

# Messenger and Visitor

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,  
VOLUME LXVI.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR,  
VOLUME LV.

Vol. XX.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1904.

No. 12

## Power From Niagara

The Electrical Development Company of Ontario is maturing its undertaking for the bringing of power from Niagara Falls to Toronto, and it is expected that by the end of the year the waters of the great cataract will be supplying the power to drive many wheels connected with the industries of the city. It is stated that the company has purchased its right of way, all except a short distance, from the Falls to Toronto, and that as soon as the frost is out of the ground the work of fencing it will begin. Contracts have been let for the iron poles to carry the wires, and eight months is named as the time which will be required to have the transmission line in working order. The Street Railway Company of Toronto is getting ready to use the new power by the establishment of large storage batteries. The Toronto Electric Light Company will also use it. To what extent the Electrical Development Company will be able to supply the power required in connection with the various industries of Toronto we are not informed, but it would appear that the power at command from Niagara will be greater than will be required by the Railway and Electric Light Companies of the city. If power from the Falls can be transmitted more cheaply than it can be generated by the consumption of coal, it will naturally be given the preference, especially as it will be a great advantage for the city to escape the smoke nuisance caused by the burning of coal.

## The Temperance Issue in Ontario.

The question of temperance reform is evidently at the present juncture one of critical importance for Premier Ross of Ontario and his party. The Premier has declared in favor of the abolition of all saloon and hotel licenses throughout the Province, and the regulation of the retail traffic, so that such traffic shall be permitted, under Government control. While such a method of dealing with the evil would not meet the views of those who will accept nothing short of prohibition, it probably would receive the hearty endorsement of a very large body of temperance people who recognize the immense difficulty of enforcing absolute prohibition under existing conditions and who would welcome such a measure as Mr. Ross proposes to enact as at least an important step in the right direction. It appears however that for such a measure Mr. Ross is not able to command the support of his followers in the Legislative Assembly, and as the Government majority is at most a very narrow one, the refusal of even two or three members to support a Government measure renders it impracticable. What the result is likely to be does not yet appear. The Toronto *Globe*, however, whose sympathies are evidently with the Premier's position in this matter, seems to think there is danger that some of the Liberal legislators will make the mistake of underrating the importance of the temperance sentiment in the Province. The *Globe* says: "The issue is fraught with perils and responsibilities for the Liberal party and for temperance reform, and responsibility for intelligent and honest action cannot be evaded. The criticalness of the whole situation is recognized by Liberals throughout the country and the conduct of their representatives is being watched with wide-awake and steady scrutiny." The *Globe* further alludes to the friendliness which the Liberal party in the Province has in the past shown to the interests of temperance reform and to the advantage which the party has derived from this course. It has been the means of attracting to its ranks men of distinction and influence, who cared very little about the ins and outs of party politics, and it has had an influence "in raising and steadying the ethical tone of the party on all great public questions." "The Liberals in the Ontario Legislature," the *Globe* says, "must now deal with this problem at close range, and their choice must be made in the light of the history of the temperance movement and consistent with the ideals of the Liberal party. . . . Whatever the contingencies, the representative of Liberalism in the Legislature today must deal seriously with a serious question, facing it in the whiter steadier light of the party's past and its larger future, making choice not for themselves alone, but for all in this Province who are not ashamed to call themselves Liberals, and who believe in the long run what is in the highest interests of the great body of the people is at once ethically right and politically prudent."

## In The Dominion Parliament.

The address in reply to the speech from the throne was moved by Mr. George D. Grant of North Ontario. Naturally Mr. Grant's line of remark followed that of the speech from the

throne, but he digressed to make a reference to the probable settlement of the French Shore claims in Newfoundland and the admission of the ancient colony into the confederation. Whether Mr. Grant's allusion to the subject is to be regarded as signifying anything more than his personal hopes and opinions in the matter remains to be seen. Alluding to the tariff question the mover of the address intimated that the great consuming public had rights and interests worthy of consideration as well as the manufacturers. Mr. Grant also made reference to the fiscal controversy in Great Britain, and deprecated any attempt on the part of the Parliament or people of this country to influence public opinion in England on the subject. It would be time enough for Canada to give an opinion in the matter when the details were known. The address was seconded by Mr. Rivet of Hochelaga. Of greater general interest were the speeches of the leader of the Opposition and the Premier which followed closely the moving and seconding of the address. Mr. Borden's speech was a general criticism of the Government's policy and acts. He alluded to the late date at which Parliament had been called together, for which, he contended, that there was no sufficient excuse. The recent bye-elections, he held, had afforded several constituencies an opportunity to pronounce upon the Government's transcontinental railway scheme, and the results had not been favorable to the Government policy. Mr. Borden devoted a good deal of time to a consideration of Hon. A. G. Blair's relation to the Government, and criticised severely the action of the Government in appointing to the chairmanship of the Railway Commission a man who had denounced their transcontinental railway scheme so emphatically and had himself in turn been severely denounced by leading supporters of the Government. Mr. Borden further criticised the personnel of the Railway Commission, and after alluding to the proposed modifications of the Grand Trunk Pacific contract, complained of the omission from the speech from the throne of any reference to the autonomy of the Territories. Mr. Borden held that the people of the Northwest should have greater control over their public lands and the disposition of their minerals and should possess other privileges enjoyed by the people in other parts of Canada. Another point of criticism was the Government's management of the Alaska boundary case, in connection with which, Mr. Borden held, opportunities had been lost which might have proved of great value to Canada. The Premier followed, dealing with Mr. Borden's criticisms. The lateness of the meeting of Parliament, he held, was sufficiently accounted for by the extreme length of last year's session, and for that the Opposition was accountable. In reference to the indications of the bye-elections, Sir Wilfrid professed himself willing that the Opposition should enjoy what comfort they could from the fact that they had won three of the twelve bye-elections which had been held. In reference to the appointment of Mr. Blair the Premier contended that he had been appointed to the chairmanship of the Railway Commission because he was the man in the country best fitted for the position. On the Railway question Mr. Blair had stood alone, endorsing neither the Government scheme nor that of the Opposition, but his opposition to the Government on that one point was no sufficient reason why he should be deprived of a position which, as framer of the Act, he was especially fitted for. In regard to the treaty-making power, Sir Wilfrid said that the question was not a new one, and expressed his belief that the time had come when Canada required greater power in this direction for its natural development. He was surprised at the statement of Mr. Borden that the treaty-making power had never been denied us, because such power had never been asked. In reference to the tariff the Premier indicated his opposition to an extremely high tariff like that of the United States as tending to foster factions, combines and anarchy.

## In the N. B. Legis-

lature:

Attorney-General Pugsley has introduced a bill in the New Brunswick Legislature, entitled An Act for the Protection of Persons employed in Factories. One of the principal provisions of the bill has respect to the age of children employed in factories. There is a natural tendency among people of slender means to put their children to work in factories at a very early age, and consequently the children are handicapped in two ways. They are deprived of the education they should have received, and their vitality is

lessened by their being put to work under unfavorable sanitary conditions at an age when they are unfit for steady labor. The bill provides that no boy or girl shall be employed in a factory under fourteen years of age, the only exception to this being in the case of a strong healthy child whose parents are so circumstanced as to make it absolutely necessary that the child should work to help support the family. The bill further provides for the doing away with the sweating system and for the enjoyment by employees of legal holidays and Saturday afternoons without any curtailment of their wages. There is also provision for the protection of employees against injury from machinery, also for the better prevention of fires, and for adequate means of escape from buildings in case of fire. A further important provision is in regard to the proper sanitation of factory buildings. There is also a clause providing for the proper equipment of bakeries and measures necessary to lessen the risk of spreading disease. The Attorney-General in his suggestions from Trade and Labor organizations, etc., with a view to making the provisions of the Act as effective as possible. It is to be hoped that the outcome may be a measure of real value to the Province.

Mr. Flemming of Carleton County, has moved resolutions authorizing legislation providing that all logs from crown lands in New Brunswick shall be manufactured in the Province. Mr. Fleming contends that a considerable quantity of timber cut on the New Brunswick side of the line is now carried to the American side and manufactured into lumber at Van Buren, Maine, opposite St. Leonard's, and that the prospect is that this exportation of timber will, under present conditions, become much larger. While the logs are manufactured into lumber just across the border, New Brunswick workmen cannot obtain employment in the mills unless they remove with their families to Maine. Mr. Flemming contends that in the interests of the people of New Brunswick the timber of the Province should be manufactured within its borders. Of course the Legislature cannot prevent the exporting of timber cut upon private property, and there is a question whether the export of timber from crown lands is of sufficient extent to make it worth while to legislate in the matter. There is also a question as to the probable effect of the proposed legislation upon the arrangement by which logs cut in Maine are now floated down the St. John river, and after being manufactured in the Province are sent duty free to the United States. The opinion prevailed in the Legislature that a careful inquiry should be made into all the facts and bearings of the matter before any action was taken, and accordingly a special committee was appointed for that purpose.

## The Holmsville Murder

A tragedy of a kind happily rare in this country, occurred at an early hour on Sunday morning, the 13th inst., at a place called Holmsville, about four miles from Bath, Carleton County, N. B., when George Gee, a young man of dissolute habits, fatally shot his cousin, a young woman named Mable Gee, with a rifle. The facts in connection with the case appear to be that the girl had been keeping company with her cousin, but had lately discouraged his attentions and had aroused his jealousy. The night previous to the tragedy both had spent at the house of Benjamin Gee, another cousin of the girl's, and the shooting occurred as George Gee was leaving the place, he having called his cousin outside the door and then shot her through the body. He appears to have made little or no attempt to escape from the officers of the law, and shortly afterwards he was taken into custody and lodged in Woodstock jail. According to all accounts George Gee is a young man of intemperate habits and a shady record. Only a week or two before the shooting he had been arrested and fined, with one or two others, for causing a disturbance at the Bath, N. B., station. It is said that when he came to Benjamin Gee's Saturday night he had two bottles of liquor with him, and was drinking heavily. According to the girl's ante-mortem statement there had been no quarrel between herself and George Gee on the night previous to the shooting, and although he had more than once spoken of shooting his cousin it would seem that the murderous deed was due to the reckless demoralized spirit induced by the liquor he had drunk, rather than to malice *preconce*. The facts so far brought out in connection with the case indicate a lamentable lack of a strong moral influence in the community in which those principally concerned in the sad tragedy lived. The picture of George Gee with a bottle of liquor displayed in front of him, which appeared in a daily paper is highly suggestive. How much of the recklessness, dishonor and crime of our country finds its inspiration in the whisky bottle!