

# Messenger and Visitor

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER, }  
VOLUME LXVI. }  
Vol. XX.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 1904

{ THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR  
VOLUME LV. }  
No. 29

The New York *Evening Post* is of opinion that Yankee shrewdness will be found equal to devising ways and means for defeating the provisions recently added to the tariff law of Canada to prevent the dumping of foreign goods in Canadian markets. *The Post* says: The Canadian Finance Minister will have a better knowledge of Yankee ingenuity after he has experimented a while with his anti-dumping policy. He says he will not let our goods be sold across the border for less than their market price in this country, but the Canadian manufacturers have not in the least ceased worrying over the situation. They have got wind of the fact that American firms are preparing to send their surplus goods into the Dominion at regular market invoices, and to employ salaried dealers there to sell them at slaughter prices. An Ottawa wholesale merchant, for instance, has just received four circular letters from manufacturers in the United States who intimate that they will invoice goods into Canada at our prices and pay him for handling them a salary equal to the return obtained by American dealers. If German or British manufacturers should attempt to get their goods into the United States in such ways as this we should regard it as a dirty trick. But in the present case it is only an evidence of legitimate enterprise and national shrewdness."

A correspondent of the *Toronto Northwest Globe* who is visiting Manitoba and the Northwest and has become well acquainted with the country through many former visits, writes encouragingly in respect to the prospects for the coming harvest. This correspondent also intimates that an optimistic and speculative spirit prevails largely in the Northwest. He says: "Many other farmers are erecting barns and sheds, and some of them are building commodious and comfortable residences mostly on borrowed capital, with strong faith in the future prosperity of this great country. Thus, one by one, the farm houses will compare favorably with the farmer's houses in old Ontario. It is commonly realized that money this summer is scarce, which is partly caused by the farmers and townspeople speculating in farming lands and city and town property. The banks, I am told, positively refuse to discount long-time paper which makes it necessary that business men with small capital secure renewals from their creditors. However the old song is still a source of cheer to the sons of toil: 'There is a good time coming boys.' During the past three years many men have made wealth by purchasing and reselling farms. The same may be said concerning speculators in the cities and towns of the west. Unimproved prairie land less than five years ago could have been purchased from the Hudson Bay Company and the C. P. R. Company for \$3 per acre, which is being sold to-day by these companies \$6 to \$8 per acre. Improved farms near a railway station are being sold from \$15 to \$40 per acre. Good unimproved land is being offered for sale by speculators from \$8 to \$22 per acre. Still there are thousands of farms of 160 acres each to be given by the Government to actual settlers as homesteads free of cost. I would advise all persons who have farms in Ontario and elsewhere to remain where they are; but young men who have no farms and those who have poor farms I would urge to come to the 'Great Northwest,' where there the richest soil may be secured as 'homesteads' for the asking, or by purchasing from private persons at a moderate price and very favorable terms. Wages of mechanics and farmers' hired help are as good, if not better, in the east than they are in the west, and I might say, much better when the cost of living and comfort are considered. To all who have a knowledge of farming and have ambition enough to secure a farm, with splendid productive soil, I would say, start for the west. Money will be saved by starting soon."

There has been a good deal of discussion outside of Parliament in reference to the request of Mr. McDougall, the Auditor-General, for an amendment of the Audit Act, or falling that, his superannuation. Last Wednesday the matter was brought up in the House of Commons by Mr. Borden, the leader of the

Opposition, who referred to Mr. McDougall's request, reviewed at some length the relations existing between the Government and the Auditor-General and moved an amendment to the Audit Act, which would give the Auditor the power to file a petition in the Exchequer Court in case of a dispute between the Government and himself. The Exchequer Court would have power to permit payments to proceed notwithstanding what the Auditor might say. The judge would have power to examine witnesses under oath. Mr. Borden said that he did not want to remove ministerial responsibility or place too much power even in the hands of an Auditor-General, but all available safeguards should be employed to protect the public interests. Mr. Fielding, Finance Minister, in reply to Mr. Borden held that the provisions of the Audit Act as it stands were ample for the protection of the treasury. The Act had been made many years ago and had been thoroughly gone over. It gave the Auditor-General ample powers to Audit, to investigate and even obstruct. If the Auditor-General wanted more power it was not that he might carry on his business more effectively but that he might deal with matters outside his sphere. A change in the Audit Act, Mr. Fielding regarded as so important a proposal that it should not be lightly made. He would not care to express a definite opinion on the proposal on so short notice and did not think the House would care to undertake the discussion at this stage of the session. After some further discussion a vote was taken on Mr. Borden's amendment which was lost by a majority of 38.

#### Bryan's Support of Parker.

Before accepting the nomination of the St. Louis Convention Judge Parker felt bound to declare to those who had nominated him that on the currency question he was unalterably committed to the gold standard. Judge Parker's telegram created a great sensation in the Convention and called forth strong opposition on the part of the silver men, voiced especially by W. J. Bryan. The opposition was not, however, strong enough to upset the nomination, and Judge Parker stands accordingly as the unanimous choice of the Democratic party as its candidate for the presidency. It is evident, however, that Parker's prospects for election would be brighter if, in addition to the other forces at his back, he could count on the cordial support of the Bryan party. Since the St. Louis Convention Mr. Bryan has given out a statement in which he declares his intention to vote for Parker and Davis, the nominees of the Convention. He will do so because in four respects which he names the Democratic platform is to be preferred to the Republican. First, the Democratic ticket stands for opposition to imperialism, while the Republican ticket stands for an imperialistic policy. Second, on the race question which, Bryan says, Mr. Roosevelt is injecting into American politics to the prejudice of economic questions. Upon this attempt "the election of the Democratic ticket would put a quietus and permit the race question to work itself out without the bitterness which Mr. Roosevelt's conduct has engendered." Third, "Mr. Roosevelt stands for the spirit of war. He believes in strenuousness and inculcates a love of warlike things. The Democratic ticket stands for peace, for reason and for arbitration rather than for force, conquest and bluster." Fourth, the Democratic platform declares in favor of the reduction of the standing army and there is reason to believe that a Democratic success on this subject would bring some advantages to the people. On the money question, however Mr. Bryan considers Parker as heretical as Roosevelt, and he would have little more hope of anti-trust legislation under Parker than under the present regime. On this and on the labor question he awaits Mr. Parker's declaration in a frame of mind which evidently is not very hopeful. Mr. Bryan also considers that Judge Parker's nomination was secured by "crooked and indefensible" means, and while he will support the ticket he makes it plain that his support will not be an enthusiastic one, and he declares that as soon as the election is over he will, with the help of those whose views agree with his own, undertake to organize for the campaign of 1908, "the object being to marshal the friends

of popular government within the Democratic party to the support of a radical and progressive policy, to make the Democratic party an efficient means in the hands of the people for securing relief from the plutocratic element that controls the Republican party, and for the time being is in control of the Democratic party." From all this it is quite evident that Mr. Bryan and the quite significant section of the Democratic forces which he represents will not be inconsolable if the Democratic candidate in the forthcoming election should fail of success.

#### Quality of Russian Troops.

According to the Paris correspondent of the *London Times*, a French war correspondent who has visited the Russian lines in Manchuria from Mukden and Liao Yang to the outposts south of Kai ping, summarizes his impressions as follows:—If the Russian navy does not recover the command of the sea he considered that Russia cannot possibly be victorious, unless she makes an immediate effort to despatch to the far east several army corps composed of her best European troops. The Siberian troops, in the opinion of experts are courageous, but are militia rather than regular armies, made up for the most part of reservists and raw recruits. Some artillery regiments possessed quick-firing guns, but only for two months, and the colonels frankly admitted that the men do not know how to handle these pieces properly, whereas the regiments of European Russia, particularly those near the German frontier, have had these guns for two years, and have been able to become familiar with their manipulation. Even an out-sider can see that what is wanted is a stronger artillery and much more expert gunners. The cavalry are too numerous, since they are often useless in so mountainous a country; but there are not enough guns or infantry.

#### Paul Kruger.

Paul Kruger, former President of the Transvaal Republic, died at Clarens, Switzerland, on July 14. He was born at Rustenburg, South Africa, Oct. 10, 1825, and was therefore in his 79th year. Paul Kruger was a remarkable personality. Naturally strong, courageous and sagacious, the strong natural fiber of his being had been toughened in the hard school of experience. He was a born fighter, and in his younger years took an active part in the wars in which his people were engaged against the native Metabebes, and later against the British. His book-learning and his knowledge of the world were limited, but he knew his Bible, was earnestly religious, and was a leader and an exhorter among the "Doppers," an ultra-conservative sect of his people. His strength, his courage, his sagacity and ability for leadership and his religious character are qualities which entitled Paul Kruger to our admiration. He had the defects which belong to a narrow outlook upon the world. He was ignorant of many things which a successful statesman at this period of the world must know. He believed sincerely, doubtless, in the justice of the Boer cause, but his limitations rendered him incapable of recognizing the rights of others, and his innate stubbornness made it impossible for him to yield even when persistence must prove fatal to the cause which he upheld. His erroneous estimate of British power and his unyielding determination not to grant reasonable concessions to the Outlanders in the Transvaal brought destruction to the Republic which he had labored hard and patriotically to build, and caused his own career to end in exile and failure. His flight from the Transvaal with his wealth when the cause which he represented grew hopeless certainly detracts from his fame and appears out of harmony with the courage which he had exhibited in other situations. Still there is much in the character and career of Paul Kruger and the cause for which he stood to elicit our sympathy. It is a lost cause, and probably it deserved to fail, but considering his inheritances, his education, and the character of some of the forces arrayed against him, we cannot perhaps wonder greatly if Paul Kruger believed that his cause was that of righteousness. If the story of the Transvaal is ever written out in its truth and completeness, it will be, we doubt not, a most interesting chapter of the world's history.