

The Planet.

S. STEPHENSON—Proprietor.

Business Office 53
Editorial Room.....102

THURSDAY, MARCH 3.

HOME WORK IN SCHOOL.

It begins to look as if the days of "home work" in our schools are numbered. In an interview, John Mellor, Deputy Minister of Education, talked on the proposal to shorten the hours of the pupil in school as follows:—"I am quite in sympathy with the proposal, so far as it applies to young children, but I believe the most pressing need is the abolition almost entirely of home work. It is hardly the thing that when children are kept busy five hours a day they should be taxed with lessons at night. The effect is to make school life unhappy instead of cheerful. Five hours a day at school should be quite sufficient for any pupil under 12 years. There is little use of agitating for a reduction of school hours, when so many teachers are extending it by giving home work."

BRITISH POLITICAL SITUATION.

An early appeal to the country by the Balfour government is expected by many British politicians. One correspondent predicts that it will come in about six weeks. At present, however, there does not appear to be any urgent reason for such an early dissolution. In the latest division the government's majority was 52, and it is not probable that there would be many further defections if Mr. Balfour were to decide to hold out for another year or until next autumn. Perhaps the premier's ill-health has something to do with the rumors about an early appeal to the country.

The strong probability is that if a general election takes place soon, the Liberal party will succeed to power. In a public speech yesterday Lord Rosebery predicted that the Unionist party will be smashed at the polls, and that the Liberals will be safely landed in office. He said also that the Liberal party is once more united. But the eloquent ex-premier probably simulated a confidence which he does not feel.

Probably not even Lord Rosebery hopes for such a Liberal victory at the polls as the present government achieved in 1900, that is to say, a large majority over all elements of opposition combined. It is exceedingly improbable that the next Liberal government will have even a bare majority over Conservatives, Liberal-Unionists and Irish Nationalists combined. But unless it does secure a majority over all, its troubles will begin early and it will soon come to grief. Its Nemesis will be the Irish Nationalist party.

John Redmond and his followers care no more for the Liberal party than for the Unionist party. Their support is in the market. They will give their votes to the government if the government will give them the Irish legislation they want. If the government withholds that legislation they will vote with the opposition. Will the next Liberal government pay the price of the Irish vote? Will it bring in another home rule bill and a bill establishing and endowing a Roman Catholic university in Ireland?

Lord Rosebery has definitely cut home rule out of the Liberal platform; he has publicly declared it to be a dead issue and that Liberals should have nothing more to do with it. Mr. Asquith, Sir Edward Grey and other prominent Liberals are of this opinion. Other Liberal leaders, such as Lord Spencer, John Morley and Campbell-Bannerman still favor home rule and would not shrink from committing their party to it. How could these two factions of the party agree to a common basis of action on this all-important question? Then with regard to the university question a Liberal government would be in a very awkward position. The Balfour government is not averse to the endowment of a Roman Catholic university in Ireland; its reason for not doing so is that such action would alienate a large section of its Protestant supporters. By this is meant the non-conformist element. But the Liberal non-conformist vote is immensely stronger than the Conservative non-conformist vote, and it will be strange if a Liberal government could afford to offend such a powerful element of its supporters.

The only hope of a long life for the next Liberal government is in securing at the polls a good working majority over all non-Liberal votes combined. That this can be done is very doubtful. And while the Liberal government is struggling with its difficulties and growing weaker the tariff reform propaganda will be at work and the Conservative party will probably have a clean-cut issue upon which to appeal to the people when

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the time comes for another general election.

CHRISTIAN AND HEATHEN.

Czar Nicholas expresses his confidence that the Almighty will aid "holy Russia" in her conflict with a "heathen foe." Czar Nicholas would take it much amiss if Providence were to permit the most populous and one of the most pious of Christian countries to be whipped by a non-Christian nation with only a third of Russia's population. To him such an event would seem almost like the reversal of the laws of nature.

The same blind confidence in Jehovah, the God of battles, inspired Israel of old. The people of Israel believed that as they were God's chosen people, they had a right to expect divine aid in emergency, whether they deserved it or not. That is where they made their mistake. It is on record that they were whipped many a time and oft by the worshippers of strange gods—scourged for their sins.

Holy Russia has more sins to answer for than any other modern nation. Her rapid growth in territory, wealth and power has been achieved largely through duplicity and ruthless cruelty. The Russians are a race of liars, and the keynote of Russian diplomacy has always been deceit. The pledge of a Russian statesman is easily given, but it is kept only so long as it is convenient to keep it. As for Russian cruelty—systematic cruelty, exercised as a matter of cold-blooded policy—it is not exceeded even by that of the Bashibazouks. The horrors of the Balkan atrocities were not exceeded by the massacre of innocent Chinese men, women and children by the Czar's soldiery during the Boxer troubles four years ago, when the Amur river ran red with the blood of thousands of victims, wantonly and unnecessarily slaughtered. The savage Muscovite nature is shown in the proclamation issued only a day or two ago, warning the Manchurian people that they must actively help the Russian army or "be treated as enemies"—that is, murdered. It was shown a few days ago in the treatment of Japanese non-combatants of both sexes on their way out of Manchuria—many of them having been robbed, maltreated and even killed by the Russian soldiery. It was shown in the recent massacre of the Jews at Kishineff.

Russia must be classed as a Christian country; but it is a disgrace to the religion which it professes. Japan must be classed as a heathen country; but it is an honor to heathendom. In works, if not in faith, it is more essentially a Christian country than Russia. No Christian people in the world could be more patient than the Japanese are under the present trying conditions. None could have been more long-suffering than the Japanese have been in the face of Russian aggression. Japanese policy has been fair, honest and above-board—a shining contrast to the policy of Russia. If the ruler of Japan does not invoke the aid of the god of battles, he does appeal with confidence to the righteous judgment of the Christian nations as well as to the patriotism of his people. And perhaps his appeal will not be less effective than that of the Czar because it is inspired more by justice and less by superstition.—Hamilton Herald.

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NOTHING TO BE PROUD OF.

Brookville Times.
The first cost of the British navy for 1902 totaled about one hundred million pounds sterling. A short time ago they decided to spend over twenty-two millions in equipping their ships with an improved style of quick-firing gun with an enormous range, the best naval gun of the day. To this cost Canada contributes not a cent, though our Government telegraphs for British warships to help Canadian missionaries in the orient. It makes Canada show up as a pretty small creature, doesn't it, in imperial affairs?

JAPANESE PATRIOTISM.

New York Post.
Apart from their inherited luck and war-like spirit the great military advantage Japan has over most, if not all, other nations, is the genuine patriotism, just referred to. After teaching in Japan for some years Mr. Lafcadio Hearn wrote: "Ask a class of Japanese students—young students of fourteen to sixteen—to tell their dearest wishes, and if they have confidence in the questioner, perhaps nine out of every ten will answer: 'To die for the majesty, our emperor.' And the wish seems to come from the heart, pure as a martyrdom ever born. A Hobson evidently would not attract much attention in Japan; nor is there much room in its army for mere seekers after adventure, honors or pensions. To have such an army means half battles won before the fighting."

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That is the Cry of Thousands of People who can find Relief and a Permanent Cure in Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets.

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HORSE SENSE.

How An Immigrant Should Seek Work When Arriving Here.
James Johnston, a farmer residing near Woodstock, was recently interviewed on a live topic. Discussing the agitation about farm help being scarce and reports from other sources about the trouble applicants have of securing work on farms in Ontario, he said: "One real serious fault with these immigrants that come here to work on farms is that they don't know how to go about securing work, and unless they are met at the station and offered a position many of them seem helpless. We farmers need help, and especially during the harvest, but at the time it is most urgently required we are too busy to leave the farm to go looking for men."

"Here is an instance of what a man can do who will exercise a little common sense. A young fellow landed at Currie, five miles from my place, one morning. He had a wife and a child, and just \$2. He went to the village inn, left his wife and child, and paid the \$2 in advance. Then he started walking out the road, inquiring at each farm house he came to if a man was needed. Before noon he had been directed to my place and to several others. I needed a man and the wife could draw wages too, if she was strong. 'We struck a bargain. I sent my wagon in and that night the hired man was helping feed and was fixed for the summer. He knew his business, and when I was through with him there was a nearby farmer who could use him for the winter. How many of these new-comers will show this much common sense and nerve? This young man was a Scotchman, and came here to work."

The man who spends time looking for an easy job rarely ranks among the successful.

NEW PAPAL PREMIER

MGR. MERRY DEL VAL, THE RIGHT HAND OF PIUS X.

Youngest Cardinal Combines in His Person the Two Most Important Offices in the Government of the Roman Church—His Ability is, However, Universally Recognized and There is Little Opposition.

The recent appointment of Pius X. of Cardinal Merry del Val, already named as Papal Secretary of State, to the post of Prefect of the Sacred Palaces has been the cause of a good deal of lively comment in ecclesiastical and political circles in Rome. This is the first time in the history of the church that these two important offices have been conferred on one man, and the dual appointment makes Mgr. del Val the highest power in the Papal Government, next to the Pope himself. Mgr. del Val's ability is generally recognized, however, and there seems to be little opposition to the young cardinal's ascendancy.

Mgr. Rafael Merry del Val, who is the youngest member of the Sacred College, owes his red hat to his having been chosen after the sudden death of Mgr. Volpini as secretary of the conclave which elected Pius X. to the Papacy. It was his duty, as secretary to present to the new Pontiff the white cap emblematic of the supreme authority of the church. In accordance with the traditions of the Vatican the Pope in accepting from his hands the zucchetto, as the white cap is known, dropped his own cardinal's cap on the head of the secretary, thus indicating that he was to be soon raised to the cardinalate. Merry del Val was consequently made a cardinal at the first consistory held under Pius X. At the time of his admission to the College of Cardinals he was thirty-eight years old.

Mgr. Merry del Val is an Anglo-Spaniard. His father, the Marquis Merry del Val, was a noted Spanish diplomat and was Spain's Ambassador at the Vatican at the time the future cardinal was admitted to the priesthood. Previously he was Spanish envoy to England, where he met and married his wife, a woman of



CARDINAL MERRY DEL VAL.

Spanish and English parentage. There is no record of his early education. Young Merry del Val achieved distinction at the Jesuit College at Stonyhurst both as an athlete and as a scholar. He completed his education at the College for Noble Ecclesiastics at Rome, of which he afterwards became president.

He attracted the attention of Leo XIII. at the very moment of his arrival in Rome and was soon received into close intimacy with the late Pope. Upon becoming a priest he was drafted into the diplomatic service of the Vatican and worked there under the eye of the Pontiff with such ability and energy that Leo entrusted to him many delicate missions. The most important of which was the settlement of the differences between the Government of Canada and the Catholic residents of the Dominion over school questions. Merry del Val was sent to Canada after all efforts to decide the vexed question had failed. The young diplomat reported to the Pope on his return to Rome that a satisfactory agreement had been reached. That agreement is still in force.

Merry del Val's success in Canada led the Pope to consider him as a possible Nuncio at Brussels, a post of consequence which Leo himself once held, and as a successor to Cardinal Martini at the Vatican. Martini left the United States so soon after the Spanish war that it was feared that to send a Spaniard to Washington as the representative of the Pope might give rise to some unpleasantness, and the post was given to Mgr. Falconio. Merry del Val remained in the office of Cardinal Rampulla, the Secretary of State, until the death of Leo, when Rampulla put him forward as secretary of the conclave. The cardinals made him their unanimous choice for that place, and his rise to the cardinalate and the premiership followed with astonishing rapidity.

Mgr. del Val speaks English without an accent and has strong English sympathies. He was a close friend of the late Cardinal Vaughan. He is highly conversant with the methods of the courts of the continent, especially, of course, with that of Madrid, where his family has always been in high favor. One of his uncles was a tutor of King Alfonso XIII.

The most remarkable impostor was George Psalmanazar, who invented a language and wrote a literature in it.

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BY HOOK OR BY CROOK.

An Ancient Phrase That Has Many Phases of Meaning.

The phrase "by hook or by crook" may simply refer to an ancient custom which allowed persons to collect for fuel dead wood in the king's forest such as they could break off and remove with "cart, hook and crook."

Some trace its significance "by foul means or by fair" to the contrasted uses of the footpad's hook or the bishop's crook.

Others remind us of the expression in very early days "by huke or crooke"—that is, by bending the knees and crouching low.

Another plausible explanation is that after the great fire of London disputes as to ownership of land were settled by two surveyors whose names were Hook and Crook.

Quite different is the view taken by those who tell us that when Strongbow sailed for Ireland he instructed his men to make their attack by Hook, a promontory northeast of Waterford, or by Crook, a harbor on the south coast.

In any case, the phrase is very old, for it was used by Bacon (1590), by Skelton, the poet laureate (1500), and by Chaucer nearly 600 years ago—Pearsone's.

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CANADIAN PACIFIC

World's Fair, St. Louis, April 30 to Dec. 1, 1904.

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For full particulars and copy of "Settlers' Guide," "Western Canada," and "British Columbia," apply to any Canadian Pacific Agent, or to A. H. NOTMAN, Asst. Gen. Pass Agent, 1 King St. East, Toronto. W. H. HARPER, City Pass. Agent.

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Effective June 1st, 1902. Leave Chatham. For Exp. Exp. Mix. Exp. Mix. Ridgeway. 10:30 a. 7:05 p. m. Rodney. 11:30 a. 8:05 p. m. West. 12:30 a. 9:05 p. m. Dutton. 1:30 a. 10:05 p. m. St. Thomas. 2:30 a. 11:05 p. m. London. 3:30 a. 12:05 p. m. Leamington. 4:30 a. 1:05 p. m. Kingsville. 5:30 a. 2:05 p. m. Wabashville. 6:30 a. 3:05 p. m. Sarnia. 7:30 a. 4:05 p. m. Arrive at Chatham—From Wabashville. Kingsville. Rodney. West. Dutton. St. Thomas. Leamington. 1:30 p. 8:30 p. From Dutton. Wabashville. Sarnia. 7:05 p. 4:05 p. L. E. TILLSON, Gen. Agent, Chatham. H. F. MOSELEY, G. F. A. Wabashville.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY SYSTEM

WEST. 8:15 a. m. for Windsor, Detroit and intermediate stations. 12:42 p. m. for Windsor and Detroit. 2:30 p. m. for Windsor and intermediate stations. 4:23 p. m. for Windsor and Detroit. 9:10 p. m. for Detroit, Chicago and west.

EAST. 8:32 a. m. for London, Hamilton, Toronto, Buffalo. 1:45 p. m. for Gloucester and St. Thomas. 2:27 p. m. for London, Toronto, Montreal, Buffalo and New York. 6:08 p. m. for London, Hamilton, Toronto, Montreal and East. 8:50 p. m. for London and intermediate stations. Daily except Sunday. Daily.

WORLD'S FAIR, ST. LOUIS, APRIL 30-DEC. 1, 1904.

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