

# Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER, }  
VOLUME LXV.

Vol. XIX.

{ THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR  
VOLUME LIV

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1903.

No. 20.

**The Persian Gulf.** Lord Lansdowne's announcement in the House of Lords concerning Britain's policy in the Persian Gulf is most important. He practically notified the other powers, that any attempt on their part to establish a naval base or fortified port on the Persian Gulf would be regarded as a grave menace to British interests, and to be resisted by all the means at the disposal of the British Empire. This is especially aimed at Russia and is intended to offset her occupation of Manchuria. It has been evident for some time, that before Russia attempted to occupy Constantinople, she wished to develop her power in two directions. One was in Manchuria and northern China, while the other was in Persia. Russian interests have been steadily increasing of late years, much to the detriment of those of Britain and of her prestige. The announcement of Lord Lansdowne checks Russia's advance towards the Persian Gulf. British predominance in these waters is considered necessary in order to protect the sea route to India. It is owing to British enterprise and expenditure of life and money, that the Gulf is now open to the commerce of the world.

**St. Louis World's Fair.** The dedication of the St. Louis World's Fair, to open in 1904, about a year from the present time took place on April 30. Both President Roosevelt and Mr. Cleveland were present at the dedication. It is probable that this will be the last World's Fair to be organized in the United States, as these undertakings have grown to be too gigantic, their organization occupying much time and involving too much unremunerative energy. The World's Fair at St. Louis is far advanced in construction, many of the buildings having been already completed. The Fair will cover a space of 1,180 acres. The official report of the officers of the company show that on the first day of April, 1903, the construction work was more than 50 per cent. complete, and more than 30 per cent. paid for. Congress has appropriated \$5,000,000 which become available as soon as the exposition company have spent \$10,000,000. The rate of expenditure at this time is \$750,000 per month. The municipality of St. Louis and individual subscribers have contributed a like sum of \$5,000,000. Thirty six states and territories of the Union have so far appropriated \$4,425,000 towards participation. China and Alaska will be represented for the first time in a world's fair. Canada will be represented quite extensively, giving especial attention to its live stock industry. France will reproduce in a garden the Grand Trianon of Versailles. Great Britain has entered upon a very elaborate participation, the Royal Commission being headed by the Prince of Wales, with an appropriation of \$500,000. King Edward has offered as an exhibit of great interest the Jubilee presents of the late Queen, which, it is said, will be an exhibit without a parallel and the chief glory of the Exposition. Germany has voted \$750,000 as her share towards the Exposition, and will reproduce a German castle upon one of the hills. Amongst the other countries interested well be Italy, Mexico, Siam, Japan, Brazil and Cuba.

**The Manufacture of Pins.** The mills of the United States practically supply the world with the much used article of pins. The total number of pins manufactured in the United States during 1900 was 68,887,260 gross. There are 43 factories in all, with 2353 employees. Hooks and eyes are a by-product of pin making and are produced in most of the factories from material

are turned out by automatic machinery in such quantities to-day, that the cost of manufacture is practically limited to the value of brass wire from which they are produced. A single machine does the whole business. Coils of wire hung upon reels, are passed into machines which cut them into the proper lengths, and they drop off into a receptacle, and arrange themselves in a line of a slot formed of two bars. When they reach the lower end of the bars, they are seized and pressed between two dies which form the heads, and pass along into the grip of another steel instrument which points them by pressure. They are then dropped into a solution of sour beer, whirling as they go, and then into a hot solution of tin. They here receive their bright coat of metal, and when hardened, they are dropped into a revolving barrel of bran and sawdust, which cools and polishes them at the same time. Because of the oscillations of the bran, they gradually work down to the bottom of the barrel, which is a metallic plate, cut into slits just big enough for the body of the pins, but not big enough for the head to pass through. Thus they are straightened out into rows again, and slide down an inclined plane, still hanging by their heads, until they reach strips of paper, to which they are introduced by a curious jerk of the machine. The first they know they are all placed in rows, wrapped up and on their way to the big department stores. A machine is supposed to throw out several thousand gross an hour.

**The Grand Trunk Pacific Ry.** The scheme of the Grand Trunk Pacific Ry. is at present before the Railway Committee of the House of Commons. This is the greatest project this committee has had to deal with since the C. P. R. was incorporated. Sir Charles Rivers Wilson and Mr. Hays, President and Vice President of the Grand Trunk Ry. respectively, explained the bill. It is proposed to run direct from Quebec to Winnipeg and thus develop northern Quebec and Ontario, from Winnipeg to Edmonton, and at the latter place separating and crossing the Rockies in two divisions, with termini on the Pacific Ocean, at Fort Simpson and Bute Inlet. Branch lines will be constructed to Port Arthur and Fort William, and also numerous lines into the heart of the wheat fields. The Grand Trunk Pacific also intends to put a fleet of steel steamers on the great lakes, in order to store as much wheat as possible at the various lake ports before navigation closes, and then convey it to the sea. The Grand Trunk Pacific and Grand Trunk Railways expect when their lines are completed to handle 30,000,000 bushels of wheat every season, and store 20,000,000 more at the lake ports before navigation closes. As to the subsidy to be given by Parliament, that is as yet unsettled. An absolute grant of either land or money is very unpopular throughout the Dominion. Mr. Hays, when questioned as to the winter port of the proposed line, said, that it was intended to hand over to the I. C. R. at Quebec, in winter, for Halifax and St. John, all freight that the I. C. R. and these ports had facilities to handle. The members of Parliament for the Maritime Provinces will seek a pledge from the Grand Trunk Pacific, that their winter port shall be in the Maritime Provinces, otherwise, they will oppose all aid being given to the railway.

**Carrier Pigeons.** The adoption of wireless telegraphy for the transmission of messages is likely to do away with the carrier pigeons both in the army and navy. In Europe carrier pigeons have been used on a large scale. On the boundary between Germany and France, there are more than two score pigeon lofts, where carrier

pigeons are kept. England, France, Germany, Russia and Italy have carrier pigeons in their navies. So carefully has the system been developed that it would be very difficult to cut off communication between warships and the mainland, or between armies in the field. So important were the pigeons becoming as war messengers, that the French and German armies began to train falcons and hawks to catch the liberated pigeons of the enemy. Now nearly all the European armies are talking of abandoning their pigeon services. The German army in the annual imperial manoeuvres, has been the first to test wireless telegraphy in a practical way for military purposes. Two military stationary wireless posts were established, and three portable outfits carried by the soldiers. The latter were established in army wagons drawn by six horses. The aerial wires for receiving messages were carried up in the air by means of kites built for the purpose, and which even on a quiet day could be made to fly. An electric receiving and transmitting cabinet was mounted on the wagon with the coil, key and sending apparatus. The two wireless posts kept the officers stationed there in constant communication with the field officers, as they led the different divisions of the army through the manoeuvres. The messages were sent over a distance varying from ten to thirty miles. Kites carrying aerial wires are considered by military experts to be the safest of all means devised for establishing communication between widely separated divisions of an army, because of their practical immunity from danger by shots. Balloons, on the other hand, when punctured are destroyed.

**Japan.** As Japan is the one ally of the British Empire, and is destined to take a high place amongst the nations of the world, and also to be one of Canada's best customers, her finances are therefore of great interest. Japan, like England, being insular, must depend largely for her protection on her navy. The naval department of Japan wants to expend nearly a hundred million yen in the eleven years from 1903 to 1914, in order to create a new naval force of \$5,000 tons, making a total naval tonnage of 335,000 tons. A yen is equal to nearly fifty cents. The Government in advocating this expenditure, claims that in five years England's fighting naval power will be 990,000 tons, France's 480,000 tons, Germany's 220,000 tons, and Russia's 300,000. The trade of Japan greatly increased after the successful China war, but has since suffered from financial depression. The finances are now in an awkward position. The expenditures required before the war were 80,000,000 yen, but the programme for the next ten years called for 300,000,000 yen. The plan of naval development is strongly opposed by influential commercial circles. It is argued, that as compared with foreign commerce, Japan's naval expenditure is very great, ranking next to Russia, England and Italy, while in point of wealth Japan ranks very low. Statistics show the wealth of England to be 2470 yen per man, France 2440, United States 2100, Germany, 1440, Italy, 1000, Austria, 990, Russia, 550, and Japan only 250 yen. The total of imports and exports per man is England, 188; France, 82; Germany, 70; United States, 63; Italy, 35; Austria, 34; Russia, 12; and Japan only 10 yen. It seems that Japan has yet a long way to go before she can be a great financial power.

The coal miners in Westphalia according to a Berlin despatch have been attacked by a intestinal parasite, and about 20,000 of them are affected. Not only coal-mining but affiliated industries are also suffering.