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The American Board and Mr. Rockefeller's Gift.

The offer by Mr. John D. Rockefeller of \$100,000 to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions has stirred up strong feeling and a lively discussion as to the propriety or morality of the Board's acceptance of the multi-millionaire's gift. Twenty-seven Congregational ministers in Boston entered a formal protest against the acceptance of the gift, and it is said that protests have been pouring in to members of the Board and to leading friends of the mission from all over the country. Among the most prominent of the Congregationalist body opposing the acceptance of Mr. Rockefeller's gift is Rev. Dr. Washington Gladden. Dr. Gladden is reported as saying:

"I must ask the privilege of expressing, as publicly as I can, my surprise and regret that the officers of the American Board have accepted a large sum of money from Mr. John D. Rockefeller. I object to this because the money thus bestowed does not rightfully belong to the man who gives it; it has been flagitiously acquired, and all the world knows it. It may be difficult, in many cases, to judge of the methods by which wealth has been gained, but when the investigation has been thoroughly made and the case is clear, we are bound to guide our conduct by the fact made known. In this case the investigation has been thoroughly made and the facts are known. The legislative inquiries, the records of courts, have given the reading people of this country the materials for a judgment upon the methods of Standard Oil; and there never was a day when their minds were as clear on this subject as they are now. They know that this great power has been built up by injustice and oppression, they know that its immense gains have been made by forcibly despoiling citizens of their honest gains and shutting the door of opportunity against them.

It is often assumed, I fear, that we do not need to be very scrupulous about money which we can use in 'doing good.' That indifference is deadly. The 'good' that is done by lowering our ethical standards might better be left undone. Shall the young men and women of the missionary colleges be taught to regard Mr. Rockefeller as a great benefactor? The colleges might better be permanently closed."

On the other hand, Rev. Dr. A. P. Bradford, former moderator of the National Congregation Council and president of the American Missionary Association, has favored the acceptance of Mr. Rockefeller's gift. Dr. Bradford says:

Mr. Rockefeller is not seeking vindication and is not seeking someone to shield him in evil courses. He is, as is well known, a minority stockholder in the Standard Oil Company, and a large part of his wealth has been derived from other sources. Why refuse Mr. Rockefeller's money and accept the gifts of other stockholders of the Standard Oil Company? No one doubts that much money derived from that and other similar sources goes into the treasury. If he had asked it to go into partnership with him it ought to have refused, because it goes into partnership with no one. But he has asked nothing of the kind. He has simply said "I realize that certain branches of missionary work seriously need help, and I request you as the only agent who can do it to the best advantage, to place this money where it will do the most good. Money which leaves the receiver free from all obligations, except that of using it wisely, should be received, unless someone else is ready to prove that it belongs to him. No such claim has been made, much less sustained, in any court in our country. It is, therefore, fair to presume that the property which he holds is for him to administer as he thinks best.

The Prudential Committee of the Board has accepted the report of a sub-committee in favor of accepting Mr. Rockefeller's gift, but final action in the matter is delayed for a week or two. The contribution, if accepted, is to be used to promote the interests of several educational institutions on the Mission field.

A Dive Upward. It happened the other day to four men who were working in a tunnel under East River, New York, to be blown out of the tunnel up to the surface of the river and to escape without loss of life or limb. The newspaper reporters are persuaded that this should be set down as a 'miraculous' experience. It would perhaps be fair to call it unique. As one of the men is reported to have said, it is probably the first time that a man ever dived into a river from the bottom. Bystanders who saw the men shoot to the surface say that Richard Creedon, one of the four, was shot twenty feet into the air from the level of the water, and that his startling appearance so frightened several Italian laborers on the nearby pier that they took to flight. The tunnel in which the men were at work is to be used eventually to connect the Manhattan subway lines with Brooklyn subway lines. Two tubes, side by side are in process

of construction. The work is being done by the New York Tunnel Company. The Brooklyn end of one of the tubes had been extended about fifteen feet beyond the pier line at the foot of Joalemon street. Twenty-two men were at work in the tunnel when the accident happened. Creedon and his companions were in the forward compartment, working under a high pressure of air. In a compartment back of them the other eighteen men were at work. This second compartment was not affected by the accident, as there is a bulkhead between them. Creedon was the first to ascertain that the roof of the tunnel was leaking and that the air was rushing out into the bottom of the East River, which was about forty feet deep above them. With sand bags he attempted to plug the leak, but as he did so the whole roof was blown out and the tremendous force of the compressed air drove Creedon and all his four companions out through the hole.

Retaliation.

As a sequel to the unfavorable action of the United States Senate in the matter of the Hay-Bond treaty, the Government at Washington has received official notice from the Newfoundland Government of its decision to revoke the privileges so long enjoyed by United States fishermen of buying bait and fishing in Newfoundland waters. The treaty of 1818 did not include the shore fisheries of Newfoundland within the waters opened to American fishermen, so that this privilege has been enjoyed by the Americans by sufferance, and the good will of the Newfoundlanders. After the failure, in Secretary Bayard's time, of the treaty conferring specific rights on American fishermen in those waters, the Newfoundland government, as an act of comity, and in the hope that the American government would reciprocate in the end by entering into a treaty with Newfoundland, conferring certain reciprocal advantages in trade, authorized the issue to American fishing vessels or licenses at a merely nominal cost; to take bait and fish in Newfoundland waters. This same privilege has been denied to French fishing vessels, so that the American fishermen have divided the fisheries with the Newfoundlanders. About a year ago the government of Newfoundland asked the United States to reciprocate for the valuable privilege, and recognizing the justice of the appeal, Mr. Hay negotiated a treaty with Mr. Bond, the Premier, whereby the Newfoundlanders were to be given free entry for their fish at United States ports and certain other privileges in return for the fishing rights. The action of the Senate at the last session in amending this treaty so as to render it valueless to the Newfoundlanders, and consequently its failure, is the reason for the revocation of the fishing rights. Newfoundland's action will no doubt inflict some injury on New England fishing interests, and certainly the United States has no reason to complain. But doubtless Congress will find means of striking back. The incident as a whole affords a somewhat curious commentary on some passages in President Roosevelt's recent inaugural address.

University and Farm.

In an address recently delivered before the Montreal Canada Club, Principal Petersen of McGill University alluded to the very generous provision being made by Sir William Macdonald in aid of education, and particularly the establishment of an Agricultural College in the Province of Quebec. In this connection Principal Petersen quoted Professor Capper of Queen's College as saying in reference to Sir William:—"His name will remain honorably identified in the minds of his countrymen with educational work in Canada when that of many a politician now occupying much of the public attention, will be mentioned only to illustrate the curious psychological feature of the political corruption of the age." Not the least important feature of the new order of things, said Principal Petersen, is the proposed transference of the McGill Normal School to St. Ann's, and with the guarantee of continued university supervision and control of the work of training, I am sure that this change to improved conditions will be hailed with the greatest satisfaction by all who are interested in the educational progress of our Province. As to the new College of Agriculture, I cannot claim to speak with the same authority. It had always been one of my pious aspirations that the McGill faculty of comparative medicine and veterinary science

should rise again, as it were, from its ashes and recommence work on a large scale; and this need will no doubt not be lost sight of by an institution which, while it is to have a Dominion character, will rely on McGill for its degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. It used to be said in Scotland that the path was well trodden from the university to the farmhouse. Sir William is engaged in building a road back to the farm, and when agriculture has been rendered increasingly profitable by the larger use of scientific methods, farming ought to become as attractive to our young men as other avocations are at present.

Reform in Russia.

According to a St. Petersburg despatch, the Liberals have apparently won a partial victory in the composition of the Bouleguine commission to elaborate the scheme for national representation under the Imperial rescript. Planting themselves squarely on the demand for a chamber or parliament, elected by universal suffrage, with control of the budget administration, they insisted that a commission of bureaucrats could not be trusted to execute the popular will, and, backed by the press, they kept up their agitation for the participation of elected representatives. Powerful support was also furnished by the zemstvos and Doumas, and the professional and educational bodies throughout Russia, which flooded Bouleguine, Minister of the Interior, and the committee of ministers with resolutions of the same tenor and purpose. The Liberals, if they could secure control of the commission, would vote a proposition for the election of a constituent assembly, which would pronounce for a constitution. The Government, however, in order to prevent such a contingency, only yielded the admission to the commission of 'elected,' not 'elected' representatives. The Government's programme undoubtedly is to restrict the body created under the rescript to a chamber composed of representatives selected by the classes sitting in conjunction with the council of the Empire, but having only a consultative voice in legislation, thus preserving intact the principle of autocracy.

British Politics.

Lord Hugh Cecil, says the London correspondent of the New York Morning Post, is the pivot of the English political situation at the present moment. Being Mr. Balfour's cousin, Mr. Balfour will not desert him in his Greenwich election fight; being one of Mr. Chamberlain's bitterest political enemies, Mr. Chamberlain has written a letter to the Greenwich Chamberlainites telling them in effect to turn him out and put the Chamberlainite in. Mr. Chamberlain must now use his votes in Parliament to compel Mr. Balfour to dissolve, or see his party dwindled away dispirited and disunited. In a word he must assert his power or accept permanent defeat. The only reasons for staying his hand are that he is the father of the fiscal reformer and that his son Austen is the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with the greatest chance open to a British politician. Upon dissolution he would sink into a comparative nonentity, yet the pressure for dissolution is so overwhelming that it is more likely than not to come immediately after Austen's April budget. Nine out of every ten Liberals anticipate a sweeping Liberal victory with Mr. Campbell-Bannerman or Earl Spencer as premier. Lord Rosebery has killed his chances by his anti-home rule and other utterances.

Motor Cars and the Horse Markets.

It is to be expected that the increasing use of motor vehicles will seriously and unfavorably affect the horse markets of the world. It is said that that point has already been reached in England. A Canadian Associated Press despatch says:—At one of the recent spring fair sales in the north of England there was a heavy fall in prices of cart horses. A prominent horse breeder, asked by the Canadian Press the reason of the drop, replied that he attributed it to the increasing use of motor vehicles for town work. The motors are affecting the horse-breeders in many ways. Canadian breeders, if they have not already felt the effect of the motor invasion, are sure to do so, as the omnibus companies are among their best customers, and very soon the horse-drawn omnibus will be scarcely seen in London streets.