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The Russian National Assembly. Czar Nicholas has issued a manifesto granting to the people of Russia a national consultative assembly to be formed by elected representatives from the whole of Russia. The Czar alludes to the indestructible solidarity of the emperor and the people on which the prosperity and well-being of the nation has rested, and goes on to say that of late he has devoted himself to the task of co-ordinating elective public institutions with governmental authorities and of removing the disagreements existing between them, which had reacted so disastrously on the normal course of the national life. He is, he says, following out the good intentions of his ancestors, the autocratic emperors, in now summoning elected representatives from the whole of Russia to have constant and active part in the elaboration of the laws, thereby attaching to the higher state institutions a special consultative body entrusted with the preliminary elaboration and discussion of measures and with the examination of the state budget. "We reserve to ourselves," the manifesto concludes, "the care of perfecting the organization of the Gosudarstvennaya Douma (Lower House of Assembly) and when the course of events shall have shown the necessity for changes corresponding completely to the needs of the times, and the welfare of the empire, we shall not fail to give, at the proper moment, the necessary directions. We are convinced that those who shall have been elected by the confidence of the whole people, and who will thus be called upon to participate in the legislative work of the government will show themselves in the eyes of all Russia to be worthy of the imperial trust in the virtue of which they have been invited to co-operate in this great work, and that, in perfect harmony with other institutions and also of the state established by us, they will contribute profitably and zealously to our labors for the well-being of our common mother, Russia, and for the strengthening of the unity, the security and the greatness of the empire, as well as for the tranquility and prosperity of the people, invoking the blessing of the Lord on the labors of the institution established by us and with unshakable confidence in the grace of God, and in the infallibility of the great historical destinies reserved by Divine Providence for our beloved fatherland, we firmly hope that with the help of God Almighty and with the combined efforts of all persons, Russia will emerge triumphant from trying ordeals through which she is now passing and will be born again in the strength and greatness and the glory of her history extending through a thousand years." The emperor's concession to popular demands falls far short of what is called Constitutional Government. His own autocratic prerogatives are carefully guarded. But the Czar has gone so far in the direction of constitutional government as he could be expected to go, and perhaps as far as it would be wise or safe to consider present conditions. It is much for the Russian people if their elected representatives are recognized as having authority to consult and advise with the Emperor in regard to matters of legislation and government, even though their power be no more than advisory. It is a first step which can hardly fail to be followed by others still more important in the direction of a democratic form of government.

The anticipations of a general election in Great Britain this autumn have been practically abandoned. It is understood, says the London correspondent of the New York 'Evening Post,' that Premier Balfour intends to wait, like Micawber, in the hope that something may turn up to improve Unionist prospects. It is believed that he will meet the House of Commons early in the new year and that a general election will follow almost immediately. By that date the new treaty with Japan will have been drafted and the points of the entente cordiale with France backed by Russia may be apparent.

Lord Curzon Resigns. The announcement is made that the resignation of Lord Curzon, as Viceroy of India, has been accepted and that the Earl of Minto has been appointed his successor. From the official correspondence which is published in

connection with this announcement, it appears that for some time past there has been friction between Lord Curzon and General Lord Kitchener, Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in India. There has also been friction between the late Viceroy and the Imperial Government. Lord Kitchener demanded a freer hand than had heretofore been accorded to the head of the army. His policy of military reconstruction also involved an increase of the Indian army from 80,000 to 140,000 men. His policy was strenuously opposed by Lord Curzon. The Government has endorsed the views of General Kitchener in preference to those of its civil representative in India, and Lord Curzon has felt that the only course open to him was to resign. Criticism of the Imperial Government's course in this matter may wisely be left to those who have an adequate knowledge of the facts. It may be that the Government is not justly chargeable with pursuing a course in this matter tending to establish a practical military dictatorship in India. But Lord Curzon's administration has been generally regarded as able and successful, and the present situation would seem at least to justify regret that matters have taken such a turn that India is to be deprived of his services, and the more so that the Government is evidently unable to name as Lord Curzon's successor a man of equal administrative ability or knowledge of Indian affairs. Perhaps Mr. Balfour's Government will be able to show good and sufficient reasons for the course it has pursued in this matter, and that in making the head of the army in India virtually independent of the Viceroy and his Government, it has pursued the path of wisdom. This elevation of the military at the expense of the civil power does not, however, appear to be quite in harmony with British precedent, and it is at least evident that Lord Kitchener's military policy must have the effect of increasing very sensibly the already heavy burden of taxation in India.

What is Quebec Doing?

The Toronto 'News' says that Sir William Macdonald is doing for the Province of Quebec what the Province should long ago have done for itself. Its allusion is to the Agricultural College which by the Montreal millionaire's munificence is being established at St. Anne's, and that this is being done by one man of great wealth is regarded as proof that the Province has neglected its educational interests. "We in Ontario," the 'News' says, "are fully conscious of the defects of our own educational system, but we are earnestly seeking to remedy them. It is therefore in no hostile or provincial spirit that we ask the Quebec people why they allow a few men of the English-speaking minority to devote their private fortunes to bringing the educational system down to date by providing practical and scientific training such as the conditions of the day demand? . . . It is not necessary to flatter the French-Canadians for the purpose of an argument. Enough to say, what everyone cheerfully admits, that they are industrious, alert, intelligent, and what is even more vital, eager to learn. What we desire to ask, without offence, is this: Are the French-Canadians being fairly treated by their clerical and political leaders in the matter of education? Are they allowing their racial pride to be aroused by imaginary attacks from Ontario and urged to meddle with the educational affairs of the West while at home, in their own Province, the scientific and technical training so essential in modern life receives no adequate attention? Even in agricultural education Quebec lags behind. Sir William Macdonald's benefaction is proof of this. Let the people of Quebec study the history of their own schools. Why did James McGill leave his fortune a century ago to found an English college instead of making it a part of a general scheme for all classes and both races, as was designed at the time? Who blocked the greater plan? McGill has expanded into a great scientific school, altogether by private donation. The State has done nothing for it. Has the State set up an equally complete modern system for the dominant race? If not, are they satisfied with the omission to do so? These questions are far more important to Quebec than interference with Western constitutions and exaggerated pictures of Ontario fanatics."

The Convention.

The 60th annual meeting of the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces was opened in the Baptist Church, Charlottetown, at 10 a. m., on Saturday, Aug. 19th. Wm. Cummings, Esq. of Truro, President, occupied the chair. After the singing of "Come Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove," the Rev. Dr. Gates, read Psalm 91 and the Rev. Dr. Trotter led the Convention in the opening prayer. The rules of order were read and the Rev. G. R. White read the first report of the committee on arrangements. Deacon J. K. Ross of the Charlottetown Baptist Church, welcomed the Convention to the city and to the privileges of the church in which the session of the Convention would be held. His words were so cordial, and so nicely said that the Convention could not feel other than at ease.

After the appointment of a nominating committee, the following visitors were invited to seats in the Convention: The Rev. H. F. Laflamme of the Ontario Mission in India. The Rev. W. T. Stackhouse, of our N. W. Mission, Miss Mabel Archibald returned missionary; Mrs. C. M. McLean of Chicago, Ill.; Rev. J. L. Miner of Flemington N. J., a former pastor of the Charlottetown Baptist Church; S. Simpson, Esq. and Dea. Thos. Wood, of P. E. I.

The Revs. H. F. Laflamme, W. T. Stackhouse and J. L. Miner, spoke briefly in acknowledgment of the courtesy extended. Other visitors invited later to seats in the Convention were the Rev. G. R. Baker, of Leominster, Mass.; the Rev. A. E. Harris, of Meriden, Conn.; C. P. Baker, Esq., of Fairville, N. B.; the Rev. Wm. Dobson and the Rev. W. W. Lodge, Methodist pastor of Charlottetown.

Dr. H. C. Creed gave notice of the expiration of his term as secretary of the Convention and stated his inability to accept reappointment. The officers elected upon recommendation of the nominating committee were as follows:

Rev. G. R. White, Charlottetown, P. E. I., President.

J. J. Wallace, Esq., Moncton, N. B., 1st Vice-President.

Dr. A. J. McKenna, Wolfville, N. S., 2nd Vice-President.

Rev. J. H. McDonald, Fredericton, N. B., Secretary.

Rev. H. G. Colpitts, Yarmouth, N. S., and Rev. J. G. A. Belyea, Bay View, P. E. I., Assistant Secretaries.

A. W. Sterns, Esq., Charlottetown, P. E. I., Treasurer.

The newly elected president, spoke a few words, of appreciation of the honor conferred. The retiring president then spoke at some length concerning the different branches of our work and expressed his profound interest in every department of our denominational undertakings.

Upon the reading of the F. M. report the Rev. H. F. Laflamme, Rev. Dr. Gates, and Rev. Dr. Trotter emphasized the need of more missionaries for our Telugu work. Words of sympathy with Rev. and Mrs. W. L. Archibald, were expressed in their disappointment at not being permitted to go to India. Appreciative reference was also made to Miss Laura Peck recently appointed under the Board.

The report on obituaries presented by the Rev. J. W. Brown, Ph. D., mentioned the names of the Rev. J. A. Stedman of Sackville, N. B., Rev. J. L. Road of Avonford, N. S., Rev. H. H. Roach, of St. John, N. B., Rev. T. A. Higgins, D. D., of Wolfville, N. S., Rev. E. H. Sweet, who died in California in January last. Dea. W. C. Howett, of Truro, P. E. I., Dea. Chas. E. Knapp, of Dorchester, N. B., Dea. W. R. Doty, of Hebron, N. S., Deacons J. E. Price, and J. S. Trites of Moncton, N. B., and Dea. Lieut. Col. Shaffner of Truro, N. S., as having passed away into the fuller life during the year just past. Tender words of appreciation were spoken by a number of the brethren and on request of the Convention, Dr. Trotter offered prayer in behalf of the bereaved ones, thanking God for the noble lives that had been lived by brethren who were gone.

The platform meeting Saturday evening was devoted to Foreign Missions. The Rev. H. F. Laflamme was the first speaker. He told the oft repeated story of the greatness of the harvest fields and the harvesters so few. He urged the deepening of the spiritual life of the home churches in order that our young men and young women as they grow to maturity may have their ambitions and desires directed toward the work of saving the world. The work of the missionary there is threefold, viz., Evangelizing

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