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J. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager and Editor

Ottawa, Wednesday, July 29 1903.

THE SUMMER SCHOOL.

We are glad to note that the Summer School, held at Knox College, Toronto, is reported to have been very successful, as to the attendance, the interest of the students and the high quality of the addresses. We trust that the influence will not soon pass away; but that in the light of the experience thus gained the promoters will be able to make effective arrangements for the carrying on of the work. In a city like Toronto it is easy to arrange for a number of interesting speakers to give an address on a variety of subjects; and this is particularly easy the first year of such a convention. But the important thing is to arrange for consecutive work and systematic study on the part of those who are to be the scholars. This only can carry out the purpose of the school, and encourage the lecturers and give to it their valuable time and energy.

THE POSITION OF QUEEN'S

The Assembly at its recent meeting expressed a desire to keep Queen's University in at least as close a relation to the church as it now is. The expression of opinion to this effect was almost unanimous; and it was certainly both strong and enthusiastic. The representatives of Queen's did not ask for any such vote; they were seeking to carry out the programme marked out by the late Principal and in substance, approved by two or three successive assemblies. The last assembly takes a strong stand; but the question is the members of the church prepared to support the action of the Supreme Court. This means the raising of more money to help Queen's to meet the larger demands of the present time. The amount required is not large considering the size and power of the church. But the situation must be faced at once and something definite decided. It would be well for some of our wealthy men to speak out now in an appropriate and helpful manner.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S PROPOSALS.

The indefinite but startling proposals of the Colonial Secretary regarding trade within the Empire continue to receive attention from various quarters. Canadian journals sympathize with Mr. Chamberlain; but it is evident that they are not prepared to offer English manufacturers any further advantage; the preference to be given to Canadian food stuffs is that which interests them.

Professor Cappon of Queen's who is an enthusiastic admirer of Mr. Chamberlain writes that:

"It is clear that a scientifically protective tariff for the Empire is to have at least fair hearing in Great Britain, and it is at least possible that the new policy may eventually find more favour with the country than the Liberal leaders allow themselves to think. They rely largely on the old cry that the poor man's bread must not be taxed. The comparatively low wages and the low standard of living of the British workman forty years ago rendered any proposal which would make the loaf a penny dearer impossible then. It may be somewhat different now." (Queen's quarterly July 1903.)

He then goes on to show that the arguments against a preferential Imperial tariff are not very strong. So far as arguments are concerned brilliant writers in favour of protection have not been lacking any time during the last fifty years. Indeed writers of that school boldly declared that the measures that were taken to cheapen the poor man's loaf meant ruin to the country as a whole. Arguments are plentiful on all sides; but this is a complex matter in which all the varied interests must be considered. In the Nineteenth Century for July the matter is dealt with from several points of view. Sir Wemyss Reid points out that Lord Roseberry has discussed the matter from a large imperial standpoint, and has come to the conclusion that Mr. Chamberlain's proposal are not likely to be beneficial either to England or the Colonies. Sir Robert Giffen, the well known economist, concludes that *economically* considered the preferential tariff would not be for the benefit of the colonies or the motherland; but that because of the political issues involved, the need of drawing together the different parts of the Empire, the question is worthy of consideration. Mr. Benjamin Kidd comes to a similar conclusion, in a somewhat different way. Edward Dicey, C B, contributes an article which is more of the nature of a cynical political speech than of a sober economical discussion. This gentleman writes with the air of a superior person. He evidently regrets that the working men have votes and that such an important subject should be submitted to their decision. Perhaps he would like to have the settlement himself. He is afraid lest the cry against the dear loaf will influence them too much. But he hopes that as they were patriotic enough to shout for the war they will have the sense to make other sacrifices for the sake of the Empire. So the discussion proceeds. But one thing is evident that tremendous opposition to Mr. Chamberlain's proposal will come from within the unionist party; from men who know as much about business and are as loyal to the Empire as the Colonial Secretary.

VERAX-

AN IMPORTANT CONVENTION.

It has been said that the American people are always at a Convention, or coming from a Convention or preparing for a Convention. This on one side may be in danger of degenerating into mere fussiness, but on the other it may indicate intelligent enterprise, the desire to understand the meaning of life on its many sides and to organize it to the highest advantage. We called attention some time ago to one of the most important conventions of recent times held at Chicago in connection with The Religious Education Association. Now we have pleasure in calling attention to the reports of the discussions now published and forming a good sized volume of 415 pages. This important document may be procured from the executive office of the association, 153 La Salle St., Chicago, or through the booksellers. It ought to be in the hands of all those who are interested in the question of religious education. The subject is dealt with in this volume from the standpoint of psychology, criticism, history and practical Christian experience. Those who contribute to the discussion are men of varied experience in their special lines of investigation and work. The book is, as we have said, an important document creditable to those who promoted the Convention, and valuable as showing the amount of intellectual energy devoted to this great book. Certainly one of the greatest questions with which Christian men can grapple is this: How can the inspiring power of the Scriptures be brought to bear most effectually on the life of the young people in the United States and Canada? Those who are seeking to set this question in a new light do not wish to upset any old organization or to introduce any revolutionary method, but they desire that the results of the latest science should be brought to bear upon the most important task entrusted to the Church. The great commission, "Feed my Lambs," must be accepted loyally and interpreted generously. It must be taken to mean, give to the young people the highest instruction drawn from the past and the present, show them how God has been revealing Himself through all the ages; and how all things that are true and noble belong to the Kingdom of Jesus Christ and to His disciples. Hence we trust that this new movement will be wisely led, as it has been well begun, and that it will give to religious educators keener intellectual power and higher spiritual influence.

"The number of streets in the city and its outskirts is 810. There are about 50,000 residences in the city and about 9,000 stores and offices. Our returns give about 1,200 unoccupied stores, houses and tenements, a large decrease on the number reported last year." These facts and figures concern Montreal, the greatest of Canadian cities, and are taken from Lovell's Directory of that city for 1903, just issued. The population is estimated at 287,000; including suburbs at 360,000. Montreal is a city of Churches; and among them the Presbyterian occupies a foremost position in influence, if not in numbers. In spite of all its serious defects in municipal government we are proud of the commercial capital of Canada!