

# Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,  
VOLUME LXII.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR,  
VOLUME LI.

Vol. XVI.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1900.

No. 11.

**The Prohibition Association's Policy.** A circular has recently been issued by the Rev. Edwin Crowell, of Yarmouth, president of the "Maritime Prohibition Association," organized at a convention held in Moncton a few weeks ago. The object of the association is declared to be "to secure such united action by the electorate as shall overthrow the liquor traffic in Canada by prohibitory legislation." Mr. Crowell states that the policy of the association is "a moderate one, agreeing in substance with the decisions of the Provincial temperance bodies by which the Moncton Convention was called." Its aim is to get prohibition by making Prohibitionist Parliaments, which Mr. Crowell says can be done "if electors who pray will vote as they pray." The association's "objective" is declared to be, "not the committal of any political party to our platform, so much as a Prohibitionist Parliament. . . . We must convert the electorate to the policy of demanding that their representatives in Parliament shall be exponents of the prohibition doctrines of their constituents." The circular further says: "We are making a new departure under the auspices of the Sons of Temperance, Good Templars and Royal Templars of the Maritime Provinces. To these societies every intelligent citizen must recognize a deep and unspeakable obligation for their honorable work. In this new departure as a maritime coalition of temperance forces we hold out the olive-branch to all Prohibitionists, some of whom may not see a way of agreement with the efforts of the past on political lines. We would leave behind all that ought to be forgotten, and would bring into our new organization only the experience gained by past labors, and the hope to profit thereby while we co-operate on a larger scale than ever for the suppression of the liquor trade."

**The British Budget.** The galleries of the British House of Commons were crowded on Monday, March 5, in expectation of the budget statement to be presented by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach had seized the strategical moment, when the country was filled with the exultation of recent victories, for administering a dose at which the stomach of the British taxpayer is apt to revolt. The Chancellor's statement shows that in the budget of 1900-1901 an expenditure of £154,082,000 has to be provided for. It is also shown that the war is responsible for a deficit in the exchequer account of the current year (1899-1900) of £17,700,000, instead of a surplus of £5,000,000 which otherwise the account would have exhibited, and the Chancellor pointed out that on account of the war the country had to face a total estimate of six times as much as had been estimated in October last. The Chancellor was able to show that there had been a gratifying increase in the actual over the estimated revenue due to the steady and substantial increase of business. Against the estimated expenditure of £154,082,000 for the coming year, the Chancellor of the Exchequer estimates the revenue on the existing basis of taxation at £116,900,000, involving a deficit of about £37,000,000. Dealing with the war expenditure, the Chancellor said the Government had made the best calculations as to the amount it ought to ask from Parliament with the view of a successful prosecution of the war. But it was impossible to be certain when the war would be concluded, and the expenditure might be larger. On the other hand, however, a happy change has recently taken place in the military situation and the fact that the season now fast approaching was, in the opinion of the authorities, unfavorable to Boer operations, had to be considered. He might be obliged in July or August to ask Parliament for further relief; but he believed he

was fairly justified in hoping that the intended expenditure would suffice to successfully conclude the war. He estimated the total war expenditure, including the deficit of £17,770,000, at £60,000,000. In order to meet this war expenditure of sixty millions, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach asked the taxpayers to subscribe to the cost of the war by an increase of the income tax to one shilling on the pound, which would produce an additional £6,500,000. He has also proposed that the stamp duties on Stock Exchange contract notes be extended to sales on the Produce Exchange; that beer duties would be increased a shilling a barrel of 36 gallons, and that there would be an increase in the duty on spirits of sixpence per gallon; tobacco, fourpence per pound; foreign cigars, sixpence per pound, and tea, twopence per pound. He anticipated that the above changes would increase the revenue £12,317,000, and he proposed to save £4,640,000 by suspending the sinking fund in relation to certain terminable annuities. It is proposed that £35,000,000 shall be raised by bond or stock repayable in a term not exceeding ten years. The budget statement appears to have met with a very favorable reception in the House. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, leader of the Opposition, complimented Sir Michael Hicks-Beach on the straight-forward, statesmanlike and discreet measure proposed for dealing with the financial difficulties, and said the Opposition would give every facility for the passage of the necessary resolutions. Sir William Vernon Harcourt also complimented the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the soundness of his financial principles, but, referring to a statement of the Chancellor's as to the Transvaal ultimately paying a larger part of the cost of the war, said the country would like to know how the Government proposed to insure that. He intimated that the wealth of the Transvaal was more likely to be applied to swelling the fortunes of millionaires like Beit and Rhodes than to lessening the burdens of the British taxpayer, and declared that "before all these burdens are imposed on the British people they should take some security by getting control of the funds of South Africa." John Redmond, the Irish Nationalist leader, characterized the Chancellor's statement as "an iniquitous budget designed to uphold an iniquitous war," and Timothy Healy protested against Ireland paying any part of the expenses. "Let the diamond stock-brokers," said Mr. Healy, "those who are raking money out of the war, pay the cost. Let the colonies share the burden—Canada and Australia, who are so keen for war and who are making kudos out of it."

**At Ottawa.** The Dominion House of Commons is making a fair measure of progress with business. There appear to be no party ends to serve by an undue prolongation of the session and there is talk that the end may be reached before the Queen's birth-day. The time of the House was occupied on Tuesday by a highly excited and seemingly very profitless discussion over certain riotous demonstrations in Montreal connected with the celebration of the relief of Ladysmith. The trouble in that city began on the evening of March 1st, when there was a patriotic demonstration by a great crowd headed by McGill students, which at the first appears to have been characterized by nothing more mischievous than a good-natured insistence that people generally should join with them in celebrating the occasion. Unfortunately things were done which should not have been done, especially when the crowd, having entered the grounds of Laval University and their advances having been repelled by cold douches from hose pipes, proceeded by way of retaliation to smash the University's windows. The McGill demonstration was followed the next evening by a counter demonstration led by Laval students, which also appears to have been good-natured and loyal enough so far as the students were concerned, but there were evi-

dently evil-minded persons connected with the crowd, who showed what spirit they were of by tearing down the British flag from the Star newspaper building and tramping upon it with wanton insult. It appeared indeed at one time that more serious trouble was imminent and the militia was held in readiness to prevent an outbreak of mob violence. In connection with these disturbances there appeared a notable article in *La Patrie*, a French newspaper published by the sons of the Hon. Mr. Tarte, and with which the Minister of Public Works acknowledges a more or less close connection. This article was of a mischievously silly and inflammatory character, greatly magnifying the significance of the indiscretions connected with the McGill demonstration, and talking nonsensically about the country having been brought to the verge of civil war and the disruption of confederation. The attention of the House of Commons was called to this article by Mr. McNeil, who charged the Minister of Public Works with responsibility for it. In the prolonged discussion which ensued, some of the speeches were calm and conciliatory, and others were quite the reverse. The record of such a discussion is not pleasant reading for Canadians, and the only good that can be hoped from it is that reckless politicians may take warning of the perils that are involved in an appeal to race and religious prejudices in this country for party purposes. The article published by *La Patrie* was in the last degree reprehensible and inexcusable. But then *La Patrie* is by no means the only offender in the matter of stirring up racial passions, as Mr. Tarte was well able to show. The Minister of Public Works, we are free to say, lacks a good deal of our ideal of a Statesman, but we know of nothing to indicate that he is not loyal to the British Crown and the Empire, or that he is deserving of the insinuations which in this respect are so often made against him. This whole matter of stirring up race feeling in this country is a most dangerous business, and unfortunately the fools who play with fire are not the only ones to suffer when a conflagration occurs. It is gratifying to know that the authorities of both Universities have expressed the deepest regret for what has occurred and it is believed that on the part of the students of the Universities there is no disposition to cherish a spirit of hostility. . . . The Redistribution Bill, passed by the House last year and rejected by the Senate, has occupied the attention of the House for a part of the past week. The House has again passed the Bill with some slight amendments which included the striking out of the proposed changes in reference to the city and county of St. John. Before passing the Bill the House rejected, by a party vote, an amendment offered by Sir Charles Tupper, providing for redistribution after the next census by a commission to consist of the Chief Justices in the highest-courts of judicature in each of the provinces.

—St. John has lost by death during the past week two of its prominent and highly esteemed citizens in the persons of Mr. James R. Ruel and Senator Lewin. Mr. Ruel, who died on Wednesday, had reached his 80th year. He was a man of upright and honorable character, who served the city well for many years in important civic offices, and since 1870 had filled, with marked ability and satisfaction to the public, the office of Collector of Customs for the port of St. John. Mr. Ruel had shown an interest in the affairs of the city in many practical ways, especially in services rendered in connection with the Public Library and Fern Hill Cemetery. Religiously, he was a churchman of an evangelical type. Senator Lewin had reached the age of 88. His earlier life was spent in the Imperial civil service. Later he was engaged in the Insurance business in St. John. Since 1855 he had been President of the Bank of New Brunswick, and for 35 years was also Manager of the bank. Mr. Lewin was also one of the foremost men in projecting and building the Suspension bridge. He was appointed Senator in 1876. In religion Mr. Lewin was a prominent member of the Methodist church.

st. John  
ette  
ket  
ac-  
from  
75c.  
extra  
t we  
rie"  
in  
in  
it is  
ly if  
be-

Co.

g Bit

bling, pre-  
control the  
be instant-  
most tender  
and it to any-  
a tongue

St. John  
MES

ns, affording  
of the chance of  
one, 1 Chess and  
18 cards in pack,  
series, 1 game For-  
the Clairvoyant, 1  
our Patrons.  
Table, 50 char-  
ms, Magic Slides,  
at Lease of 500  
only 25 cents  
change 25 cents  
office, address  
tion this paper.