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C. Blackett Robinson, Editor.

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1906.

Already, remarks the Hamilton Times, Manitoba furnishes one instance of the conscience coercion of the law for State-taught religion in the public schools. A lady teacher whose convictions as a Baptist are outraged by it loses her position for conscience's sake.

In writing on the Sabbath Observance Bill now before the House of Commons, Dr. Edgar Hill, referred to the Jew as an "anachronism" in Canada in this twentieth century, and the remark has given a good deal of offence to our Israelitish fellow citizens. "W. G. N.," who claims to be a "Christian," writing to the Montreal Witness, expresses regret for the Doctor's "ill-timed letter," and asks:

"Did Dr. Hill remember, when he made use of this offensive epithet, that the church he represents in this country (the Established Church of Scotland), is an anachronism in Canada?"

Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, the Canadian High Commissioner, has come to the assistance of the Bodleian Library of Oxford University with a donation of \$2,500 to complete the total sum which was necessary to obtain a first folio of Shakespeare, for which an American collector offered \$15,000. The folio was presented to the Bodleian Library in 1624, but was sold in 1684, and since that time had been in a private collection. An American collector recently offered \$15,000 to the present owner of the folio, whose name is not known. The owner, however, gave the Bodleian Library the opportunity to recover the folio for the same amount. His offer held good until March 30.

In view of the length of time that may elapse before the companies are heard by the Insurance Commission, the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada offers to our readers, in another column, an official statement of the affairs of the company as bearing on the facts already brought out in the investigation before the Commission. It is gratifying to learn that the confidence reposed in the Sun Life for so many years has not been misplaced; that its capital has not been impaired, and that its resources are such as to justify the claim that the company is "solid as a rock." Mr. J. R. Reid, a well-known elder of the Presbyterian church, and past president of the Ottawa Board of Trade, is general manager of the Sun Life for Eastern Ontario.

## THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

The new British Parliament is strongly democratic in tendencies. The cable reports two reversals of policy. One related to self-government in Natal, South Africa, in relation to the sentencing of certain rebellious natives. The sentence was temporarily vetoed by the Imperial authorities, whereupon arose a storm in Natal. The British Government wisely withdrew its interference, leaving the responsibility with the self-governing colony.

On the question of immunity for Trades Union funds, the Government has taken the side of the unions; in order, said Sir Campbell-Bannerman, "to place the rival powers of capital and labor on an equality, so that in the event of a fight it should be a fair one."

The new Premier feels that the new House is a totally different affair from its predecessor. It is, to an extent never before witnessed, a Nonconformist Parliament. Many of the Labor Members are active laymen in connection with their respective churches. Large questions, such as repeal of the Education Act, Welsh Disestablishment; and the like, keenly press for legislative remedy, and it is necessary to keep all the progressive and democratic elements together, if important legislative work is to be accomplished before the spring and energy of the new Parliament shall have had time to slacken; especially as the House of Lords stands ready to assail and thwart every tendency towards denominational equality.

## "SUDDEN AND SERIOUS PERIL."

"The new License Bill is an open reversal of the stand taken by Mr. Whitney prior to the ascension of his party to power."

"An unwise and unfair measure."

The Dominion Alliance, in an address which has been issued to the public, takes a decided stand against the proposed legislation.

The strongest attack is made on the local option clause, requiring a three-fifths majority. "Such law is bad, because of its manifestly unjust and un-British features of class legislation and minority rule," the address declares, and an appeal is made to the members of the Legislature to prevent this clause becoming law.

The bill is commended in that it compels municipal councils to submit prohibitory by-laws to a vote of the electors when 25 per cent. of the electors petition for a vote, and to pass these if carried. But the possibility of a repeal contest in two years, says the address, partly offsets this advantage.

The opinion of the Alliance towards the bill as a whole is summed up in the opening paragraph:

"A sudden and serious peril threatens the temperance cause. Without any previous intimation of intention to do anything else than carry out its avowed policy of liquor traffic restriction, without any known demand or request or suggestion from any section of the public, the Government has proposed legislation that will be immensely advantageous to the liquor traffic, and correspondingly harmful to the great moral reform movement which so many churches and temperance workers have recently taken up, and are now successfully carrying on."

Montreal Witness:—The Jews should surely have a sufficiently high estimate of the value of a national Sabbath not to wish to destroy that ordinance for Canada by demanding exceptions which would place them in a position of unfair competition. It would obviously be impossible to establish the Jewish Sabbath by law. If we are to have any, it must be one sanctioned by common usage. It will do the Jews no harm to keep Sunday in addition to Saturday.

## DR. DODD'S LECTURE.

The remarkable find of ancient papyri in Egypt formed the subject of a recent lecture by Professor Marcus Dodds. His conclusion is thus given—"The great value of these documents for New Testament scholarship was this—the Greek New Testament was colloquial Greek, the Greek spoken on the street, and it had always been a difficulty to know whether such and such a word was invented by Paul or not, or by one of the evangelists. Since the discovery of these papyri, however, scores of words had been found, and they were used in the New Testament. In these papyri they had the language of common life. What was wanted for the advancement of our knowledge of New Testament Greek was not found in the abundance of literature, either of classical or later Greek. The literature of Greece had been searched from end to end, and every possible analogy of the words used in the New Testament had been discovered. What was wanted was some knowledge of the Greek of daily life—the Greek of the mason and the camel-driver, of the vineyard and the market. To the astonishment of every one, that very blank in our knowledge had been filled to superfluity by the discovery of these ancient papyri, and the rich harvest of British and German scholarship was now being carefully gathered in."

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

At a meeting of the London Presbyterian Council in St. Andrew's Church further arrangements were made for the general assembly to be held in that city in June. Dr. Merchant, president of the council, presided.

The names of the committees appointed to deal with affairs in connection with the assembly were read by Rev. Mr. Rollins, secretary of the council. The committees with their conveners are as follows:

Billeting—Mr. W. C. Allen.

Finance—Mr. George A. Somerville.

Printing—Mr. C. R. Somerville.

Church Arrangement—Mr. John Cameron.

Entertainment—Mr. George M. Reid.

Reception—Rev. J. G. Stuart.

Pulpit Supply—Rev. Dr. Ross.

A neat booklet setting forth the aims and objects of the coming assembly will be issued, and a short history of Presbyterianism in London may be written and published. The Presbyterian Council has supervision over all the committees and the work that they will do.

## AN INDEPENDENT OPINION.

Conservative temperance men, says the Orillia Packet, will welcome Mr. Hanna's announcement that the provisions in the new license law allowing the sale of liquor on boats and trains will not be passed. Such a step would have been decidedly retrograde, and it is a relief to know that it was never seriously contemplated. It is to be hoped the Government will also reconsider the clauses requiring a three-fifths vote to carry a local option by-law, and making it repeatable within two years. It seems to be assumed by some people that it is the business of the Government to hold the balances evenly between the contending temperance and liquor factions. With this view we feel sure that the Premier and the Provincial Secretary will not sympathise. The liquor traffic is to be approached as an admitted evil, to be restricted and curtailed as much as is practicable. The Government may not see its way clear to go so far as temperance advocates would like. But at the least let there be no backward step in the legislation placed on the statute books this session.

Rev. Adam Ross, minister-emeritus of Rattray U. F. Church, is in his 96th year and 69th of his ministry.