Navy. Such a diabolical act, should the fiends be discovered, must be punished with the greatest severity. Why should innocent sailors be blown to pieces because some fanatic has a fancied grievance against the Government?

Harvard University, at Cambridge, Mass., is the oldest university in the United States, dating from 1636. Yale stands third, founded in 1701, Princeton fifth, in 1746, and Columbia seventh, in 1754. Twelve of the 453 date back previous to the beginning of the Nineteenth Century. The oldest university in the world is at Peking, China, "The School for the Sons of the Empire." It is determined that the names of its 60,000 graduates shall be perpetuated, for they are engraven in stone on columns 320 in number.

A movement has been recently begun in Scotland to raise a memorial to Mrs. Ross Cousin, the gifted authoress of the famous hymn "The Sands of Time are Sinking." The hymn originally appeared under the title "Immanuel's Land," and in its complete form in nineteen stanzas, embodied in melodious verse the dying utterances of the Saintly Covenantor, Samuel Rutherford. As Mrs. Cousin was so long resident in the classic Border Town and composed many of her hymns and poems there, it has been felt that the proposed memorial might fittingly be placed within the church of which her husband was minister throughout many years. There are doubtless many in Canada, influenced by this devout meditation, who would desire to have a part in the erection of this memorial. Contributions may, therefore, be sent to the Rev. Alexander MacMillan, Mimico, Ont., or to Mr. Thomas Laurie, Melrose, Scotland, acknowledgment of which will be made in the Dominion Presbyterian.

A UNITED SOUTH AFRICA.

A bill for the union of the South African colonies has passed its second reading in the British House of Commons by a unanimous vote. It provides that on and after a day to be fixed by proclamation the colonies of the Transvaal, Cape Colony, Natal and the Orange River Colony shall be united in a legislative union under one government. The constitution provided for is very similar to that of Canada, except that it will be a legislative instead of a federal union. There will be a Senate and a House of Assembly, the latter consisting of 51 members from the Cape of Good Hope, 36 from the Transvaal, and 17 each from Natal and the Orange River Colony. English and Dutch are to be official languages. Cape Town is to be the seat of the legislature, and Pretoria the seat of Government.

This is one of the most important events in the history of the British empire. It is, as Mr. Balfour described it, a most wonderful issue from all the controversies, battles, bloodshed, and difficulties which occurred in South Africa less than ten years ago, and he believed the world could not show anything like it.

South Africa will have its race problem just as Canada has had, but as with us the utmost harmony exists between the English and French Canadian peoples so we trust it will be between the English and Dutch. Canada has a French Canadian premier; South Africa's first premier is likely to be a Dutchman, in the person of Gen. Botha. The harmonious blending of two races so recently engaged in a bloody struggle must be enough to make even the angels rejoice.

SWIFT JUSTICE.

One of the characteristics of British justice is that it is swift and sure, and in this respect is in marked contrast to the manner in which the law is administered in the United States, where notorious criminals, if they have money or influence, seem to be able to thwart justice for a time. An instance of swift justice has just occurred in the case of Madaral Dhingra, the East Indian student, who shot and killed Sir W. H. Curzon-Wyllie and Dr. Cawas Lalacaca, as an alleged protest against British rule in India. The crime was committed on July 1, on July 23 he was tried and sentenced, and on August 17 he expiated his crime on the gallows. Dhingra may have been a mistaken fanatic, but such persons, and their sympathisers must be taught that they cannot shoot down innocent persons with impunity.

It appears as if the result of the deliberations of the Imperial Defence Conference will be that the colonies shall provide navies of their own, to co-operate with the Mother Country in case of need. This is in line with the resolution adopted by the Canadian Parliament at its last session. It will mean considerable expense, but to our mind is a wiser course than making presents of Dreadnoughts to the British Government. A committee appointed to investigate the criticisms of Lord Charles Beresford on the condition of the navy has presented its report, in which it declares that the country is not in danger. We can therefore now breathe more freely. Lord Beresford will be in Canada in a few days. Perhaps he will tell us in further detail on what his criticisms were based.

SOWING BAD SEED.

Sowing bad seed will result in an evil harvest in the physical as well as the moral world. How evil few perhaps know. The tests made at the agricultural experimental stations establish it in a very emphatic manner. Therefore laws have been passed in Canada making it an offense to sell foul seeds, the maximum number of weed seeds allowed by law being five out of every thousand. This may seem a small proportion, yet also clover seed of the legal standard may contain nearly 3,400 weed seeds to the pound. A farmer sowing four pounds to the acre would thus plant more than 15,500 weeds. Weed seeds are notorious for their vitality and high percentage of germination. Upwards of fifteen thousand weeds per acre is a serious menace to success on any farm, so say nothing of the damage to the neighborhood.

The Canadian Government is putting forth strenuous efforts under the seed control act to protect the farmers against careless or unscrupulous seedsmen. A firm in Toronto has just pleaded guilty on three charges of offering for sale impure seed. Clover seed offered for sale by them contained nine noxious seeds per thousand, which is equivalent to 28,000 weeds per acre if all germinated. How important to guard against sowing bad seed in the field—or in the mind.

NO TIME FOR FIGHTING.

The United States consul-general at Hankow informs us that there never was any danger of war between China and Japan over the Antung-Mukden railway, for the reason that China is too busy developing her marvellous resources. The recent awakening in that vast empire is causing a much more rapid advance than the world at large has any idea of, and if the people have become so busy with material progress that they have no time for fighting so much the better for the cause of humanity. Even the possession of a modern army and the prospect of an up-to-date navy are no inducement to the Chinese to go to war—such possessions being looked upon for defensive purposes only. Other nations might learn a lesson and get busy with the arts of peace instead of wasting their time over preparations for war. The German Kaiser, for instance, might lay the lesson to heart.

The University of Virginia has a chaplain of its own who devotes his whole time to the university, holding regular Sunday and week day services. He is supported by voluntary contributions of professors, and students. This official is appointed for two years only, and is chosen in turn from among the Methodists and Episcopalians, so as to avoid any appearance of sectarianism. But what if the chaplain should be of the dogmatic or intriguing type? Would he not do all in his power to further the interests of his own church during his term?

Matters in the island of Crete are in an unsettled condition. The people want to be annexed to Greece, but Turkey objects, and a war cloud is the result. England, France, Russia, and Italy have fleets on the spot, and at their request it is probable the Greek flag will be lowered and an independent government established under the protection of the four powers. Crete has an ancient and interesting history, extending back to Bible times, and the course of events will be watched with interest.