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The War.

During the week no important actions have taken place, except the continuous assaults on Port Arthur. Reinforcements have gone forward from Russia, and General Kuropatkin has ordered a general advance from Mukden toward the south. The Russian General claims that his force is now superior in numbers to the Japanese armies opposed to him. He reports a successful flank movement against the Japanese right, and the capture of a strong position. St. Petersburg despatches represent the Russians to be full of enthusiasm and eager for the general advance that is now about to take place.

Political Notes.

The common election campaign goes on vigorously. In the Maritime Provinces during last week many nominations were made. Hon. H. R. Emmerson has been re-nominated by the Westmorland Liberals, Alexander Gibson, jr., by the Government party in York, and Mr. D. Gillmore by the same party in Charlotte. The Opposition have nominated Mr. W. A. Mott in Restigouche, and H. A. Powell in Westmorland. Recent Nova Scotia nominations on the Government side are D. D. Mackenzie, M. P., in Victoria and North Cape Breton, Dr. Black in Hants, Mr. B. B. Law in Yarmouth, and M. W. Pickup in Annapolis. The Opposition has nominated Colonel Kaulback in Lunenburg, Mr. Peter Innes in Kings, and Mr. J. W. Wells in Guysboro. In Prince Edward Island the Tickets on both sides were completed by the nomination of Judge Warburton, and Mr. Prowse as Government candidates for the double constituency of Queen's.

Hon. D. A. McKinnon, formerly Attorney General of Prince Edward Island and lately M. P. for Queens, has been appointed lieutenant Governor of the Province in place of Hon. P. A. McIntyre, whose term has expired.

A. B. Aylesworth, K. C., the eminent Toronto lawyer, who was a member of the Alaska Boundary Commission, and with Judge Gette dissented from the award, has become a member of the Laurier Government without office. He will be the liberal candidate in Durham.

Hon. George E. Foster has accepted nomination as conservative candidate in North Toronto. He has been a resident of Toronto for two or three years.

Schools and

Citizenship.

The *Montreal Star* has a timely article on the relation of our schools to the problems of citizenship. Referring to an article by Vice-President Sheldon, of Girard College, it says: "He thinks, for instance, that the school might counteract the terrible tendency to defy law and ignore government which appears in the community if it would pay greater attention to inculcating the law-abiding spirit. Then it might do more in the way of cultivating the cardinal virtues of honesty and integrity, and generally building up a better standard of citizenship." The *Star* adds: "Theoretically we all believe this; but practically do we not ask little of our schools, except that they crowd the memories of our children with certain facts which will enable them to pass a good examination and to finally emerge with a status which may help them in the great business of getting bread and butter? We know that certain English schools aim to leave an impress upon the character of the scholar, and we think that this is a fine thing. But do we really believe that our schools are, as a rule, so organized as to produce this effect? One of the curses of this age is that we measure everything by its earning power. People at an art gallery will flock to see the highest priced picture. When a man puts up a house, we ask first, 'What did it cost?' Our very sports are graded in many minds by their expensiveness. So it is not surprising that we measure our education by its earning capacity. We sneer at a college graduate sometimes because he cannot earn as much money as the lad who went early into a wholesale house, ignoring the fact that he can buy ten times as much pleasure with his few dollars as the uneducated man can with his many. But we certainly should pay more attention to the effect which schools might have upon character. It is

better to produce a generation of brave, truth-telling, frank and honour-loving children, than the "smartest" class that ever turned to money-making as ducks take to water. To do this, we must choose teachers who hate a sneak, who detest a coward, who would rather have a manly pupil than a miracle of memory, and to get such teachers, we must pay salaries that will command the lifelong services of real men. We are stinting our schools to the everlasting injury of our children." All this is very good. But it must be remembered that character is the result of many forces. Schools can do much; but they cannot do everything. They must not be made a substitute for proper instruction and government at home. Our observation in some communities is that most of the Government is in the schools—and even what the schools can do is partly neutralized by the desire of parents that their children shall have a good easy time. They resent any attempt of the teacher to insist on respect and obedience. The teacher who wishes to be popular must not be too particular. Then the town authorities wink at infractions of the law. Petty thieving, disrespect to old people, teasing of the feeble-minded, are allowed to go on without interference, not to speak of punishment. Thus law is brought into contempt. Schools are not responsible for this. The opportunity of the teacher is great; but he is almost powerless when opposed by the indifference of the citizens, and the influence of organized life dominated by the spirit of selfishness. Let every citizen bear his own burden of responsibility. Then the schools will be clothed with power.

A Military

Problem.

The most interesting military problem at present in connection with the Russo-Japanese war, a war correspondent thinks, is how large a Russian army the Siberian railway can support in Manchuria. While the army is south of Harbin, most all the necessary food supplies can be obtained in the country, but the farther north it goes the more it must depend on the railway, while at the same time the Japanese will gain an advantage by having an increased area to draw from. The richest section of Manchuria is the country of which Liao Yang is the principal market, and the crops in that section in this season are unusually large. Merchants who are acquainted with the country believe that if General Kuropatkin should retreat to Harbin, he must then bring nearly every pound of food by means of the railway. The organization of the Japanese army continues to be as efficient as it has been since the beginning of the campaign. Most of the troops were equipped with winter clothing when the first cold weather and snow arrived. The railway will be operated to Liao Yang within a week, and through trains will be running to the front from Dalny and Niu chwang.

British Politics.

Premier Balfour opened the campaign at Edinburgh on Monday. He said the leaders of the Irish party had given wide currency in America to the view that in the next parliament the Irish members would hold the balance of power. So far as the Unionists were concerned, no bargaining would occur. The Unionists were not for sale. Regarding the fiscal policy, Mr. Balfour said he had nothing to alter in what is known as the Sheffield policy. Mr. Balfour said he was no protectionist; he was one of those who thought protection was not the best policy under existing circumstances. It was not a policy that he recommended; directly or indirectly, either to his colleagues or to the country, and he did not think he could remain the leader of his party if protection were adopted. Whether Mr. Chamberlain's estimate of colonial opinion was right or wrong, Mr. Balfour agreed with Mr. Chamberlain that a point had been reached where the only way out was to have a free conference with the self-governing colonies and India. Mr. Balfour strongly recommended that course to the Unionist party, and he believed such a conference might do much good. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain reopened his fiscal campaign in Luton, Bedfordshire, on Wednesday. On the financial problem Mr. Chamberlain said it was not a party question, but affected every vital interest in the country. He dwelt at considerable length on the agricultural situation and painted a gloomy

picture of present conditions, predicting that there is worse to come. He said agriculture had been crippled and land values shrunk by hundreds of millions. Alluding to Mr. Balfour's Edinburgh speech, Mr. Chamberlain said he did not want the protection of 50 years ago, but he did want to make foreigners pay toll on shipments to the British market where they competed with British workmen, and unless Great Britain and her colonies worked together there was nothing in sight but disintegration of the empire. Mr. Chamberlain said that Mr. Balfour's statement concerning a conference with the colonies marked a distinct advance; but Mr. Balfour should not delay; he should call the conference at once and see what terms could be made with the colonies.

Bryce on Cham-

berlain's

Scheme.

The Right Hon. James Bryce, widely known as author of "the Holy Roman Empire" and "the American Commonwealth," is also known as one of the leaders of the Liberal party in Scotland, is now in Canada, and last week, in Toronto, delivered an address on why there is in Britain a pronounced feeling against the Preferential Tariff proposals of Mr. Chamberlain. Mr. Bryce spoke in highly appreciative terms of the Canada's growth during the thirty-four years which had elapsed since he first visited the country. He did not hesitate to say that there had been no greater development of national prosperity anywhere. Whatever might have been the case in years gone by there existed none in England, Mr. Bryce asserted, no difference of opinion as to the importance of maintaining affectionate relations between the mother country and her colonies, but he contended that, instead of strengthening the bonds, the fiscal changes advocated by Mr. Chamberlain would, by creating discontent and unrest, weaken them. It was absolutely essential, Mr. Bryce held, that both Britain and the colonies should be free to change their fiscal systems whenever it was thought necessary, and any commercial arrangement such as that proposed would be an obstacle. There was in Britain a potent belief that years of experience had proved free trade to be the only policy suitable to its special requirements, and there was a strong fear that the imposition of any tax upon breadstuffs would result in the necessities of life costing more to the workingman. Britain's experience of preferential tariffs in the past, Mr. Bryce further maintained, had been unsatisfactory, and he thought it was not unfair to assume that another trial such as that proposed would result in dangerous friction.

Icons and

the War.

"In the war news coming from the Russian side," says a London paper, "icons have frequently been mentioned, and many persons must have been puzzled to know, first, what an icon was, and, secondly, what part it played in the war. An icon is simply a religious picture, generally of singularly little artistic merit, and the subject usually represented is either a Russian saint or some event in the life of Jesus Christ or the Virgin Mary. In the Greek church, as in other Christian churches, the worship of graven images is forbidden, but no objection is made to anything represented on a flat surface, so icons are permitted in the form of mosaics, enamels, paintings or prints. They play an important part in the religious life of Russia, and are to be met with everywhere—in churches, public offices, shops and private houses. A picture to become an icon, must be blessed by a priest, and it is then regarded not only as an ornament but as an accessory in the worship of the Greek church. Icons are also worn on the person, when they take the form of a plaque or of a book with two leaves. Almost every soldier carries one on his bosom, and when he prays he takes out his icon; and, opening it, kneels down before it as before a portable altar. It will be remembered that General Kuropatkin, before his departure for the Far East, was presented with scores of icons at the different places he visited, and more than one priest at the battle of the Yalu bore aloft the sacred icon at the head of his regiment as it went into action. Every regiment has its own icon, which is carried as one would carry a banner when the regiment goes into battle, in the expectation that it will bring success to the Russian arms.