

## The Canadian Church Magazine AND MISSION NEWS

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### EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE death of the Czar of Russia is the all-absorbing European topic of interest. The estimates of his character are various, but all seem to agree that he has been the great preserver of European peace. His eldest son, who succeeds him, is a young man, and is said to possess advanced radical ideas.

THE great Missionary Council of the American Church which was held recently seems to have been a real success in arousing enthusiasm for the noble cause. Thirty-nine of the American bishops were present, besides many clergy, representing both home and foreign mission fields. The discussions and speeches were all most practical and interesting, and much increased interest, both theoretical and practical, in missions and missionaries cannot fail to follow as a result of the great gathering.

*Church Bells* (Eng.) says: "Some extracts from a letter of Bishop Bickersteth, of Central Japan, which appear elsewhere, contain a reference to a plan of which we have been for some time cognizant. It is nothing less than that the Church in Canada should have a Canadian bishop in Japan with a missionary jurisdiction. The Church in Canada has been for some time honorably distinguished for the zeal with which its members have striven not only to evangelize the Indians at home, but also to carry the Gospel to heathen peoples in foreign parts. A number of Canadian missionaries are now at work in various parts, and it is characteristic of the ardor of Canadian Churchmen

that they should now be seriously considering the practicability of also sending out a missionary bishop. Bishop Bickersteth writes as if he anticipated the immediate accomplishment of the scheme, but we are inclined to think that this is hardly likely to be the case. There are a variety of difficulties which have to be overcome and many details to be arranged. There is, however, no reason, so far as we are aware, why the wishes of Canadian Churchmen, which have found expression through their Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, should not be fulfilled in the not very distant future.

"THE only point which we venture to submit for the consideration of our brethren in Canada, in connection with their very natural desire to complete, as it were, their share in foreign missionary work, is whether it would not be really better to provide an adequate stipend for a bishop who is a native of Japan than to send a Canadian bishop to this country? At the moment the idea may seem somewhat premature; but history in that wonderful country is being very quickly made, and in a very short time it might be that the best security for the continued existence of the Church in Japan would be a native ministry of the three orders, bishops, priests, and deacons. Even now the intense national feeling of the Japanese is a hindrance to evangelistic work, and this is not likely to grow less as time goes on. On the contrary, the interests of the Church in Japan might, perhaps, be best promoted by the withdrawal at no very distant date of the non-native missionaries; but, whether this be so or not, it is clear that so long as the Church in Japan is almost entirely officered by non-natives it will be exotic in character, and have no guarantee of permanence. The next few years ought to see half a dozen native bishops, at least, in Japan. If Canadian Church people were to devote themselves to the furthering of that object, we think that they would be doing much more to help on the winning of the country for Christianity than by merely sending to it a Canadian missionary bishop."

THE Bishop of Athabasca arrived in Winnipeg, from Athabasca, on October 5th, having completed the visitation of his diocese since May last.

The third triennial synod took place at Lesser Slave Lake early in July, when a profitable gathering was held, though owing to the uncertainties of travel the attendance was small. From Slave Lake the Bishop went overland about one hundred miles to Christ Church Mission on Peace River, where the Rev. J. G. Brick has so long worked. Mr. Brick has, we regret to say, been obliged to resign on account of ill-health. He is succeeded by the Rev. H.