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IN THE PUBLIC VIEW



Mr. G. T. Bell.

MR. GEORGE T. BELL, whose name has a familiar smack to thousands of Canadians as the General Passenger Agent of the Grand Trunk Railway, has now come into prominence among our neighbours southward. At the recent convention of passenger and ticket agents in Toronto he was elected president of the American Association of General Passenger and Ticket Agents, which is the oldest railway organisation in the world and is therefore entitled to have a name half a mile long—though whether at two or three cents a mile depends upon whether you travel Grand Trunk or in a two-cent state. This association was founded in Pittsburg away back in '55. Thousands of mem-

bers belong to it; members by land and lake and sea, and on most of the navigable rivers of North America. About the only bodies of water that do not send delegates to meetings of this Association are Great Bear Lake, the Mackenzie River and Baffin's Bay. The aim of the organisation is to get general and common ideas about travel everywhere in North America—and that happens to be the part of the world where more people travel longer distances than any other place. So that Mr. Bell has been elected to an office which represents more mileage than any other concern in the whole world. This, however, will not bother Mr. Bell, who has been a long while familiar with long mileages in the biggest country in America.

IF an international comic opera—with a tragic note in it—ever comes to be written, it should be called "The Balkans." For the past few days the world at large that reads newspapers has been seeing once again the looming up of that serio-comic cloud which seems to rise with comet-like periodicity—only much oftener—over the face of Europe. This time it is the Bulgarian States that are the little storm centre of this cyclone. Bosnia and Herzegovina are threatened with annexation by Austro-Hungary. Servia objects—and it is only five years since Servia did some objecting with shotguns and killed a pair of monarchs. The whole imbroglio is a three-card monte game which involves Austro-Hungary, Servia and Turkey with the Bulgarian States as the pawn. For thirty years, by the Treaty of Berlin, Bulgaria has been under the suzerainty of Turkey, while the two states, Bosnia and Herzegovina, have been administered by the twin monarchy with the venerable Franz Josef at the head. Now Bulgaria at large desires freedom—which seems to be in great demand all over that part of Europe just now. The two states threaten to cut the painter. The hoisting of the freedom flag dramatically coincides with the recent reforms in Turkey where a Declaration of Independence seems about to be ready to draft almost any minute. With a population of a million and

a half and an area of twenty thousand square miles, the two provinces are too much for Turkey to lose even though for thirty years she has held them only in name. Bulgaria expects Turkey to fight to retain them; also, it seems, Austria to back them up—even with a declaration of annexation. Servia objects to the meddling of Austro-Hungary. So the three-cornered game is likely to develop complications which only a skilful comic operatist is able to ravel reasonably—since ordinary diplomacy fails to settle precisely who's who and why. Meanwhile the placid old Emperor Franz Josef comes in for some mild criticism for not leaving the Bulgarians alone—even though to do so would forfeit a pass to the Aegean Sea. With Bulgaria in revolt against Turkey and with Crete slipping her moorings down in the Aegean, the spread of modern autonomy seems to be making fine headway in south-eastern Europe.



Emperor Franz Josef.

FROM North Perth to West Simcoe is not a great stretch, as distance is reckoned in the Province of Ontario. Hon. Nelson Monteith who, by the fortunes of political war, was defeated in the former constituency last June, resigned as Minister of Agriculture a fortnight after the election but was retained in the Whitney Cabinet until last week, when Mr. James S. Duff, M.P.P. for West Simcoe, took his place. It was then announced that the nomination for Mr. Duff's riding will be held on October 23rd. Mr. Monteith has proved an able and amiable minister, who is generally liked by his colleagues and who retires with their best wishes to the extensive farm which is dearer to his heart than any portfolio. Mr. Duff comes from a county, whose roll of "Old Boys" shows many a distinguished name and will doubtless do his best to maintain its record. The new minister had the neat majority of nine hundred last June and this local popularity will probably spare him another campaign. Mr. Duff is of North of Ireland descent, his forebears settling in West Gwillimbury, which was a famous settlement of staunch Ulster folk. He is a successful agriculturist and a patriotic student of municipal and provincial affairs, having served in county councils and having been member since 1898. The Department of Agriculture happily has less of party spirit associated with it than any other section of the Government and the Minister at the head of this department usually has as many friends among the Opposition as in his own ranks. Mr. Duff will prove no exception to this golden rule and is fortunate in having as deputy, Mr. C. C. James, as many-sided and capable an official as ever proved a Minister's right hand.

PRINCIPAL GANDIER, the new head of Knox College, succeeds to an office which has been one of large dignity for a great many years; ever since the late lamented and conspicuous Dr. Caven made old Knox famous by reason of his intrusion into Canadian politics. The new Principal is a Queen's man and another of those progressive maritimers. Since his incumbency at St. James Square he has proved himself one of the strongest preachers in Canada.



Church Dignitaries in Parade, Winnipeg, October 4th, on Dedication of St. Boniface Cathedral, Pere Lacombe in foreground and Archbishop Langevin in second Automobile.