

THE AYLESFORD UNION.

"That ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the Gospel."—PAUL.

AYLESFORD, N. S., MAY, 1897.

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THE MONTH.

The ice held in the St John River until April 22nd, this year.

The Dingley Tariff Bill became law on April 1st—an appropriate date no doubt some will say.

Hunter and Crossley will continue their campaign at Kentville till the end of the month. Thus far about 80 converts are reported.

As we go to press the report comes to us that a man was kicked to death in a drunken row in the shiretown of Kings on the 24th, from which we judge that the devil is still in possession of at least a goodly portion of his "half acre."

The Toronto and Hamilton newspapers unite in condemnation of cedar block pavement as frightful repositories of disease microbes. It is affirmed that more than one epidemic of diphtheria and scarlet fever has been traced to children playing with old blocking which was being removed from the streets.

It would seem that the Cuban trouble is practically, at an end. Since Maceo's death the insurgent forces have been more decidedly of a guerilla character than before. On the other side the war is proving a serious drain upon an already bankrupt nation, which has no prospect of reimbursement by a war indemnity. Consequently Spain is very glad while claiming a victory to grant self government to the Island. Recent dispatches state that a proclamation of this nature has already received the signature of the Queen Regent.

Lieut. Gov. Kirkpatrick sailed on the Majestic for New York on April 21st very much improved in health.

Toronto can no longer boast of its quiet Sabbaths. By a third vote taken on May 15th upon the Sunday Street Car question the car companies finally won by a majority of about 400 votes.

The average rate of duty imposed by the Dingley Bill is 57.03 per cent, while that of the Wilson Tariff which it replaces was only 39.94 per cent and of the old McKinley Tariff 49.58 per cent. In the year 1896 the average Canadian duty levied on imports from the United States was 17.13 per cent. There cannot then be much question as to who is most inclined to be neighbourly.

Quebec like Nova Scotia has gone overwhelmingly liberal rejecting the Flynn administration by 49 to 24. When it is remembered that the last house stood 50 conservatives to 23 liberals, the reversion of feeling becomes the more marked. Mr. Marchand will be the new premier. The star of liberalism is certainly in the ascendent. Never in the history of this country did any party have such an opportunity to prove the soundness of its principles.

It is in no small degree interesting to contrast the anxiety of many of our military men to secure places on Canada's contingent to be present at the Imperial Jubilee in London next month, with the anxiety of these same soldiers a few years ago to be excused from attendance upon Riel's demonstration on the Red River. But we suppose that there is a difference between soldiering under the admiring gaze of loyal Londoners than in the presence of a horde of hostile half-breeds.

The Transvaal government has expended over a million dollars upon armaments since the Johannesburg trouble, and is steadily adding to its equipment batteries of artillery, Maxim guns and large supplies of ammunition. The British war office considers such movements rather significant in view of the unreasonably exorbitant indemnity demanded of England by Kruger's government. A sharp eye is being kept upon the saucy little South African Republic while reinforcements are quietly being despatched to the Cape. Britain will not be caught napping.

It is announced that arrangements for a fast line of steamers between Canada and England have been completed.

At a charity bazaar in Paris under the management of the ladies of the nobility, the building caught fire and one hundred and twenty one persons lost their lives.

The report of the school for the blind at Halifax has been issued. Eighty-six pupils are reported in attendance of whom four are from Kings County.

A grand dinner to the poor of London is to be one of the events of the public celebration. Donations for this purpose are being received. One anonymous philanthropist has sent £25,000 (\$121,000) as his contribution.

The Arbitration Treaty negotiated between Great Britain and the United States was rejected by the senate of the latter nation. Fifty two Senators voted in favor of the treaty to thirty-one against it, but the rules of the Senate require a majority of two thirds for the approval of a treaty with a foreign nation.

The Nova Scotia elections on April 20th resulted in an unprecedented sweep for the government. Only four opposition members were sent back to face a government of thirty-four members. If an opposing party is essential to wise and honest law-making it would certainly seem desirable that a sufficiently strong force may be maintained in opposition to act in some degree as a check upon the government party.

As an outgrowth of the Cretan difficulties and the refusal of Greece to obey the mandate of the powers to withdraw her troops from that island, war was declared between Turkey and Greece on April 18th. Notwithstanding the confident prediction in many quarters that the war would not last over a week, the plucky little peninsular Kingdom put up a pretty good fight for over a month before an armistice was secured by the intervention of the powers, and even now seems to be considerably removed from demolition as shown by the battle of Domokos on May 17th. The one threatening feature of the situation now is the fact that Turkey is apparently intoxicated with her success and is determined to thrust herself forward as an European power. Her demand of the annexation of Thessaly and a war indemnity of ten million pounds is considered out of the question and none can say what the end will be.