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NOTE AND COMMENT

"There is no such word as impossible for the west," said Sir Wilfrid Laurier, at the opening of St. Andrew's Lock, on the 14th July. This is the first link in the government's trans-prairie scheme of waterways and when completed will cost about \$1,500,000. The lock, which has a lift of 21 feet, is a splendid specimen of concrete construction, 290 feet in length and 45 feet in width. It has raised the level of Red River at Winnipeg over five feet. The dam, 788 feet in width, is of camose tip type, and is the only one on this continent. There is another at Rose, France. Hon. William Pugsley, minister of public works, officially declared the lock open to the free commerce of the Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The feeling between Greece and Turkey is so intense that it is freely predicted that hostilities will break out before the end of the autumn. Bands of Grecian raiders have crossed the Turkish frontier, and among them, say the Turkish authorities, a number of regulars of the Greek army have been found. The situation was bad enough before, owing to the Cretan tangle. Crete has no intention of abandoning her attempt to unite with Greece. Her declaration of independence from Turkey and of annexation to Greece cannot take effect so long as the island remains in the control of the commission of the four great powers. Greece knows well that the admission to the Greek parliament of the representatives which Crete has sent would amount to a declaration of war with Turkey, and this matter is for the present not to be considered. It is believed to be significant that the twenty-five thousand Turkish troops which have just been ordered to take the field "for the summer manoeuvres" are en route toward Ellasona on the Grecian frontier near the territory recently raided by small bands of Greek invaders, though the Turkish Government denies that any immediate reprisals against Greece will be attempted.

"About 700 or 800 Mormon converts a majority of whom are probably women pass through this port annually" writes Commissioner George Billings, of the Immigration Service of Boston. That does not include all those who come through New York, New Orleans and Montreal. When we realize that according to the Mormon doctrine no woman can enter heaven unless she is married and that the majority of Mormon converts are women there is but one conclusion to come to; and that is there must be a large polygamous white slave traffic. Polygamy is being practiced in Utah to-day as it always was. Joseph F. Smith, the president of the Mormon Church, is to-day living with five wives and has more than a dozen illegitimate children. Not only is Joseph F. Smith thus living but the majority of the leaders of the church are polygamists. These women come largely from the British Isles, Scandinavia and the Netherlands. In a letter lying before me, Joseph F. Smith, president of the Mormon Church, writes: "On January 1, 1910, there were 2085 missionaries laboring in the various fields." During the past year they have distributed 10,982,122 tracts, visited 3,744,641 families, and distributed and sold 500,614 standard church works. Two years ago the church purchased a hotel in London which has been converted into a house for the missionaries." The Mormons also publish a Mormon newspaper in Liverpool. Are the Mormons in Alberta a law observing people?

In the United States the movement against the pictures of the Jeffries-Johnson prize fight at Reno, Nev., assumed national and international proportions, all large cities forbidding their exhibition with the exception of New York, Philadelphia and Chicago. The same conditions obtain in Canada. We are glad to notice, so that in a majority of our cities exhibitions of pictures of the brutal fight will be prohibited.

Russia and Japan have at last signed a convention which divides Manchuria between them. Russia earliest acquired from China railroading and policing rights in northern Manchuria. Later, Japan made her hold on southern Manchuria practically secure. Now the two nations unite to strengthen each the hold of the other upon what has been secured, and the result is to take Manchuria out of the power of China. The "Open Door" policy falls before this "convention." Racial and national antipathies give way to diplomacy. Russia and Japan forget for the time being that they were ever at war, and enter into semi-friendly relations not because either nation loves or trusts the other, but because each is looking out for self and self alone. It is safe to say Russia will never dislodge Japan from the footing now obtained. As to Russia's permanence in the north perhaps Japan has doubts. No one knows. But what will Great Britain, Germany and the United States say?

A series of remarkable measures designed to stimulate the birth-rate in France have lately been introduced into the French Parliament. They include the imposition of additional military service upon bachelors over twenty-nine years of age; making obligatory the marriage of State employees who have reached the age of twenty-five years, with supplementary salaries and pension allowances for those with more than three children; and the repeal of the law requiring the equal distribution of estates among the children. The dislike of Frenchmen to divide their property is a frequent cause of restricted families, according to those who have made a study of the subject. The proposed legislation follows the recent publication of vital statistics, which showed that the births in the republic during 1909 were 770,000, against 792,000 in the preceding year, and that the population has been increased by only 3,000,000 since 1851. Race suicide does not prevail to any appreciable extent among the French of Canada.

The "Catch-my-Pal" movement is working wonders in Ireland. Already thousands have become members, and the interest continues to grow. An exchange says: The fact that it was during the Twelfth of July holidays in Ulster last year that in the ancient city of Armagh the temperance revival which has wrought so beneficial a change in the North of Ireland originated, lends special interest and impressiveness to the appeal which the Rev. R. J. Patterson has issued to the members of the Catch-my-Pal organization in view of the temptations which attend these holidays. "In the North of Ireland," says Mr. Patterson, "the month of July is especially looked upon as one in which a man needs all his manliness to assert itself lest he may be dragged into the gutter of drink. . . . O men! what a laugh will go up from the enemy if you give way! Let the men of the North determine that this shall be the soberest July in Ireland's history." The appeal throughout reflects the intensity of conviction and sincerity of sympathy and brotherliness which have enabled Mr. Patterson to accomplish so splendid a work for temperance.

At the recent Tuberculosis Conference in Edinburgh Dr. Dingwall Fordyce said abdominal tuberculosis was more prevalent in Edinburgh and Glasgow than anywhere in the civilized world; while Dr. Carnegie Dickson, of the Edinburgh Sick Children's hospital, said of the cases he came into contact with more than three-fourths who died were tuberculosis, the majority being abdominal cases. This showed the need for a pure milk supply.

The latest decision of the courts bearing upon the case of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church re-union is that of the Supreme Court of Arkansas. It is favorable to the established union. This gives the decision of seven States favorable, while that of only two, Tennessee and Missouri, have been unfavorable. Those in which favorable decisions were given are Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Georgia, Texas, California and Arkansas.

A. T. writing to the Dominion Presbyterian from Quebec, says:—"The Rev. Father Giuliani, Superior of the Carmelite Convent at Taranto, in Southern Italy, and at the same time in charge of one of the largest churches in that city, which numbers about 25,000 souls, has been received into the Methodist Episcopal Church of Italy. Father Giuliani has been one of the most brilliant preachers in the Roman Church, and is a highly educated man. He has on several occasions been received by the Pope in a private audience. His Methodist Church was crowded to the doors when Mr. Giuliani preached his first sermon as a Methodist pastor. The news of his conversion has caused a great stir in Rome, where the people are now taking a deep interest in the great movement from the Roman Communion of priests, monks and laymen, who are joining the Evangelical Churches in large numbers.

Dr. R. S. Holmes writes sanely on "Vacations" in his paper, The Philadelphia Westminister. He says: "Vacations are right; all right, if they are right; all wrong if they are not. A vacation by the seashore, on the sand, where the minister lies all day long, day after day, until he is as brown as an Indian, and twice as lazy as one, if that be possible, is ideal. When the minister goes home from that, he finds after a very few days that he is fresher, stronger, clearer minded than he has been for six months, and his congregation finds it, too. The writer who criticises the minister for taking a vacation, and supports criticisms by quotations that have no more bearing on the subject than they have on the relations between Halley's comet and an ant hill, should read this which Jesus once addressed to his disciples, "Come ye apart into a desert place, and rest awhile." Oh, no! Don't begrudge the minister his vacation.

An English correspondent of the "Homiletic Review" tells of how "a well informed writer in the Hindu magazine, Epiphany, declares that India will be saved through its womanhood. Not that the new movement for their freedom from the captivity of the 'purdah' system is in any degree evident among the masses of women themselves. They are the willing slaves of their husbands. Singularly enough, the influential natives who are promoting the agitation are actuated by the apprehension of the effects of Christianity. They fear that Christianity will sweep womanhood into the fold, unless the grosser evils of Hinduism are reformed. Therefore, propagandist societies are being formed with the aim of cleansing Hinduism of the system of child marriages, permanent widowhood, and the shocking abominations perpetrated in the name of the religion at many temples. The very fact of such a movement is a striking tribute to the true moral nature and power of the Christian religion."