

# Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSNGER, }  
VOLUME LXV.

Vol. XIX.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1903.

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VOLUME LIV.

No. 15.

**Immigrants to Canada.** Every two or three days brings news of the great number of immigrants pouring into the North West. From every vessel arriving at Halifax and St. John, bringing over a thousand immigrants, instead of two hundred for Canada and the rest for the United States as formerly, we have now the opposite. In the last two weeks, it is said that the C. P. R. have conveyed 113,000 immigrants to the North West. For the month of March the official figures are that 12,272 immigrants entered the North West. Only a small proportion of this number were foreigners. The destination of the new arrivals were as follows: Manitoba, 5,023; Territories, 5,979; British Columbia, 74; Yukon, 741; Western Ontario, 211. On April 10, 3,640 immigrants landed at Halifax and St. John, mostly all Englishmen, of whom only 500 were for the United States. The Barr colony of which so much has been said, arrived in St. John April 11, numbering 1960. This is a colony of purely Englishmen which is going to settle as one colony in the territory of Saskatchewan. Mr. Barr says that others will follow this year, and he expects that next year 10,000 will arrive, and other years will bring a like number. This colony brings with them capital amounting to \$2,500,000, and are in every way the highest class of settlers. Last week seventy carloads of settlers effects, left Wheaton, Minn., U. S. A., for Assinibola, Canada. This is the largest movement of settlers' effects that has ever taken place in the United States from any one town to any one district in Canada. The indications are that a hundred thousand Americans will settle in Canada this year. This is Canada's growing time, and we have great pleasure in welcoming the improved class of settlers, who are the only kind that can ever make Canada great.

**South African Conference.** An intercolonial conference was held in Bloemfontein last month, which for the first time brought the five South African colonies into direct official communication. The conference is taken as a good omen for the harmonious co-operation of the different colonies in the common task of developing South Africa. The conference dealt with the common aims and interests of the colonies and left minor matters, out of which divergencies might grow for another occasion. As a result, the five colonies have signed a draft customs convention, which provides for the preferential treatment of British goods, and of the goods of such British colonies as may consent to give reciprocal advantages to South Africa. Federation was one of the objects of the meeting and it was felt that this preferential tariff was a not unimportant step in this direction, and also in the direction of an imperial customs union. The conference was also engaged in the consideration of the labor question, and protested strongly against the misjudgments of people in England, who declaimed against forced labor without understanding the economic condition of the country. The conference declared that there was no desire in South Africa either for slavery or forced labor, but the colonists feel that the population of Kafirs cannot be allowed to increase and multiply, through the removal of all the natural checks of barbarism, without being weaned in some way from their natural indolence, and without bearing any proportion of the expenses of government.

**Religion in France and the Orders.** M. Combes, the French Premier, has just gained a series of signal victories over the Clerical party in the Chamber of Deputies. In accordance with the Associations Law, the teaching Orders, the preaching Orders, and the Carthusian monks, have

during the last few days applied for registration and authorisation to continue their work. Of these the monks of Cartrouse are the wealthiest and the most powerful, as they derive an enormous income from the manufacture of the famous liquor. But probably the teaching Orders are the most dangerous, as by their control of education, they are enabled to sap the very foundations of the Republic. All are alike hostile to the present system of government in France, and all are allied with the reactionary forces. The aim of the government is not to wage a war against religion, but to do away with the unauthorized orders. The members of the Orders are not expelled as Catholics but as members of dangerous organizations. Among the Orders that have asked the privilege of remaining, most of those that are strictly religious will be authorized, but the makers of patent medicines, of ready made clothing, the millers, the soap makers, the brewers, the wine makers, the distillers and the teachers, will receive no legal sanction. We must remember that the Catholic Church in France is bound by the concordat, which is a compact between the Pope and the civil power of France. For centuries the church has derived untold prerogatives from this agreement and she cannot now avoid its obligations. Obviously the concordat does not contemplate the existence of Orders. Therefore the Government may remove these organizations. The struggle is one of life and death for the Republic. Consequently, the Premier asked the Chamber to reject the applications without entering separately into the case of each of the Orders applying for registration. M. Combes carried his point by a large majority. He has also resisted the encroachments of the Vatican in the investiture of bishops. By the concordat the appointing power belongs to the Chief Magistrate of France, but the bull of investiture is so worded as to cause the Pope to appear as nominator. Should the Pope finally refuse to confirm the Episcopal appointments made by the State, it seems likely that the Government will denounce the concordat, and the separation of Church and State will be inevitable.

**The Dutch Anti-Strike Bill.** The Dutch strike, which about the first of the month assumed alarming proportions, and became of European interest, when the Emperor of Germany intimated to Holland that international traffic must not be stopped and offered to lend troops, practically ceased, when the 2nd Chambers of the Netherlands Parliament passed the anti-strike bill by a vote of 81 to 14. The principal object of the strike was to protest against the anti-strike legislation before the Dutch Parliament, which was to make striking impracticable or at least illegal, and to compel its withdrawal. Other trades struck in sympathy, so that it was estimated that over 25,000 men were involved in the strikes and lockouts. Transportation of goods for a time was at a standstill. The strike was conducted very quietly and seemed almost entirely a political demonstration. The object of the Government in introducing the anti-strike legislation was to oppose any unreasonable attack upon society, which would sacrifice the well being of the whole people to the demands of a certain class. It was also proposed that the just complaints of the railway employees should be adjusted by a royal commission. By the bill, picketing, persuasion, and intimidation are made criminal offences. Refusal to do duty on the part of employees of the railroads or other public services may be punished by six months imprisonment. If two or more persons rise in rebellion the penalty is increased to four years imprisonment for the ringleaders or those guilty of criminal acts. The rumors of the possible appearance of German soldiers in Holland, and also the

fact that the socialists are allying themselves with labor in other countries, caused the Dutch people to lose interest with the strikers. Accordingly, upon the passage of the bill, the strike leaders declared the strike ended, and although the strikers at first rebelled, the strike has been gradually subsiding and many have gone back to work.

**Aluminium.** The Aluminium Production Co., Ltd., has just asked the New Brunswick Legislature for incorporation, with a capital of \$6,000,000. They ask the right to carry on the business of manufacturing alumina, and aluminium goods of all kinds; to mine and raise clay, coal, and all kinds of minerals and ores, and to manufacture and sell alum, coke, tar, and gas. The works are to be located in Queens Co., in the vicinity of the Grand Lake coal fields. In view of the possibility of the erection of aluminium works in New Brunswick a short sketch as to what aluminium is, might not be out of place. Aluminium is the most plentifully distributed of all the useful metals, with iron standing next. It is almost everywhere. Anywhere from 20 to 60 per cent. of all clay is metallic aluminium, but of all the useful metals, it is the hardest to get hold of. The reason for this is that aluminium is never found in its metallic state. It exists all through nature in intimate combination with other forms of matter, gripping them so closely, that its dissociation on a commercial scale has been a puzzle to chemists for more than a 100 years. Experiment after experiment followed, until at last, in 1856, Deville, a Frenchman, succeeded in putting aluminium on the market at \$90 a pound. But in the next thirty years this process became greatly improved, so that in 1886 it was down to \$9 a pound. So far all the processes were chemical and very expensive. The enormous electrical energy of the Niagara Falls has been applied to the production of aluminium, and has so cheapened the price and increased the output, that while in the United States in 1883, 83 pounds only were produced at \$9 per pound; in 1900, 7,150,000 pounds were produced at .33 cents per pound. The points most in the favor of aluminium are, its light weight, cleanliness, and durability. This makes it especially adapted for domestic purposes, being very difficult to tarnish and easily cleaned. Its many uses are only just being discovered, and the metal has a great future.

**Canadian Investments.** It has been apparent to everyone for the past four or five years, that an enormous amount of Canadian capital has gone into new enterprises and enlarged old ones to keep pace with the growth of the country. Though the fact is so apparent, it is hard to arrive at the total with any degree of accuracy. In the list that follows an attempt has been made to keep within the mark. After making reasonable allowances of different kinds, it appears that during the last four years at least \$75,000,000 of Canadian money has gone into new enterprises in this country. Of this amount, the Insurance Companies of Canada have invested \$3,061,355 of new capital, the Banks of Canada have invested \$15,264,020, and the Trust Companies, \$4,235,000. This makes a total for the Banks, Insurance and Trust Companies of \$22,560,000 invested in Canada. The amount invested in international railways is estimated at \$3,000,000; in Transportation Companies, \$42,112,000; in Industrial Companies, \$77,000,000; Miscellaneous Incorporation, \$187,000,000; Supplementary capital, \$33,500,000 and in Mining, \$10,000,000. This makes a grand total of \$375,000,000. This shows great prosperity all over the Dominion, for the securities for the most part are not carried by the banks, but have actually been placed by the investing public. The money for such investments has been derived from the prosperity of agriculture and the development of manufactures. The farmer has increased his efforts enormously, and at the same time has found a better home market, while the condition of manufacturing shows that in spite of an increase of imports, many of the articles formerly bought abroad are now bought at home.