

# Messenger and Visitor.

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**The Venezuela Case.** It is understood that the Venezuela question will go for arbitration to the International Court of Arbitration at the Hague. It would seem, however, in view of Venezuela's proneness to deal lightly with her financial obligations, that little will be accomplished by the reference of the matter to the Hague, unless the decision shall embody some provision whereby compulsion shall be brought on Venezuela to execute the award. It is given as the suggestion of a French diplomatist in close touch with the French ministry, that the Hague tribunal invite the interested Powers to establish an international commission of financial control, similar to that created in Crete. The commission, of course, would be temporary, and its task limited to the payment of the Hague awards, but the effect would be most wholesome upon other South and Central American States, who will act in the future under the shadow of the possibility of similar treatment. Seeing the high source of this proposal, the possible significance of it is undoubted.

## Wolves.

Wolves are not unknown in Canada. A short time ago, it was reported that the savage animals had appeared in Quebec Province, not far from the town of Levis, and in sufficient numbers to cause some alarm among the inhabitants. Flocks of sheep had suffered considerably, and it was related that a child had had a narrow escape from being devoured by a hungry wolf. These animals have not frequently, at least not in recent years, given much trouble in North America, but in parts of Europe they are frequently in the winter a serious menace to human as well as to other animal life. The wolves are this winter, according to reports received, especially numerous and fierce in Roumania. Every part of the country, it is said, appears to be infested with them, and scarcely a newspaper appears without reports of half a dozen cases in which persons have been attacked and devoured by wolves. Recently, it is said, eight officials left Tulcea on their way to Galatz on three sledges. When their arrival was not reported the mounted police started a search for them, and on Thursday they found three broken sleighs. A number of empty revolvers and the trampled, bloody snow told the story of the tragedy that had happened. Even the harness had been devoured by the famished beasts. A gendarme who was passing the edge of the forest of Badeni, near Ploesci, in the afternoon, was pursued by a pack of wolves. The gendarme unslung his carbine, and fired three cartridges at them as he galloped along the road. Then he emptied his revolvers and killed several of the pack. They kept on pursuing him, and finally he drew his long cutting sword and slashed at each wolf as it attempted to bring down his horse. The gendarme reached Ploesci in an exhausted condition, the wolves giving up the chase not far from that place. There have been scores of similar happenings.

## Oh Where Shall Rest Be Found?

For a certain class of brain-fagged and nerve-worn persons it has been one of the attractions of an ocean voyage that for a brief space at least it afforded release from the rush and strain of business and excitement with which the great strenuous world is charged. Once well on board the ocean-liner, the passenger was safe for a few days anyway from the cares and worries that arrive with the postman's daily budget or are fired like rifle shots through private despatches or are discharged through the broadsides of the daily papers. He could take his rest, eat, drink and enjoy repose, Neptune permitting; half forget the worrying world

from which he had escaped and discover at the end of the voyage that things were not so greatly worse, so far as he or the world was concerned, because he had not vexed his weary soul over them. But now we are told there is to be no longer any such asylum for the weary. Marconi and his wireless telegraphy are to change all that. The end of the present month, it is announced, will see a British mail steamer sailing from Liverpool equipped with a complete staff and plant for the publication on board of a newspaper every day during the voyage to New York, the news to be supplied by the Marconi wireless system. And if such things are done in the green tree, where will there be a spot on earth or sea where one may find refuge and respite from the world's bustle and business when wireless telegraphy and wireless telephony shall have reached their consummation?

## The Census, and Re- distribution.

The facts brought out by the census of 1901 as to the population of Canada and its distribution in the several Provinces of the Dominion will necessitate some redistribution of seats in the House of Commons. In accordance with the plan of representation for the several Provinces, as established by the British North American Act, Quebec has the fixed number of 65 representatives, and each of the other Provinces is assigned such a number of members as will bear the same proportion to the number of its population as the number 65 bears to the number of the population of Quebec. The Act of Union also provided that, after each decennial census, there is to be a revision of the representation of the Provinces of Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in accordance with the principle just stated. By subsequent legislation it was enacted that the readjustment of representation for Manitoba, British Columbia and P. E. Island should be in accordance with these provisions of the B. N. A. Act. The effect of the redistribution in accordance with the provisions of the Act will be to add to the representation of Manitoba, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories in the House of Commons, but to diminish that of Ontario and the Maritime Provinces. It is said that Ontario will lose six members, Nova Scotia two, New Brunswick and P. E. Island, each one, from which it is evident that these Provinces are falling by considerable to keep pace with Quebec in the matter of population. It is also said that redistribution on the basis of the census will reduce the membership of the House of Commons from 214 to 210 members. If this is correct, of which however there may be some doubt, it goes to show that Quebec has not only outstripped all the older Provinces in the matter of population, but has more than kept pace in this respect with the Dominion as a whole. In all this we have striking proof of the superior fecundity of the French race in Canada, and the more so that population from Quebec has been freely overflowing into Ontario and New Brunswick as well as into New England.

## Fairplay for Negro Office-holders.

President Roosevelt is evidently disposed to afford legal recognition and protection to negro office-holders in the South, against the persecution to which they are subject by a certain class of the white population. The case of a Mrs. Cox, a colored woman who has lately, because of intimidation, resigned her office as post-mistress at Indianolo, Miss., after having held the position for a period of nine years, is an instance in point. The evidence in the hands of the President is said to show that Mrs. Cox is commended by the best people of Indianolo, among her bondsmen being the

present Democratic Senator and the leading banker of the place; that she has given the utmost satisfaction to all patrons of the office, and at all times has been courteous, faithful, competent and honest in the discharge of her duties, and that her moral standing in the community is of the highest. But the mayor and sheriff of Indianolo had declared that they would not be answerable for her safety if she continued in office. Accordingly Mrs. Cox sent in her resignation. But the President instead of accepting it and making another appointment, as the people of Indianolo expected, has ordered that the mail for that place be sent to Greenville, some 25 miles away, while the evidence concerning the threats made against Mrs. Cox have been given to the Attorney General for action. The people of Indianolo are of course put to great inconvenience, and they may conclude that it would have been better for them to stand by an honest and efficient public servant than weakly to surrender to the demand of an unjust and hateful race prejudice emanating from the baser elements in the community.

## Politics in Ontario.

The bye-elections held last Wednesday in the three Ontario constituencies of North Grey, North Perth and North Norfolk were anticipated almost with the interest attending a general Provincial election, since they might determine the question which political party in Ontario should administer the affairs of the Province for a term of years. As matters stood previous to the 7th inst., there was a Liberal majority of two, with bye-elections in four constituencies to be held. Of the three in which elections were held last Wednesday two had returned Conservatives in the general election last year, but the majorities were small, being 23 in North Norfolk and only 2 in North Perth, while in North Grey a Liberal had been returned by the narrow margin of 5 votes. The situation was therefore interesting both from the closeness of the constituencies and the importance of the issue. So far as its legislative and administrative work is concerned the record of the present Government probably deserves to be regarded as at least reasonably good. But during the 30 years that the Liberal party has been in power in Ontario a good many of that kind of men who are in politics for what they can make out of it have attached themselves as heelers to the party. Recent investigations have brought to light much corrupt work in connection with elections, and though the corrupt practices have not been all on the Government side, there has been quite sufficient to put into the hands of the Opposition a very effective weapon which Mr. Whitney and his lieutenants have not been slow to use. The open letter of Mr. S. H. Blake, a prominent and highly respected Liberal, published a few days before the elections, in which he expressed indignation at the corrupt practices which had been brought to light and charged the Liberal leaders with having been willing to take advantage of them, seemed to be a pretty heavy blow for the Government. All things considered the prospect for the Ross Government did not seem bright, and probably there are a good many besides the Conservatives who were surprised that the three Government candidates were returned and by substantial majorities. Premier Ross was especially active in the campaign, and no doubt his great ability on the platform, with his recognized integrity and his personal popularity, counted for a good deal in the issue. North Renfrew where an election is still to be held gave a Liberal majority of 500 in the last general election and is considered quite a safe constituency for the Government. The numbers in the new house would stand Government 52, Opposition 46, which would give Mr. Ross a working majority.