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J. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager and Editor

Ottawa, Wednesday, March 23 1904.

"Let Us Have Peace" reached us too late for this issue. It will appear next week.

There is not an open liquor bar in the province of Nova Scotia outside of Halifax city and county. Liquor is, of course, sold clandestinely in a good many places at times, but the vigilance of the temperance people and the enforcement of the law make it a risky and costly business to the liquor fraternity. Prohibition does prohibit to a considerable extent.

Mr. George D. Grant, M.P., who distinguished himself the other day in his speech in moving the Address, is a son of the manse. There is no better short speech maker in the Presbyterian Church, and there are few more popular on the platform and in the pulpit, than his father, Rev. Dr. R. N. Grant, of Orillia. The young member for North Ontario promises to be a "worthy son of a worthy sire"; and great things are expected from him in the political career upon which he has so auspiciously entered.

The proposal to join the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches in Canada leads some people to the counting of noses. The census of 1901 shows these figures: Roman Catholics, 2,229,600; Methodists, 916,866; Presbyterians, 842,412; Church of England, 680,620; Baptists, 316,477; Lutherans, 92,524; Congregationalists, 28,293. The proposed union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregationalists effected, would make the strength of the amalgamated body 1,787,308.

Japan, says the Southwestern Presbyterian, is open to the work of the missionaries of the cross, while Russia has never allowed religious liberty, but has compelled people everywhere she has obtained power to be submissive to her Greek Church.

ROUNDING OFF THE DOMINION.

Ever since Confederation it has been the dream of Canadian statesmen to see Newfoundland a Province of the Dominion. It is now the only bit of British North America going on as an isolated entity. Many circumstances prevented the desiderated fusion. Some years ago, an effort to bring Newfoundland and the Dominion together, failed, because the parties could not agree on the pecuniary arrangements and conditions. Canada might possibly have offered more, and wooed more ardently, had it not been for what has been known as the French shore fishery claims. France has now no territorial rights in Newfoundland, but she never relinquished certain fishery rights. There was always danger that a clash might arise between Great Britain and France, growing out of friction between the fishermen plying their craft along the banks; and it was only natural Canada should think twice before paying out good money to acquire something which included liability to international difficulty.

The prospect now is, that all international questions capable of giving trouble, as between France and Great Britain, will be finally adjusted at an early date. This adjustment will include the relinquishment, by France, in return for compensation elsewhere of all claims in connection with the Newfoundland fisheries that could ever cause trouble.

Under such circumstances, Newfoundland will soon be a Province of Canada, adding greatly to the importance of the Dominion, particularly from a maritime point of view. We have three great ocean fronts—that of the Atlantic; that of the Pacific; and that of Hudson's Bay. If Canada has not arrived, as the French saying is, it is arriving. When Canada really makes arrival, as regards her great destiny, may that righteousness which exalteth a nation be seen to have arrived at the same time.

Mr. D. Monroe, of Cornwall, who efficiently filled the office of Provincial Grand Master of the Orange Grand lodge of Ontario East during the past year, has made an aggressive head of the Order. In his annual message he recommended that the Grand Lodge of British America establish a home for the aged and infirm of the Order as well as for member's orphans; that Orange Orders withhold their grants to the True Blue Association, as all such money may be required for a similar orphanage under the Orange Order; that Sunday school libraries should be supplied with wholesome and distinctly Protestant books; and that the membership in Eastern Ontario should be doubled. Mr. Monroe, who is a worthy elder of St. John's church, Cornwall, has himself contributed not a little during his term of office to the growth and advancement of Orangeism in this portion of the Dominion.

ETHICS OF THE PLATFORM.

In a recent "feast of reason," the substantial of an intellectual and moral repast were present in profusion; yet the occasion was not as great a success as, with the materials in hand, might reasonably have been expected. Too long a time was occupied; enough would have been better than too much; a little tactful energy would have sent the people home an hour earlier.

Which suggests the question of the ethics of the platform. To begin with, the chairman. His office is something more than ornamental. The ideal chairman gives a certain zest and finishing touch. But then he must not take himself and his position too seriously. If he happen to be a personage, placed in the chair with the understanding that he is to make a speech, well and good; but ordinarily that is not the fact, in which case his clear moral duty is to be brief, pleasant and pointed in his remarks, and beyond that to exercise strictly and sternly the grace of reasonable self-suppression. A chairman who makes himself a barrier between an audience and those they chiefly desire to hear, is surely a weariness to flesh and spirit; but what words can describe the chairman who considers it his privilege and duty to indulge himself in the luxury of hearing his own voice for a period commensurate with his self importance and belief in his own humor, before each of half a dozen speakers!

The ethics of the platform demand from the speakers on the list some of the highest qualities, namely, reasonable self forgetfulness, consideration for others, fairness—in a word, unselfishness. Often have first speakers appropriated much of the time and receptivity of an audience which should have been equitably divided. One can understand how a man, not exactly a genius, might become so seized of his subject that he imagines the universe liable to get out of joint unless he gets off his complete speech. In such circumstances, let us be fair enough to admit, it would be difficult for any of us to see ourselves as others see us. But the next speech, and the next, may be just as important to the universe as our own, and it is not ethically allowable to violate the eighth Commandment by infringing upon the quota of the passing moments, justly belonging to subsequent speakers.

At a recent gathering of the friends of Queen's University in Hamilton, Rev. Dr. Fletcher, Moderator of the General Assembly, announced that a layman had decided to give \$65,000 to endow a chair. Next!

More students were registered at the Ottawa Business College during the first five months of the present school year than during the whole of the preceeding year. This speaks volumes for the energetic management and the popularity of this old and reliable institution. The Spring term, which is by far the best time to enter, opens on Tuesday, April 5th. Make your arrangements to enter then.