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OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11 1906.

How true it is that "uneasy lies the head that wears a crown." The Czar is said to pass sleepless nights. He is a close prisoner in his palace and mistrusts everybody. The food that he eats is first sampled by servants.

We are glad, says the Catholic Register, that the Dominion of Canada will assert itself as a Sunday-observing country. Whatever sacrifice it may place upon the few, it brings rest and relief to the many, and the benediction of the Most High upon the country adopting it and the people obeying its reasonable provisions.

Many will hear with mingled feelings that the monthly issue of Good Words as a sixpenny magazine will give place to a weekly issue at one penny on May 1st. Among the various features with the new issue will contain, it is intended to republish from week to week the Memoirs of the first Editor, Dr. Norman Macleod, revised and abridged by its author, the present editor of Good Words, Dr. Donald Macleod.

The King has signified his approval of the recommendations of the Royal Geographical Society for the award of the loyal medal to Dr. Robert Bell, director of the Geological Survey of Canada, in recognition of his great work of exploration. This medal, which is bestowed by his Majesty as patron, was instituted by Queen Victoria in 1839. It is said that Dr. Bell has extended the knowledge of the geography of Canada more than any other living man. Dr. Bell's many friends tender him hearty congratulations on this well-merited distinction.

We are told by a contemporary that the Presbyterian church in Mexico is a body formed a few years ago by missionaries and native pastors, until then affiliated with various Presbyteries of the Northern and Southern Church. Its four Presbyteries are working in fourteen of the States of Mexico. There are now 30 churches, 276 preaching stations, and 5,385 communicants. There are 3,006 Sunday school pupils, 271 girls in the Presbyterian Normal School, and 39 young men in academic courses. The work seems prosperous and hopeful. A denominational weekly is published in Spanish, and the work as a whole is commending itself to the people more and more.

### PRESBYTERIANS IN FRANCE.

According to a contemporary—"Under the new regulations established by the French Legislature, the Reformed Church in France found it necessary to declare a creed in order to afford a constitutional core of organization and unity which the State would recognize. One hundred and one representatives met recently in Synod at Orleans to lay out and adopt a 'trust deed' for the future. For many years the Synod has been unable either to affirm or revise its creed, being forbidden by the State to assemble at all. It was not to be wondered at, therefore, that wide differences were divulged by this, the first free discussion enjoyed in a generation. After a debate lasting ten days the majority of the members re-affirmed the Confession of Faith published in 1872. About 40 of the 101 representatives declared to vote. In this minority were embraced both the moderate and the radical elements, the latter being for the most part Unitarian. These latter wished to creed. The moderate members wished a revised creed. The majority voted for the old creed as it has long stood. While this vote will, without doubt, result in the withdrawal of the radicals, it may result also in re-incorporating with the original body the Free Evangelical Churches which withdrew in 1848 under the leadership of Frederic Monod."

### THE HOTEL PROBLEM.

A contemporary correctly says there is a great deal of confusion of language and thought respecting the hotel problem in Ontario. Constantly in Parliament, says our contemporary, keeping hotel is considered and discussed as if it meant keeping barroom; and the only kind of hotel of which the Government is disposed to take account is not the kind that is really hotel, but the kind that is barroom with hotel attachment. Says the Globe: "Improvement will not be brought about by setting in the forefront of every hotel license the barroom features. If one-half of the time and thought were given by the Government and Legislature of Ontario to barroom business were devoted with intelligence and purpose to the hotel business some real progress might be made. At present our legislators are only beating the air and marking time. All this juggling over fees and percentages is inconsequent trifling. The emphasis is still on the barroom, not on the hotel. If the Government were ready to cut the barroom entirely out of the hotel business set the sale of liquor apart by itself, and the keeping of hotel by itself, giving to each the inspection and protection of license according to the nature and needs of each, the problems involved in both would be possible of solution. Under present conditions there will be constant trouble. Let the liquor men be kept to the liquor trade and the hotel men to the hotel trade, and let both be under adequate oversight."

In England negotiations for union between the three smaller branches of Methodism are making most cheering progress, remarks The (London) Presbyterian. In the Methodist New Connexion, the most conservative of the three, only one small circuit has voted against union, while 18 have approved. In the Methodist Free Church there were two adverse votes against 198 in favour, and the Bible Christians show a similar result. Next year, at latest, it is expected, will see the three churches made one—a noble object lesson for us all.

The Maritime Baptist remarks: The prohibitory law of Prince Edward Island is demonstrating its effectiveness. In Charlottetown the last year under license there were 729 convictions for drunkenness. Under prohibition in 1904 there were 175 convictions, and last year the number was reduced to 94. During the first month of this year, there were only two drunkenness convictions. And the peace and quiet of the city are maintained by a much smaller police force than in the years of license.

### ONTARIO NEW LIQUOR BILL.

"The Pioneer" thus summarizes what it describes as the good features of the Liquor Legislation recently brought before the Legislative Assembly by Hon. Mr. Hanna.

The new Bill gives twenty-five per cent of the electors of a municipality power to compel the submission to the electors of a Local Option bylaw. This is a fair provision. The same section provides that a twenty-five per cent. petition may compel the submission of a repealing bylaw. This is an advantage to the liquor party. The Provincial Secretary says that both parties asked for a change. We suppose that the liquor party asked for a latter, and the temperance party for the former. However, we accept the provision as a whole, and look upon it as a decided improvement in the law, preventing a municipal council, or a majority of that council from perpetrating the injustice of refusing to allow the people to vote as the law intended they should.

The new Bill also provides that if a prohibitory bylaw has been adopted by the electors, it must finally be passed by the municipal council. This is not new. The Municipal Act now provides that when a petition compels the submitting any bylaw, the council must give such bylaw a third reading if the people have ratified it. It is well, however, to have the provision definitely set out in the License Law as applying to the particular case of local prohibition.

The Municipal Act prohibits a licensee-holder from being a member of a municipal council. The new Bill extends this prohibition to the husband, business partner, or parent of a licensee. This is an extension of a principle that is sound.

The new Bill does away with the taking of a special census to increase the number of licenses in a municipality. The privileges granted under the old Act were frequently abused. The population given in the assessment roll will hereafter be the basis for the number of licenses in a municipality. The privileges granted under the old Act were frequently abused. The population given in the assessment roll will hereafter be the basis for the number of licenses to be issued.

The new Bill provides for the keeping of barrooms closed during the hours in which the sale of liquor is prohibited. The old Law only did this in towns and cities.

The new Bill increases the stringency of the provisions for the regulation of the sale of liquor during prohibited hours on certificates from physicians or magistrates' rates.

The new Bill revives a section of the License Act which was repealed a couple of years ago, which provides that a conviction made under the license law was not to be considered invalid because of some slight difference between the information laid and the conviction made, or some other technical defect in the conduct of the case, provided it is clear that the offence was committed, and that no excessive penalty was imposed.

The new Bill contains a useful provision for the abolition of the tied-house system, under which taverns are now practically owned by brewers, thus making simply local agencies of big manufacturing businesses.

In all the respects mentioned the new measure is a decided improvement upon the License Act as it now stands.

Our contemporary also places before its readers the other side of the picture, in terms following:

The worst feature of the new Liquor Act is the requiring that in voting on a Local Option bylaw, the temperance party will be counted as defeated unless they poll three-fifths of the ballots cast. This provision is discussed in full elsewhere.

As the law now stands, a Local Option bylaw when adopted must have a three years' trial. The new bill reduces this to two years, and thus permits of the taking of a vote on the question of repeal, in one year and nine months from the coming into operation of the by-law.