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LONDON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The present General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada may stand out in ecclesiastical history. The debate on the question of union was worthy of the parliament of a great church, and it may safely be said that the majority of the speakers rose to the height of their argument.

An amendment which, if carried, would have put an end to the present movement for union, was rejected by a vote of 179 to 22. No doubt some delegates who are not yet converted, or have still open minds, sided with the majority, in order that the question might be further matured, but making all allowances, the vote indicates that the temper of the assembly is decidedly toward organic union. Its action yesterday, however, was not a decisive, but only a tentative, step. The hopes of the unionists must now be launched on a more or less uncharted sea. The subject has been hitherto debated by the picked men of the church, but it must now run the gauntlet of the membership. It will go to synods, presbyteries and sessions, and so down to the individual congregations, whose representations will flood the General Assembly before the latter submits a final referendum. Doubtless similar processes will be followed in the Methodist and Congregational Churches. On the principle that "the strength of some diffusive thought" should have "time and space to work and spread," years may elapse before the union is consummated, even under the most favorable conditions. Latent difficulties may be developed which will retard it for a generation; the movement may become a lost cause, wanting unanimity; or some federative plan may take the place of the larger conception, if organic union is impossible.

The movement for union is evidently not the work of youthful enthusiasts. The dead and front of it are veterans, who might be supposed to be conservative in matters both of doctrine and policy. It is rather curious, also, that the opposition in the assembly was led by some of the younger members. Apart from the doctrinal question, which the opponents of union hold to be the supreme consideration, there is an admitted advantage in union by the conserving of resources which are to a great extent wasted in competition. No doubt the growth of the west, opening a vineyard which cries for laborers, has been potent in creating a sentiment for union, so that the energies of the churches could be combined under a single control and direction for the conquest of the new field. According to the last census the chief religious bodies numbered among their adherents the following:

Table with 2 columns: Religious Body and Number of Adherents. Roman Catholics: 2,228,997. Methodists: 915,862. Presbyterians: 842,291. Anglicans: 680,346. Baptists: 349,977. Lutherans: 22,394. Congregationalists: 28,283.

A union of Methodists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists, would embrace at the present time nearly 2,900,000 souls, allowing for the growth of population since the last census. With the Anglicans and Baptists added, the united church would comprise, on the basis of the census of 1900, about 54 per cent of the population.

THE PRISON LABOR PROBLEM. The question of prison labor in Ontario has been raised in an acute form by the contract made by the Provincial Secretary with a firm engaged in the manufacture of woodenware, under which the labor of the inmates of the Central Prison has been sold at an average rate of 31-2 cents per hour. A joint deputation of wood-ware makers and their employes waited upon the Government to protest against this agreement. They claimed that it was unjust to expose them to the competition of prison-made goods, which they could not meet because of the cheapness of prison labor. The contract has seven years to run, and there is no likelihood that it will be canceled. Moreover, the goods are to be placed on the open market without being labeled "prison-made," a violation of the promise of the Government.

An unprinted report of the United States Bureau of Labor on convict competition with outside workers, shows that in some trades the prisons have obtained practical control of the field. It is asserted that the whip and whiplash business, except in the buggy whip branch, "has been almost entirely abandoned to the prisons." Of saddle trees convicts make 90 per cent of the total output, special patterns only being attempted by outside manufacturers. Ninety-nine per cent of the cheaper grades of kettles, skil-

lets and other stove hollowware are convict made. In furniture, boots and shoes, binder twine, brooms, brushes, shirts and overalls, the convicts compete with outside manufacturers, and it is asserted, demoralize the markets. The products of prison and convict industries in the United States in 1903-4 were valued at \$33,762,445. Of the goods manufactured \$9,325,068 worth were sold to the public in the States of their origin, and \$5,113,684 worth were used in public institutions, the remainder, or \$17,000,000 worth, going outside to the general market.

It is declared by the labor committee of the House of Representatives that "old firms and long established industries are being driven out of business" by the competition of the prisons, and two letters from one manufacturing corporation are printed in the report to show that it has abandoned the making of spiders and regular sinks "on account of convict competition."

It is conceded that labor in some form is necessary to prison discipline and to the moral and physical well-being of the prisoners. There are manifestly grave objections to placing the products of this labor on the open market, where it may be injurious to capital invested in good faith, and to free labor. The ideal policy is to employ prisoners in making goods used in public institutions which have to be maintained out of the public purse. In this way the moral effect of labor on the prisoners will be preserved, and they will relieve taxpayers of a proportion of the expense of their maintenance.

MR. ELSON IN THE LIMELIGHT.

Our good friend, Mr. Peter Elson, of East Middlesex, has been performing "off his own bat" at Ottawa. Mr. Elson has tried earnestly to qualify for the higher politics by studying the Auditor-General's report. It is a repository of hard facts, appealing to a man of his practical instincts. He was rewarded by the astounding discovery that the Government had paid \$31 40 for 80 1/2 bushels of potatoes, or at the rate of \$1 14 a bushel. This was something in Mr. Elson's own line, a question which he could discuss with authority and confidence. An Ottawa dispatch to the London Free Press tells us he "created a storm" in the House of Commons when he flashed the tell-tale blue book on the covering occupants of the treasury benches. Confronted with the proof of their criminal extravagance they writhed and squirmed under the lash of Mr. Elson's denunciation, and he let them off only after they had promised to make full inquiry. It was an opportunity that may come to a member of Parliament only once in a lifetime, and Mr. Elson rose to the occasion. He demonstrated to his constituents that he was attending to business, and trying honestly to earn his increased indemnity. Instead of lounging around the drawing-rooms of Ottawa and dawdling over pink tea.

Seemingly, the highest achievement to which a member of the present Opposition can aspire is to unearth a scandal, and Mr. Elson was in a fair way to winning his spurs. Potatoes at \$1 14 per bushel! What a trump card in the township at the next general election! The calf with a cough would not be a circumstance to it. But Mr. Elson's chances of promotion were very much discounted by the discovery that he had been the victim of a clerical error. The voucher showed that the Government had bought 180 bushels of potatoes for \$31 40, which was the market price at the time. In view of this Mr. Elson is rather an object of sympathy and is convinced that a scandal in the hand is worth two in the blue book.

A TONGUE TWISTER.

One is pleased to hear that Premier Gorevynkin is not to resign. This gives the world another chance to learn how his name is pronounced.

WHY PREVARICATE?

[St. Catharines Star-Journal] The St. Thomas Times is talking loudly about the land limits in the west. Mr. Sifton's brother-in-law, Mr. Burrows, has, why does not the Times act fairly and acknowledge that Mr. Burrows got these limits from a Conservative Government, and Mr. Sifton says he got them for nothing.

ACCEPTED THE INVITATION.

[Denver Daily News.] "I cannot say good-night, my dear; it grieves me so to part." And there he stood and held her hand. "And emptied out his heart." "I cannot say good-night," he sighed. "And tear myself from you." Just then her father's voice rang out: "Say good-morning, then, Skidoo!"

THE GOLDEN ROSE.

[London Daily Mail.] The "Golden Rose" which the Pope is presenting to the future Queen of Spain, is one of the most curious orders in existence. It is a mimic plant of pure gold, standing in a golden pot whereon are emblazoned the papal arms. It has leaves, buds and flowers. In the central flower is a tiny receptacle in which is contained a small palm leaf, blessed by the Pope—a ceremony usually performed on the fourth Sunday in Lent. Often enough no one is considered worthy of the honor, and the plant is laid away in the Vatican until a suitable recipient appears. The leaves of this golden plant are set with small jewels in imitation of dewdrops. Formerly the flower was made of red enamel, but now delicately worked gold is used alone. The cost of the carving alone is

about \$350, and when the jewels are added from the collection of the Vatican it cannot be valued at anything less than \$2,000.

The presentation of the Golden Rose is the highest honor the Pope can confer upon a Catholic princess. At the present time it is in the possession of the Queen Regent of Spain, the ex-Empress Eugenie, and some few others. In the past it was presented to the Empress Josephine, Queen Isabella of Spain, Queen Sophia of Naples, and many another famous lady since the days of Johanna of Sicily, the first Rose Queen in the time of Urban VI.

THE LIFE WORTH LIVING.

(N. Y. Sun.) This is the life that I would lead: A cottage on a grassy hill, A few immortal books to read, A woodland way to roam at will, A garden spot to turn with spade, The shelter of a maple's shade.

This is the life that suits me best: The daily burgeon of the East, The daily blossom of the West, The Milky Way my nightly feast, The blue of skies my dearest boon, The solace of the afternoon.

This is the life that woe and wine: A living far from crowd and cant, A home secure from raucous din, A realm away from roar and rant, The monarch of the modest hill, To have and hold the world at will.

A BIG PRIZE PACKAGE.

[Toronto News.] Fraulein Krupp, who has a bank account of \$125,000,000, is about to be married. Guess! Some fellows do get prize packages from time to time.

CYNICAL LABBY.

[Cleveland Plaindealer.] Henry Labouchere was in a more than usually savage mood when he penned the following for the London Truth: "Society is a combination of men and women who overdress themselves at the expense of their tradesmen that they may overeat themselves at the expense of their friends."

IS THERE NO LIMIT?

[S. E. Kiser.] Mother's eating carrots, lettuce, greens and beets. Father lives on onions; we've got having meals. Pancakes in the morning, breakfast food and rice. We're saving money and it's worth the price. Sausage? Bah! We wouldn't feed it to the pup! If you speak of beefsteak, sister's nose goes up. We have eggs for dinner, bread and milk for tea. And we must be getting richer rapidly. Every morning father, as he reads the news, Seems so discouraged, seems to have the blues. And he points the table, saying things are wrong—Vegetables seem to keep him pretty strong. Every day somebody tells about some packing fith we hadn't heard about before. It is nearly time to hear again, I think, That the milk is doctored and unfit to drink. Onions, prunes and carrots, lettuce, turnips, rice—Well, they might be better, still they're pretty nice. Yet before tomorrow someone, raking muck, May discover fith in these things—damn the luck!

THE SILENCE CURE.

[London Punch.] Nerve specialists, it is said, are now recommending a "silence cure" for women who suffer from nervous. The patients have to sit apart a certain number of hours in which no word is spoken. A woman we know tried this treatment, with a curious result. She herself came out in a rash, but her husband, who suffered from headaches, recovered.

IS MARRIAGE A HINDRANCE?

[New York Sun.] Is marriage a hindrance? Well, you bet it is—in various ways. A fellow in his peculiar ideas, conceived as a "bach," That he should be punning The whole shooting match. He thinks he's the master Because he's the man, The head of the household, The boss of the span, To do as he pleases, In running a house—From the size of a saucypan To that of a "souse." He thinks that the woman is weak and should trust All matters to her husband. The household will bust, What is hers, too, is his—Is marriage a hindrance? Well, you bet it is.

MATTER OF EXPENSE.

[Chicago Tribune.] "Aisy, don't you find married life more expensive than bachelorhood?" "Well, it may be more expensive than a rigidly single life, but it's cheaper than courtship."

POLITICAL EXPLOSIVES.

[Montreal Star.] Race and religion, if exploded by carelessness or malice, will blow this country to pieces, as surely as a powder magazine into which someone has dropped a match, will tear down the very earthworks which its contents are intended to defend. No man, whether he speak in Parliament or in the columns of a newspaper, who uses such weapons, can hold himself guiltless of the inevitable consequences.

JUNE.

[Detroit Free Press.] June is here, the month of roses, Month of open waist and hose, Month of graduates and brides, Palm leaf fans and auto rides, Welcome, June, with all your lugs—How's the early crop of bugs? June is here with gardens pretty, Dusty streets throughout the city; Gentle breeze, June now brings us, And the bunches that sting us, Welcome, June, with all your lugs—How's the early crop of bugs?

YOUTH AND AGE.

[Bohemian.] Young Man—In the bright lexicon of youth there is no such word as fail. Old Man—I suppose not, but as your education advances you get a different sort of lexicon.

ATROCITIES IN THE CONGO COUNTRY.

[From the Philadelphia Inquirer.]

It was Mark Twain who said that people were always talking about the weather, but that nothing was ever done. The same thing may be remarked of the revolting conditions reported to exist in what is known to diplomacy as the Congo Independent State.

It has been strenuously and repeatedly denied that the Belgian administration of that enormous territory is anything like as bad as has been over and over again asserted. The public has been assured that the stories told are the inventions of the natives, which they with their own eyes have witnessed, are as much exaggerated as the famous report about Mark Twain's death, and that while some regrettable abuses of authority have occurred, the government of the country as conducted by King Leopold's representatives has, upon the whole, been enlightened, progressive and humane. Investigating committees have been appointed to ascertain the facts and as the result of their inquiries they have brought in a verdict of not guilty, but don't do it again, while the official representatives of the Belgian Government have exhausted the vocabulary of protest in which in this connection their belated and revered sovereign has been the subject.

In spite of everything, incriminating statements about the horrible manner in which the miserable natives of the Congo country are systematically maltreated continue to be made and nothing seemingly is being done to rectify the situation. The most recent witness against the Belgian rulers of the United States is the Rev. Dr. E. H. Nassau, who has just got back to the United States after 45 years spent in missionary work on the South African coast. He spent the greater part of his time in the Congo and Cameroon districts, and it is his testimony that the very worst of the stories told of the brutality practiced by King Leopold's rubber gatherers is no more than the plain unvarnished truth.

What Dr. Nassau says is that the official rubber collectors periodically visit the native villages and order the delivery of so much rubber by a specified period. If the prescribed quantity is not duly forthcoming, the Belgian soldiers seize the wives and daughters of the delinquent villagers and lash them on the naked backs with whips made of hippopotamus hide. If it is desired, as often as happens, to render punishment especially severe and the example particularly impressive, Dr. Nassau declares that honey is rubbed into the raw flesh of the lacerated women, who are then tied to stakes near beehives and ant hills, with consequences more easily to be imagined than described. The victims linger a long time, until they die eventually.

This may be thought to exceed belief, yet it is in keeping with the assertions made by other witnesses and its truth may be assumed. Yet Secretary Root is not willing that the United States should be the first country to recognize the Belgian arrangements in the Congo region, since make any move toward ending these abuses, and among the European governments no one is willing to take the matter up because it is afraid of having its motives misunderstood. This is hard on the Congo natives, but the Belgian rubber business continues to prosper.

JOY BRINGS TEARS TO TERRY'S EYES.

Remarkable Reception Given the Great Actress at Jubilee Performance.

London, June 12.—The lasting and affectionate regard in which English playgoers hold their stage favorites found splendid exemplification today in the matinee at the Drury Lane Theater in commemoration of the theatrical jubilee of Ellen Terry. It was the most remarkable manifestation of its kind in the history of the British stage, not only drawn to the great historic auditorium an immense audience representative of all walks of life, but crowding the stage with the most notable names in the dramatic and musical profession, including the composers, in connection with an unprecedented programme which continued from 12:30 to 7:30 o'clock.

The most conspicuous, of course, was the first act of "Much Ado About Nothing," with Miss Terry as Beatrice, and 22 other members of "The Terry" in the cast; but perhaps the most moving and memorable event reserved for the end in the reception scene on the stage. Here Miss Terry was surrounded by 500 of her friends, embracing the participants in the programme and other well-known members of the profession, including Sir Charles Villiers Stanford and Sir Alexander Campbell Mackenzie, among the musicians.

The enthusiasm of the audience was unbounded and each appearance of Miss Terry was greeted with cheering and hand-clapping lasting many minutes.

One of the most notable features of the performance was W. S. Gilbert's "Trial by Jury," which the veteran author himself directed and in which the jury was composed of famous playwrights, Captain Robert Marshall being the foreman while the "Crown" was made up of a host of well-known actors and actresses. Before the performance began, Miss Terry was given a tribute by the pit and gallery gods who for more than twenty-four hours had waited patiently for the performance to open, amusing themselves meanwhile in good-natured fashion. The long vigil will be rendered eventful by the appearance of Miss Terry at the gallery doors at midnight to look at these friends through tear-dimmed eyes. Her youngest brother, Fred Terry, at 5 o'clock this morning played the part of commissariat officer to the waiting crowd.

J. H. CHAPMAN & CO

"Royal Saxe" China For June Weddings

We specially invite you to come and see the new Royal Saxe Antique China which we imported and just received for the wedding season. From the first sight of it, customers have been going in raptures over the odd beauty and handsomeness of the decorations, which are in natural colorings of cherry, strawberry, orange, apricot, rose, tulip, poppy, daisy and portrait and wateau designs. The collection includes a splendid variety of large and small pieces and to add to their attractiveness the prices are most reasonable, 50c to \$4.00.

- TANKARDS, CHOP DISHES, PLACQUES, MARMALADES, FRUIT SETS, MAYONNAISE, WAIVER JUGS, FRUIT BOWLS, CAKE PLATES, JARS, SUGARS AND CREAMS, ORANGE DISHES, WALL PLATES, SALADS, CELERY TRAYS, BREAD TRAYS, FRUIT COMPOTS, NAPPIES.

Confirmation Outfits

Mothers, whose children are to be confirmed, require some at least of the following articles, at less prices here than usual.

- For Girls. White Dresses, price.....85c to \$2.00. Veiling, yard......65c. Pure White Wreaths, up......20c. White Silk Ribbon......5c, 10c, 15c. Girls' Black Stockings, up......15c. For Boys. Fine Black Suits, prices.....\$3.50 to \$5.00. Black Serge Caps......25c and 50c. Boys' Stockings, pair......25c. White Wash Ties......15c. White Silk Ribbon......5c, 10c, 15c.

Children's Pure White Parasols with pink handles; the little miss will like one, only......25c. Infants' White Organdy Bonnets with pin tucks and lace; dainty and cute, only 25c.

Girls' White Lawn Dresses

Save making at home and buy a pretty ready-made dress—the cost is very small. These are suitable for confirmation dresses.

- Girls' White Lawn Dresses, tucked front, yoke and berth trimmed with val. lace and insertion. Sizes 6 to 12 years. Only.....\$1.00. Girls' White L. wn Dresses, sizes 6 to 12 years, tucked in front and sleeves, trimmed with lace and insertion. A surprisingly good value at 85c. Girls' Pretty White Lawn Dresses, embroidery insertion, yoke and straps of embroidery over the shoulder and finished off with lace edge. Only.....\$1.75.

J. H. Chapman & Co., 126, 128, 128 1/2 Dundas St.

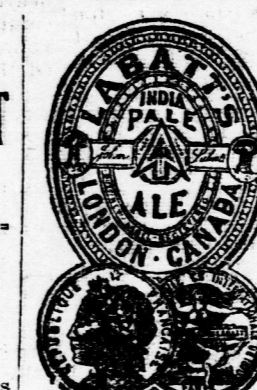
HOUSE PASSES

BIG N. T. R. GRANT

Ten Millions Voted for Construction Work on Transcontinental—Foster's Grievance.

Ottawa, June 12.—Business was transacted in the House today with an expedition that gave more promise of a general desire for early prorogation than has been manifested for some time. All but one or two of the remaining railway and canal items were passed, including \$10,000,000 for N. T. R. construction work. Mr. Emmerson's statement indicated an early letting of the contract for the Quebec-Moncton section. Dr. Thompson, of the Yukon, secured general indorsement of his remarks in favor of granting responsible government to the far northern territory. Mr. Oliver evincing decided friendliness on behalf of the Government. Earlier in the day Mr. Foster blamed the House for laughing when Mr. Cinqmars was brought to the bar on Thursday last. Sympathetic references to the late Sir Hector Langevin were a complement to the flag at half-mast on the tower of the Parliament buildings. Mr. Foster moved the adjournment of the House in order to complain about what he claimed was the lack of decorum on Thursday last, when, at his request, Mr. Cinqmars appeared before the bar. He charged that Liberal members had shown an unseemly sympathy with the offender, and that the matter had been treated with levity. Not only had the Liberal members applauded the most offensive expressions in the article complained of when read, but the Minister of Justice, the Postmaster-General, and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries joined in the applause, and the Premier made no attempt to prevent it.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in reply, suggested that it was not the proper time or place to discuss what happened last Thursday. While accepting responsibility to a large extent for the proceedings of Parliament, when Mr. Foster wanted him to prevent other members cheering, he was going a little too far. Personally Sir Wilfrid had been surprised at the strictures Mr. Foster had passed upon him on this occasion. There might have been cheers, perhaps, but he was obliged to decline the responsibility for them. He did not think it was his duty to go so far as to attempt to control the personal liberty of any man, who was prepared to accept the responsibility for the decorum of the House. Sir



ASK FOR Labatt's (LONDON) INDIA PALE ALE. The barley and hops used are the finest that money can secure. It is a diplomatic. 10 MEDALS—12 DIPLOMAS.



Woods' Fair. Screen doors and windows, All sizes, Lowest prices. 54 Clothsens on Thursday for 5c. Graniteware Specials for Thursday. Granite Kneading Pans, 21 quarts; special price.....\$1 25. Granite Dish Pans, 14 quarts; special price......50c. Granite Berlin Kettles, regular \$1 00; special price......75c. Granite Stove Pots, No. 9, regular 85c; special price......50c. Granite Double Boilers, regular 45c; special price......25c. Granite Sauce Pans, regular 35c; special price......50c. Granite Deep Straight Sauce Pans, 8 quarts; special price......19c. Granite Twin Sauce Pans, regular \$1 set; special price......75c. Granite Water Pails, 14 quarts, regular \$1; special price......60c.

Visit our art room this week and see the beautiful display of Japanese goods; suitable for wedding presents.

Big Cut in Toilet Sets for Thursday. 174 Printed Toilet Sets, 10 pieces, first quality; in blue, pink or green prints; regular \$2 85; Thursday, price.....\$2 49. 57 only, Toilet Sets, 10 pieces, roll basin, new shaped pieces, with gold-traced edges. A very beautiful set. Regular price, \$4 50; Thursday, price.....\$3 49.

Lawn Mats for 25c. Best 3-string brooms in the city, 20c each.

What censure should be visited upon the offender. For himself he was prepared to say the decision of the House would be a judicious one, and one that would be dictated solely by the laws of Parliament. Mr. Foster's motion was declared lost. Great numbers of watches are being made in Switzerland for the Japanese Government, which intend to give them as souvenirs to its soldiers and sailors of the Russian war.

HAVE YOU TRIED . . .

Toasted Corn Flakes

A Breakfast Food with a Flavor All Its Own—It's Delicious. Ask Your Grocer for a Package.