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China. That the Emperor of China is dead may or may not be true, so far as the western world is informed, but it is certain that he has been deposed or forced to abdicate in favor of the Empress Dowager, and it is altogether probable that his enemies have brought about not only his abdication but his death. The assumption of power by the Empress Dowager is understood to involve the restoration to power of Li Hung Chang with his Russian proclivities which had made him so offensive to the British Ambassador, Sir Claude McDonald, that Li's dismissal from the Chinese Foreign Office was demanded and conceded. His restoration looks, therefore, like another triumph for Russian diplomacy. This *coup d'état* in China, however, may very probably have far-reaching consequences. It has had the effect of causing great disturbance in Peking. The feeling against foreigners is very strong and the nations which have naval forces in the far east have despatched warships to Tien Tsin, a port on the river on which Peking is situated and about eighty miles from the city. Only gunboats of light draught can ascend to Peking. It is understood that the Russian Ambassador has placed a Cossack guard in Peking and that the British Minister has called in a small detachment of marines from the fleet at Wei Hai Wei. These precautions appear to be necessary for the protection of missionaries and other foreign residents. The successor to the late Emperor, following the regular order, is a young man named Yin. He is said to possess considerable force of character with an inclination toward modern ideas and reforms. Whether this man will, under present conditions, succeed to the imperial throne, is doubtful, and it is improbable that he or any other ruler whom China can produce would be able to preserve the empire from dissolution.

Affairs in the Yukon. For some time past complaints of a persistent, though somewhat indefinite, character have been current respecting the management of affairs by the government officials at Dawson City. The great distance of the Klondike country from the seat of Government, and the lack of any facilities for speedy communication, make it difficult for the government to deal with irregularities, or even to ascertain whether the complaints made have any sufficient foundation in fact. The Minister of the Interior is understood to state, that as no charges having been preferred against the officials of the Yukon district, there was, therefore, nothing on which to proceed. It is also stated, whether officially or otherwise, that such information as the Government has been able to obtain does not go to confirm the truth of the complaints which are current, and it has been thought that a great deal of the agitation against the officials in the Klondike, and their administration of affairs, may have been inspired by American miners who are dissatisfied with the policy of the Government in respect to the Yukon. A letter written from Dawson City by Miss Flora Shaw, a distinguished newspaper correspondent, and published in the London Times of September 23, together with editorial remarks of the Times on the condition of affairs at Dawson, has, however, given the subject much prominence, and it appears to be understood that the Government will proceed to an investigation of the facts. The entire lack of any sanitary arrangements at Dawson City, a town now of 20,000 inhabitants and situated in a swamp, involves a condition of affairs which, always unhealthy, may be expected to result in an epidemic of typhoid. But, besides the unsanitary condition of the town and other evil conditions for which the government officials can scarcely be held responsible, the Times correspondent charges that

there is a wide-spread conviction among the people of Dawson, not only that the laws are bad, but that the officials who administer them are corrupt. Such a sweeping charge, it is admitted, is probably unjust to some who are conscientiously doing their duty, but "there is no disguising the universal dissatisfaction, and innocent and guilty stand condemned together." The Toronto Globe, which publishes the letter to the Times, and the remarks of that journal, says: "The charges put forward by the Times correspondent are exceeding grave, and bring to a focus the complaints which have been made, as to the administration of the Yukon district. An investigation should be instituted without loss of time, and it should be of the most searching description."

Since the above paragraph was written a report has been published from Major Walsh, administrator of the government in the Yukon district. Major Walsh's statements, if accepted, indicate that there is no sufficient ground for the reports of malfeasance on the part of the Yukon officials. He states that, having heard such reports, he sent out requests everywhere asking the people if they had any charges against officials to hand them in to him and they would be thoroughly investigated. "The only responses to this request," it is stated, "were against some of the police for offences of a minor nature, and they were carefully enquired into. Not one charge was laid against an official of the government."

Free Baptists in Conference.

The General Conference of the F. C. Baptists of New Brunswick met this year at Sussex. The report of the Corresponding Secretary, Rev. Dr. McLeod, showed the number of churches in connection with the denomination in the province to be 155, of which 120 have reported to their District meetings. These report an aggregate membership of 9,504. The estimated unreported membership is 2,639, making a total membership of 12,143. Of the 9,504 members reported, 6,744 are resident and 2,760 non-residents. Of the 120 churches reported, 110 had pastoral care during the year. Four new church buildings have been completed and dedicated, and two parsonages have been added to the homes for the pastors. The number of parsonages within the bounds of the Conference is now 14. The total contributions reported are \$26,186; being \$2,770 less than last year. The chief falling off is in the amount paid for church building and improvements—the decrease in this item being \$3,449.97. There is a slight increase (236.43) in the salaries paid; a small increase, also, in the contributions to Home and Foreign Missions; and a slight falling off in the Conference Fund. The number of ordained ministers on the Conference roll is 43—the same as last year. Besides these there are five Conference and six District Meeting licentiates. There is an increase for the year of 335 in the reported membership of the churches. The number of baptisms reported is 76 more than last year. Among the visitors present at meeting of the Conference was Rev. Dr. Chase, President of Bates College, Lewiston, Me., and Hon. G. E. Foster, of Ottawa. President Gates brought the greetings of 14,000 Free Baptists in Maine and 90,000 in the United States, and as a representative of the Maine Conference and the General Conference advocated closer relations with the Free Baptists of the United States. He also pleaded the cause of Bates College as a Christian institution of learning, especially of the Divinity School, and invited the N. B. Conference to select a professor and provide the salary for the chair of Church History in the Cobb Divinity School. This, he urged, would be an advantage both to the School and to the interests which the Conference represents. At a subsequent session the Committee on Education submitted its report, recommending a systematic College education of

Free Baptist ministers, and that the Conference practically aid Bates College. The Conference, however, declined to undertake any financial responsibility in connection with the College, and the clause referring to that matter was accordingly eliminated from the report as adopted. The Conference discussed the matter of religious education in the public schools brought up by a letter from Archdeacon Brigstocke, enclosing a resolution on the matter adopted by the Church of England Synod of 1896. The Conference, however, declined to take action on the matter other than to refer it to the executive. The Conference adopted strong resolutions re-affirming its positions in reference to prohibition of the liquor traffic and the observance of the Lord's Day.

After the Plebiscite.

So far there does not appear to have been published any statement of the results of the Plebiscite vote, which has official authorization, nor indeed any statement which is generally admitted to be approximately correct. The anti-prohibitionists have claimed a constantly increasing majority in Quebec as the more complete returns have come in. Some, we believe, go so far as to assert that Quebec's negative vote will be found to be large enough to wipe out altogether the affirmative majority in the other provinces, while others allow a majority to the prohibitionists in the whole Dominion of about eleven thousand. On the other hand there has been claimed for the whole Dominion a prohibitionist majority of as high as thirty thousand. It is not disputed, however, that six of the seven provinces, and the Northwest territories, have given majorities in favor of prohibition. The result of the Plebiscite is on the whole not very different from what was expected by those best qualified to estimate the issue, although probably there were few who expected that British Columbia would give a majority for prohibition, and, on the other hand, the negative majority in Quebec is much larger than was generally expected. The Plebiscite has demonstrated that the Roman Catholic clergy, as a body, are opposed to a prohibitory law. The French Catholic members of the Government, so far as they took part in the contest, threw their influence against prohibition, and these two facts go far to account for the result. The cities of Ontario, too, have disappointed the expectations of the prohibitionists by going, with one exception, against prohibition. It must be confessed, we think, that, considering the attitude of Quebec province and that of the cities of Quebec and Ontario, the immediate prospect for obtaining a general prohibitory law for Canada is not a bright one. It must be evident that the present situation is an embarrassing one for the Government. It has asked for an expression of the will of the people in this matter, and of those who have recorded their answer, a majority have declared themselves in favor of a general prohibitory law. This majority also includes all but one of the provinces of the Dominion and a large majority of all the constituencies. Certainly such a reply cannot be ignored. On the other hand no government could be expected hastily to ignore the voice of Quebec province, and especially that of the cities of Quebec and Ontario, in this matter. It will also be a serious question for those who represent the interests of prohibition in Canada to consider whether, in view of the conditions which the Plebiscite has revealed, the enactment of a general prohibitory law for Canada would be at present a real and permanent gain to the cause of temperance reform. At a meeting last week in Toronto of the executive of the Dominion Alliance, called to consider the situation in view of the Plebiscite vote, the following resolutions were adopted:

"That the Secretary be instructed to write immediately to the different provincial campaign committees, urging them all to perfect and make permanent their provincial and local organizations so as to unite the prohibitionists in wise and earnest work, following up the advantage that has been gained, until a law of total prohibition is thoroughly enforced in every part of Canada.

"That the chairman and secretary of this executive committee be instructed to make arrangements for a deputation, representing the prohibitionists of the Dominion, to wait upon the Government as soon as practicable after full returns are received, to call attention to the majority recorded in favor of prohibition, and ask for the speedy embodiment of the will of the people in definite and effective legislation."