

# Messenger and Visitor

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,  
VOLUME LXV.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR,  
VOLUME LIV.

Vol. XIX.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1903.

No. 50

## The Kaiser's Health.

There have been reports concerning the Emperor of Germany to the effect that his recovery, after the operation which he recently underwent for the removal of a tumor from the throat, is not proceeding satisfactorily and that the condition of his majesty's health is such as to cause alarm. It would not of course be surprising if the Emperor should have inherited a tendency to the disease of which both his parents died, and accordingly more credit has been given to these reports than otherwise they would have received. However the truth of these unfavorable reports is emphatically denied in quarters which should be well informed. The Berlin correspondent of the London Times declares that they emanate from irresponsible agencies and are on a par with the rumors respecting King Edward's illness which last year were circulated throughout the world. This correspondent quotes the official Gazette which confirms the statement in the Imperial speech read at the opening of the Reichstag regarding the recovery of the Emperor, and among other things says: "Nothing can be done to enlighten those who believe his illness is dangerous, because secretly they would like it to be so. The best lesson to them will be the complete restoration of his Majesty's health in accordance with the statements of his doctors, which are advanced with quiet confidence. I have considered it my duty to avail myself of such sources of information as happen to be at my disposal, and the testimony of these sources is now unanimous in describing the Emperor's progress from every point of view as satisfactory. The anticipation, therefore, is warranted that his Majesty's general health, in so far as it was affected by the restraint and the operation, is in a good way towards complete restoration."

## The Man

### With a Gun.

The Montreal Witness thinks that those "fools who go into the woods to hunt deer and shoot at anything that moves among the trees without waiting to find out what they are firing at" should be dealt with according to their folly. "So many have met a sudden death in this way," says the Witness "that it is time something were done to teach these hunters to be more careful. A move in this direction has been made at Parry Sound, where a young man named Thomas Stanley, who recently shot two men in mistake for deer, has been committed on charge of manslaughter. Evidence given at the coroner's inquest showed that he had fired without taking any precaution to discover whether he was shooting at deer or men. . . . The man with a gun who goes out to kill animals and birds needs more looking after any way. He has put an end to many beautiful and useful forms of life in our Canadian woods and fields. The insect plagues that occasionally sweep over the country, destroying crops and fruit trees are largely owing to the destruction of birds. Some of these plagues are permanent afflictions brought on by the man with a gun, and the still more pitiful trappers, who make a trade of supplying plumage for ladies' hats. Now that the hunters have taken to shooting men . . . it is to be hoped that the laws for the protection of wild animals will be extended to include human beings so that whoever kills a man, whether by mistake or not, shall suffer a punishment sufficient to deter others from following his example."

## Those Islands.

Portland Channel agreed upon by the Alaska boundary commission the two islands, Pearse and Kanaghunut, went to the United States. It was said at the time that these islands were in the vicinity of Port Simpson and so situated as to command the entrance to the harbor. The Canadian commissioners evidently regarded these islands as of considerable importance and protested strongly against the deflection of the boundary line so as to give them to the United States, as unfair in itself and injurious to Canada. But a recent dispatch from Vancouver states, on the authority of surveyors engaged in railway exploration work in the interests of the proposed Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, that the islands mentioned are not situated, as the commissioners supposed, in the vicinity of Port Simpson, but some 20 or 30 miles distant from that port, and do not therefore possess anything like the strategic importance which has been ascribed to them. The mistake as to dis-

tance is said to have arisen through an error in typing the commission memoranda, "20 and 30" miles being copied as "2 or 3." If the facts are as stated in the Vancouver dispatch, a serious objection which was supposed to exist to Port Simpson as the terminus of the proposed railway will be shown to be without foundation. This report however will need to be confirmed before entire credence can be given to it.

## The Springhill Strike off.

Contrary to what a week ago seemed probable, the strike at Springhill proved to be of short duration. Early last week a meeting was arranged between the management of the company and representatives of the miners, and after an extended discussion of the matters involved in the dispute, an agreement was reached, so that the men consented to return to work. It is said that the action of the leaders who ordered the strike was not cordially endorsed by the body of the miners and that there was much dissatisfaction at the course pursued. It is understood that the basis of settlement involves a compromise. It is agreed by the company to pay the men under the old measurement system up to the end of the year and from that time on there will be another system of measurement. This speedy settlement of the dispute is cause for congratulation both in the interests of the parties immediately concerned and also those of the public.

## Outrages in the Congo State.

Reference was made in these columns a few weeks ago to a series of letters written by an English Baptist Missionary, Rev. T. H. Weeks, and published in the West African Mail, respecting the abuses to which the natives in King Leopold's State on the Congo are subjected at the hands of those who govern the territories. By a late despatch from London it is learned that Mr. Roger Casement, British consul in the Congo State, has just completed a tour of investigation undertaken under the orders of the British Government, and he fully confirms the worst reports of outrages perpetrated on natives of that part of Africa. Mr. Casement's tour was to have lasted six months, but after the scenes he witnessed and the information he obtained, in the first two months' time, the consul decided further evidence was unnecessary. The report which Mr. Casement is now preparing for the Foreign Office will show that the most horrible outrages are still being perpetrated under the "rubber regime" and that slavery and barbarism in the most revolting forms still exist. The Casement party travelled over a thousand miles from the coast, along the Congo and its tributaries, visiting the Abir and Lulonga rubber zones. Pending the delivery of the report to the Foreign Office, the investigators refuse to furnish any details, but a member of the mission summed up the situation by saying: "The most terrible slavery exists, the administration is atrocious, and if there is not speedy intervention it will be too late."

## Growth of Population in Germany.

It is shown by statistics which have been tabulated that the growth of population in Germany for 1902 exceeds that of any previous year. The increase amounts to 902,312, or 15.61 per thousand, as compared with 15.05 per thousand in 1901, and 14.63 per thousand, the average for the last ten years. The increased growth of population is due to a decrease in the death rate rather than to an increase in the birth rate, as the percentage of births during the decade increased but very slightly, while the death rate which was 22.68 per thousand during the previous decade was only 20.56 in 1902. The decreasing death rate is no doubt due in part to better sanitary conditions and to improved methods of dealing with tuberculosis and other diseases.

## A Neglected Opportunity.

On the occasion of the first Anniversary of the opening of the Pacific Cable for business, Sir Sanford Fleming has addressed an open letter to the people and press of New Zealand and Canada, in which he points out the neglect of a great opportunity to cultivate acquaintance

and friendly relations between the people of Australasia and those of Canada. Sir Sanford says that the advocates of the cable indulged the hope that in the interests of trade and commerce, no less than in those of friendly feeling and political kinship, the newspapers would have frequent reports on all current affairs and the peoples at the termini of the cable would thus establish closer relations and deeper friendship. But such has not been the case. On the contrary there is no evidence to show that during the whole year in which the cable has been available for direct communication a single press message has passed from Australasia to Canada or from Canada to Australasia. Sir Sanford declares that as Australian newspapers are tied to the Eastern Extension Company, no press messages are forwarded to Australia through Canada by the Pacific cable. The Canadian Government endorsed a new service by the Pacific cable and invited Australia and New Zealand to unite with them in establishing such a service, which would be free of charge to all newspapers and the limit should be 500 words transmitted both ways daily for a period of three months. The Government of New Zealand responded in favor of the proposal, but the Government of the Commonwealth objected. Sir Sanford sees no reason why Canada and New Zealand should any longer be denied the benefit which the cable is capable of conferring. About two hours a day would transmit all the messages now sent by the cable. The press news could be sent without increasing the working staff and without adding a single shilling to the working expenses. He sees no reason why a limited news service cannot be inaugurated between New Zealand and Canada. This would only occupy half an hour in sending 500 words daily, and if not daily then a weekly service.

## Boers Seek a Home in Mexico.

The reports that reach us from time to time respecting the condition of affairs in the Transvaal and Orange River colonies are of a somewhat conflicting character. Some accounts make it appear that the country is rapidly recovering from the effects of the war, that the people are accepting the situation quietly, if not with entire contentment, and that the outlook is altogether hopeful. Other accounts present a much less optimistic picture of the present and the probable future, declaring that there is a good deal of suffering and discontent among the people, and that the prospects for a cordially united South Africa are by no means as hopeful as could be desired. A late London dispatch gives the intelligence that General Benjamin Viljoen, the former Boer commander, is on his way to America for the purpose of completing arrangements for the establishment of a Boer colony in Mexico. It is said that he has already secured 85,000 acres and expects to get 2,000,000 in Northern Mexico where the climate closely resembles the Transvaal. General Viljoen gives a discouraging account of the situation of the Boers in South Africa at the present time. He says that it was the policy of the leaders, after the war, to encourage the burghers to remain in the country, in the hope of securing local self-government, but that the conditions render it impossible for them to remain longer. The country has been devastated, and cattle and horse diseases seem to make its immediate recovery impossible. Emigration had already begun and it was therefore thought best to find a general settleme nt, instead of permitting the race to become extinct by scattering them in all parts of the globe.

The Maritime Winter Fair opens at Amherst on Monday of this week. The entries are more numerous than last year, and it is expected that in quality the stock will show a marked improvement. The attendance at the fair promises to be large, and it is hoped that it will do much to promote the interests of stockraising and agriculture in the Maritime Provinces. Hon. W. S. Fielding is expected to deliver the opening address. Addresses are expected also from the Premiers of the three Maritime Provinces. Hon. John Dryden, Minister of the Agriculture for Ontario, Dr. Mills, President of the Guelph Agricultural College, Mr. W. S. Spark of Canterbury, England, and Dr. Fletcher, of the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, are also to be among the speakers. Arrangements have been made for reduced fares on the railways and the P. E. I. Steam Navigation Company.