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orably with that high plateau of which the interior of Norway consists. The barren lands of the north are so called, not because they are really barren, but only because they do not produce trees. Moss and grass, however, are produced without limit. At the present time there are no inhabitants in a large portion of this great area. Mr. Seton and his friend will have a few Eskimo in the country to the north of them and the Yellow-Knife Indians to the south. Many a boy will envy them their summer in the wilderness.

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THE NEW COURT OATH.

Within a few days the kissing of the Bible as a form of taking the oath will pass away in the courts of Quebec province. In the future it will be necessary merely to rest the right hand upon the Bible while taking the oath to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. The statute which enacts this change in the form of the oath was passed during the last session of the Quebec Legislature, and comes into force on May 13, 60 days after it has been approved by the lieutenant-governor. At the present time, in the criminal courts the kissing of the Bible is no longer insisted upon, as in all courts under federal jurisdiction the practice was made optional some time ago. The witness merely touches the Bible, or in some cases merely raises his right hand and makes oath in that fashion, if he declares that he does not believe in the holy evangelists.

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Old Pandora Avenue Methodist Church, Victoria, B.C., recently demolished. The structure was the first Protestant place of worship erected in Victoria, being built in 1853. It has been a junk shop for a number of years known as "The Ark."

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THE COST OF WAR. (From New York Life.)

The most effectual charge that can be made in these times against war seems to be the one mentioned by Ambassador Bryce at one of the peace-with-champagne dinners—that it is bad business. The nations don't mind war being wicked, for, once it is started, its wickedness doesn't count; but it being so outrageously expensive is a matter which, nowadays, is never out of the minds of statesmen, and makes them solicitous to compose differences while they are still in such a case that they can be handled. Russia would not have fought with Japan when she did if her government had been in responsible hands. Her intelligent statesmen who could add up figures knew better than to let her, and tried their best to keep her out of it. England would hardly undertake to whip the Boers again at the price, and, undoubtedly, if the foresight of our own ambitious country had been as well informed and accurate as its hindsight some cheaper method would have been found to relieve the strain put on our sympathies in 1898 by the sufferings of the wards of Spain. War is very, very rarely worth what it costs, and the people on the earth seem gradually to be coming to realise it. Mr. Bryce could recall only one war in the last sixty years which seemed to him to be necessary.

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