

REMARKABLE MAN IS HEAD OF OLYMPIC GAMES COMMITTEE

Lord Desborough, in Whom Some See a Possible Future Governor-General of Canada, Has Achieved Much in His Half-Century of Life—A Picturesque Character—Talks of the Big Athletic Meet in England.

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London, March 23—America's athletes are sure of a rousing welcome in England when they arrive this summer to

of their records. The United States will be very strong in all the track athletics. I expect them to win in the short distance races, in the jumps, throwing the hammer and so on, but I believe Britain will make a good showing, and perhaps the best, in



LORD DESBOROUGH.
Chairman of the British Olympic Council and England's Champion All-around Sportsman, who leads a brilliant career in the representation of the United States in the Olympic Games.

take part in the Olympic games. They are picked to win a lion's share of the twenty-three track events, and also are expected to make a fine showing in the score of other competitions in which the



LADY DESBOROUGH.
Who is one of the wealthiest and most brilliant women in England. Her family are the owners of West Park, now leased and occupied by Whiteley Road, the United States Ambassador.

champion amateurs of twenty-two countries of the world will show their skill and prowess. For these statements I have the authority of Lord Desborough, who, as chairman of the British Olympic Council, is



TAPLOW COURT.
Lord Desborough's estate, residence on the Thames, near Maidenhead.

organizing the international games, which will open in London on July 13. This remarkable nobleman is the champion all-around sportsman of Britain and is known as the "Prince of Athletics." Officially, of course, Lord Desborough cannot discuss the chances of the representatives of any country. But in his private capacity he declares that the athletes of the United States are of the first class. "I said," he said, "that the Americans will have a most hearty welcome. We are making great preparations to entertain them. I was, of course, not at the St. Louis games, but I was of the English team at Athens, and saw the Americans perform and met many of them. I also know something

a blizzard had blown up, although it was still the fall. It was in Florida that he achieved his feat of capturing on his own line 100 turbot in one week. In Maine he shot the giant caribou which for years had been classed as a mere vision of the guides. It was in the United States, too, that England's champion performed the remarkable feat of swimming across the Niagara River above the falls, and when, a few days later in New York city, the swim was doubted he promptly returned to the falls, plunged in and swam across again.

Lord Desborough is not alone champion swimmer, but champion fencer, champion waterman, whether with scull, car or punting pole, champion stag shot, champion four-in-hand whip. He is also a famous big game shot, fisherman, rider to hounds and mountain climber. Despite his prowess in these directions, he was also, as Willie Grenfell, a prominent Member of Parliament for many years, a government official, a prominent leader, writer and speaker on metallurgy and tariff reform, a war correspondent and a writer of books and magazine articles. He is chairman of the Thames Conservancy and is nicknamed the "Foster-father" of the Thames.

Then he is also a very rich man. His historic and beautiful country seat, Taplow Court, is better known as Honeymoon Hall, from the frequency with which it is lent to notable, brilliant couples for the first week of their honeymoon. This Admirable Crichton is also the husband of one of the tallest, wealthiest and most brilliant women in England. She has a romantic history and her family are the owners of West Park, now leased and occupied by Whiteley Road, the United States Ambassador.

In appearance the president of the Olympiad is a giant. He stands 6 feet 2, and has a muscular chest and finely proportioned figure. Although 53 years of age his hair is still luxuriant and without a suspicion of grayness. It is light in color and curly. His eyes are grey-blue, laughing and genial, but can turn like steel when need be. He wears a mustache, has regular features and the hands of the handsome men in the House of Lords. He has been through many adventures, but his most thrilling race for life was in the Sudan while he was war correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph. Lord Desborough had ridden off with dispatches to a telegraph office after one of the big battles. He was within a mile of the British camp on his return that famous Sunday morning that the Dervishes surprised the camp and stamped the British lines. A horde of Dervishes suddenly burst on Desborough from behind a bluff. In an instant his horse was galloping for the British lines. He had to hauled around and down the horse went, shot dead. Desborough tore off his coat and accoutrements. It was neck and nothing and he raced alone on foot as he had never raced before. For half a mile he ran and, but for one Dervish on a fleet Arab, seemed to have won. The pursuer came quite close to him. Apparently it was all up with Desborough. But he didn't lose his nerve. Suddenly he stopped and dropped on his knees. The Dervish, prepared for this move, galloped past. As he did so Desborough had whipped out his revolver and "potted" him. The British had seen the race for life and, troops coming up, the war correspondent was safe.

These sort of things Lord Desborough gave up when he married, just twenty-one years ago. He still goes in for sport, but it is not of the adventurous or hazardous sort. He is chief steward of the Henley regatta among other things, founder and president of the Bath Club which is the fashionable swimming club, and of the newly formed Imperial Athletic Club.

CHARLES BYNG-HALL.

Recognizing Tourist Traffic.

(Toronto World.)

It is very seldom that the old provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia will adopt any movement having its inception in the newer provinces to the west, and it is therefore interesting to note that in the case of fish and game protection, they have learned a lesson from the Province of Ontario. A little over a year ago these old provinces adopted almost in its entirety the constitution and bylaws and general policy of the Ontario Fish and Game Protective Association, and great success is attending the movement.

New Brunswick lies so close to the State of Maine that it has become a trifle jealous of the immense prosperity enjoyed by that state through the large sums of money left there each year by visiting sportsmen.

The New Brunswick Association has invited Mr. Kelly Evans to speak at a series of meetings arranged for the last week in April at St. John, Fredericton, Newcastle and Moncton. To the St. John meeting will be brought in by the railroads every registered guide in the province, and much interest is expected to be taken by the public in the proceedings. Gradually the people generally through-

out Canada seem to be awakening to the importance involved in maintaining anything which may prove an attraction to the tourist.

Will Print 2,000 Copies.

Ottawa, April 3—(Special)—Senator Wilson was told by Senator Ellis, chairman of the printing committee, that 2,000 copies of the report of the civil service commission would be printed for the use of the members of parliament.

TRUE PRIDE.

It will not be long until pride begins to take the chief of the unfortunate small boy who is selected to take care of the bats of the home baseball team—Denver Republican.

DEGRADATION OF RELIGION IN RUSSIA REACHES CULMINATION IN THE "JOHANNITES"

Revolting Practices and Degrading Doctrines of a Sect Which, Working on the Ignorance and Superstition of the Populace, Has Gained the Adherence of Numbers—Police Compelled to Close Many of Their Places of "Worship" Because They Have Degenerated Into Dens of Infamy—They Proclaim the Approaching End of the World and Denounce Children Born in These Days as Offsprings of the Devil—Infantile Murders Committed to the Accompaniment of Fiendish Rites.

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St. Petersburg, March 12—By a decree of the government the performance of a melodrama called "The Black Ravens" has been forbidden in the provincial towns of Russia. On the face of it there would seem to be little interest in the announcement. But behind it there lies a story which sheds an illuminating light on the degraded condition of the teeming millions of the Colossus of the North. It is a story of the evil which a naturally good and pious man may do when the piety is allied with fanaticism; of the degradation which superstition may produce when it assumes the mask of religion among an illiterate populace.

The play exposes the revolting practices

"pop" or priests without giving up the right to marry and live like other people. But Father John did not take into himself a wife. He lived in a very humble way in the fortress of Cronstadt, which is more or less a fortified suburb of St. Petersburg, and gave himself up to good works.

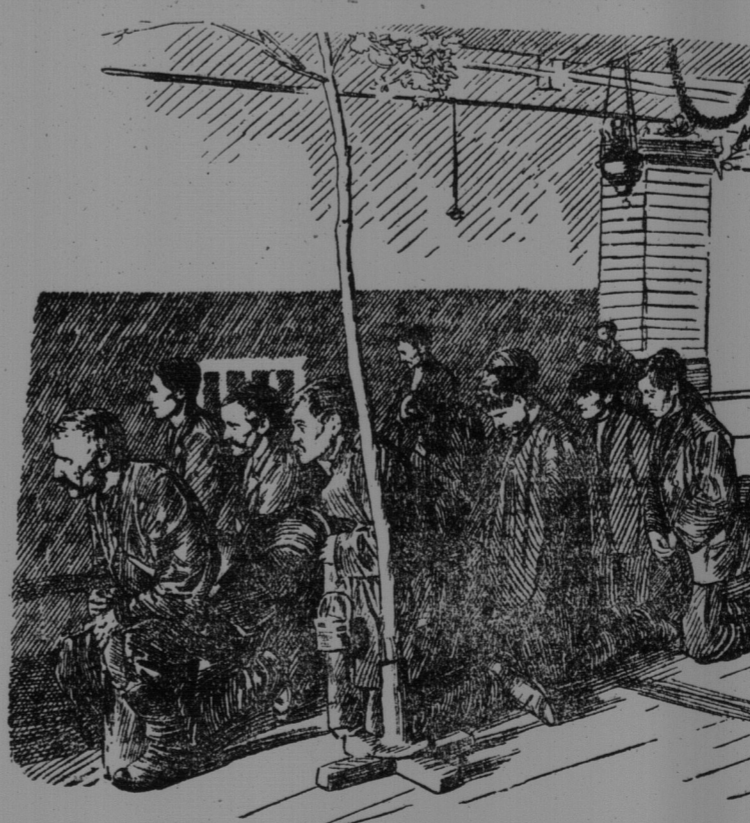
Now, when a "pop" gives himself up to good works, people soon begin to notice it, because it is such a rarity. The average "pop" is a shade blacker than Tolstoy painted him in "Resurrection." He is ignorant, grasping and indifferent to the religion he professes. He will not go to a dying man unless he is paid in bribes or ready money. He has a great predilection for vodka and a dislike for work. He extorts the tithe the Synod allows him with a mercilessness which would



FATHER JOHN OF CRONSTADT.

and debating doctrines of a sect known as the "Johannites," which have sprung out of Russia could have attracted such a vast number of adherents, because in no other land exists the depths of ignorance essential for its growth. In St. Petersburg, which, compared with the rest of Russia, is a veritable center of light and learning, the play ran for three months without having foretold anything that came true. But when it was produced in the provinces, where superstition is rampant and ignorance the common lot, it aroused the fury of the "Johannites" to such an extent that riots resulted and in the interests of peace and order the government prohibited it.

The "Johannites" derive their name from the man of whom they profess to be devout followers—Father John of Cronstadt. Some consideration should, therefore, first be given to the man to



"JOHANNITES" AT PRAYER.
It is among the Jews and the sect of the "Johannites" that the doctrine of the "End of the World" is most prevalent.

whom this sect owes its origin. John of Cronstadt is as well known throughout Russia as is John D. Rockefeller through out the length and breadth of America. He has earned the reputation of a saint without dying, and the fame of a prophet without having foretold anything that came true. But many people believe in him, and all he has to do is to open his mouth for them to listen in admiring silence. His fame began during the reign of Alexander III, the late Czar. He is not a monk—or anything like it. He belongs to what is called the "White Priesthood"; that is, to those who become

yet the most abandoned ruffians in the empire would not dream of touching this man, because they knew that it was destined for the poor and suffering. Not content with relieving the misery of European Russia, he sent monks and nuns to the furthest settlements in Siberia with money and books and exhortations to repent, because the end of the world was at hand.

As his fame grew so did his power. From a "pop" who did good works, he soon grew to be a prophet who saw into the future, and a worker of miracles. He could heal when doctors had failed. Governors of provinces, princes, millionaires and grand ladies sent for him on their deathbeds and when by his prayers and incantations they recovered, he took back still more money for his poor folk. Little wonder that the ignorant man magnified the power in which the educated and cultured were so firmly believed. Little wonder that the peasant and the artisan who received help at his hands time after time learned by experience that no appeal to the Prophet of Cronstadt was in vain should believe him to be endowed with supernatural qualities.

Long before Alexander III, died Father John looked upon as the seer and prophet whom God had sent to save Russia from every evil. His house soon became a resort of pilgrims. Sick people went there to touch the hem of his long, wide-sleeved robe and be healed. Thousands who were in difficulties about business, who did not know how to act, went to him for advice. By and by he began to publish prophecies on his own account. When some great event, such as the making of war or peace, the birth of a prince or the change of a ministry was at hand, he wrote a letter to the Czar, foretelling details, which sometimes came true and sometimes turned out to be wrong, but which were so worded that they might generally be applied to whatever really did happen.

When the Russo-Japanese war broke out Father John said that the Russians would walk in blood to the possessions of their enemies and that there would be blood spilled at home as well as abroad. As events turned out this prophecy applied fairly well to the final result of the struggle, and when his declaration that the monsters whose nostrils spit steam should be silenced for a space was verified by the railway strike of 1905, his followers pronounced him to be the greatest prophet the world has ever seen. Several times he foretold the birth of an heir to the throne; when at last the Czarévitch was born many people forgot how many times he had been mistaken and were enchanted with the result of his prophecy.

In 1905 he also declared that the end of the world would come before the end of May, because God could no longer look upon the anarchy and bloodshed in Russia. But by this time a good deal of his popularity had gone. The enthusiasm of many rich patrons has now cooled into indifference and even changed into hostility. The reason of it is that of late years Father John has become a politician, and to be a politician in Russia means to have more enemies than friends, no matter what party be chosen. As a matter of fact, he sided with the most exaggerated reactionaries, known as "The Union of the Russian People," who find no means of oppression too drastic for all who dare strive toward the attainment of liberty.

This "Union," together with the police and the rough, have organized more than one Jewish persecution, and would have carried out several others had not the government, afraid of the world's opinion, frustrated their plans. Father John has several times publicly expressed his sympathy with and approval of their methods. When young Russia was struggling for constitutional freedom, Father John published manifestos condemning their actions in the strongest possible terms. Now the wealthy and influential people held aloof from the strikes and processions which marked this struggle for freedom, but they were secretly inclined to sympathize with it and many of them gave help in the form of money. Many more, who could not afford to say so, resented the government's action. They ceased to send Father John money for his poor and Father John's delegates, messengers and missionaries, who had been used to batten on a good deal of the wealth that passed through their hands, saw to it that the good old days were gone. They determined to widen their propaganda among the ignorant. They preached the approach of the end of the world, an event Father John, old now and easily

Russia, exhorting the people to prepare for the end of the world. In these productions, written in gutterpress language, interpreted with Scriptural texts, Father John's name is freely used. He is the only person who can save sinners from hell fire. The Orthodox clergy, who disliked John, even in his best days, are described and railed at as frauds, thieves and heretics, who will surely perish. Father John is to leave the earth in a cloud of glory. He will take only 144,000 of the blessed with him, because St. Peter says there is no room in heaven for more. All who wish to belong to this number must therefore be quick, sell all they have, give their money to the "Johannites" so that they may be enrolled.

Though their leader's prophecy that the end of the world would come in May, 1905, turned out to be false, this new declaration, which fixed the date as January 12, 1908 (new style), for the terrible catastrophe, is a golden harvest for the "Johannites." Thousands of poor people have sold all they had and given them the proceeds. Doubtless, though the awful date has passed without mishap, the number of dupes will only increase. The "Johannites" always have an explanation ready. Father John of Cronstadt, seeing the sinners were not ready, interceded for them and obtained a prolongation of the world that more might repent.

There is no easier dupe than the Russian peasant or artisan. Unless the Socialists have enlightened him he will believe anything, and the Socialists have by no means penetrated throughout the vast Russian empire. The "Johannites," therefore, increase and grow richer every day. Their proceedings have grown so scandalous that the police have been obliged to interfere and shut their "refuges," as their places of worship are called, in many towns. They celebrate their rites by all kinds of orgies. They abduct young girls and boys for immoral purposes. Their "retreats," which are supposed to be convents for men and women, are nothing but houses of immorality where the "Johannites" tempt the young people of the neighborhood. Those who fall under the influence pay for the introduction to these places and for initiation in the "black magic" that is practiced there.

To understand the mixture of religious fanaticism and viciousness that it is among the "Johannites" one must bear in mind that Russians are a very mystically inclined as well as a very sensitive people. This is why, under the pretense of religion, the most terrible abuses are practiced, not only among the "Johannites," but among many other sects, who, having been formed with the purest possible intentions, rapidly fall into bands of visionaries and vicious fanatics.

One terrible practice these "Johannites" have adopted is that of telling the peasants that all children who are born now are little devils, antichrists, who must be stamped out immediately after their birth. It is easy to see how such a theory encourages looseness of morals among their followers, and it was doubtless invented as an excuse for the orgies which take place in the "refuges." Added to this, obscene literature of the worst kind is scattered everywhere by them. Several cases have lately occurred in which children, born delicate and developing slowly, have been taken out into the fields or forests at the instigation of the "Johannites" and stoned to death among the wild shrubs and dances of the murderers. Anti-Semitism, always an easy passion to inflame in Russian hearts, is encouraged by them to an alarming extent. This is why the author of "The Black Ravens" brought into his play, in which he plainly hints that they and the orthodox clergy tacitly encourage the "Johannites."

In the province of Perm the sect has become so strong and numerous and demoralized the people to such an extent that the Bishop of Perm telegraphed to Father John to renounce them with them. The ancient seer replied by vehemently repudiating any connection with the "Johannites" of the Perm province. There is no doubt that he knows little of these orgies, and even if he did he is powerless to stop them. The police, hand in glove with the "Union of the Russian People," whose object seems to be the utter demoralization of the masses, are loth to interfere. The orthodox clergy are too lazy to do so. Therefore the "Johannites" in spite of prophecies which do not come true, gather force and influence daily, while the Duma is too busy discussing the details of a mythical constitution to pay attention to the widespread demoralization which results from their pernicious activity.

SERGUS VOLKHOVSKY.

FEWER LIQUOR LICENSES IN ST. JOHN

Premier Hazen yesterday morning said that as attorney general he had informed Col. Blaine, chairman of the Liquor License Commission, that they were issuing more licenses than the law allowed. He stated that in his opinion all the laws bearing on this matter should be enforced and he intended that they should be. This was a principle which he had always advocated. The same view had also been expressed by the Hon. Mr. Pugsley when he was in the local house. In consequence of this statement by the attorney general it is probable that the number of licenses to be issued the coming year will be materially reduced.

If the commissioners accept the views of the Attorney-General they will have to cut off six licenses in King's ward, three in Prince and three in Queen's, or twelve in all. Wellington, Lorne, Lansdowne and Victoria may each secure one additional license.

Salisbury Notes.

Salisbury, N. B., April 7.—Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Trice are spending a few days with friends in Bangor, Maine.

Rev. E. A. Allaby and family left on Thursday for their new home at Hatfield's Point, Kings county, where Rev. Mr. Allaby has accepted the pastorate of a group of Baptist churches.

The Salisbury hockey team played the Dorchester team at Dorchester on Tuesday evening, the score standing 7 to 1 in favor of the Dorchester players.

There were eight deaths in the city last week from the following causes: Congestion of the lungs, 2; asthma, exposure, apoplexy, pleuro-pneumonia, oedema of lungs, capillary bronchitis, one each.

Black Watch

"Biggest and Best"

Plug

Chewing Tobacco