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Not Very Satisfactory. The result of the enquiry of the Railway Committee of the Dominion House of Commons into the charges that the Standard Oil Company was granted discriminatory rates by certain Canadian Railways is not, in the opinion of the Kingston 'Whig,' one upon which either the Government or the country is to be congratulated. It says: "The Railway Committee of the House of Commons met to hear the coal oil grievances and establish the fact that the Standard Oil people enjoyed exceptional privileges, and that they were favored through a tariff which the Government did not approve. A great victory was apparently won by the anti-combustible party. But what did it amount to? Did it affect the railways in any particular and change their policy? Not a bit of it? Prof. MacLean, who was delegated by the Government to go into this question exhaustively, finds that it is no uncommon thing to find the Canadian discriminated against in favor of the American, and as a result of competition for the freight by the American railways. The discovery is not surprising, and now that it is made what is the Government going to do about it? The Government cannot regulate the railway business. It is acting in an advisory capacity only, and the great corporations know how to treat the advice they do not want. If it is rejected that appears to be the end of it, and better that a Government should not interfere, than that it should be regarded with contempt. Canada, in brief, finds that after it has bonused railways to the extent of many millions it is without influence in determining their course and in protecting their patrons. It is a pitiable position."

The Pacific Cable. It appears from a recent report of Mr. Austen Chamberlain that good progress is being made in the construction of the Pacific Cable, in which undertaking Canada and Australia are co-operating with the Mother Country. The cable, according to Mr. Chamberlain's statement, is now being manufactured, the station houses are being erected, the route is being surveyed, and by the end of next year the enterprise will be completed. This will mean direct communication between Australia, Canada and Great Britain by a cable which wherever it is not under the high seas will be under the British flag. The New York Tribune, while commending the enterprise manifested in the pushing forward of this important undertaking, nevertheless confesses that Mr. Chamberlain's announcement is not agreeable news to Americans. "The United States," it says, "is sitting still while the British Empire goes ahead. And that is the case in the very quarter where this country ought to lead. The ocean of the future is the Pacific. The United States, with its vast frontage upon it and its islands scattered all the way across it, ought to be the foremost commercial power upon it. But commerce and communication go together. And if the direct cable communication from the other side of the Pacific is with Vancouver, to Vancouver travel and trade will come rather than to the Golden Gate. It has long been believed that while one Pacific cable would pay there is business enough for only one and no more. So the one which is laid first and gets a monopoly of business will be a very serious obstacle to the laying of another. We have no doubt that now the cry will be raised here that a second cable would not pay, and that therefore we would best depend upon the British cable. All the same, it would be the part of wisdom, from the commercial, diplomatic, naval and other points of view, for this country to make haste to lay an all-American cable across the Pacific. If Americans acted in this matter with the energy they have displayed in some other things, they might even yet beat the British in the race."

One Cent Letter Postage. It is intimated that there is a possibility of letter postage in the United States being reduced to one cent per ounce. This important change may be brought about, it is said, by the exclusion from the mails as second class matter of a large amount of matter which the Post Office department has been handling under that head and at an expense far in excess of the income derived from it. About three-fourths of the mail matter of the United States is rated as second class, and while the rate of postage on this matter is one cent a pound, it is said that it costs the Government to handle it from four to five cents per pound. Under this head are included the publications classed as periodicals. But it is pointed out that the second class rate has been enjoyed by a large number of publications which are not *bona fide* periodicals supplied to subscribers at regular subscription rates, but "fake" publications, the circulation of which in many cases are in the interests of lotteries and prize schemes. The Postmaster-General at Washington has lately signed orders which will have the effect of excluding such publications from the benefits of the second class rate. If sent at all through the mails, they must go as third class and pay a rate of eight cents a pound. This change is expected to save the Government several millions of dollars in the handling of the country's mail and may, as has been said, make a one cent rate on letters possible. But as there was a deficit in the U. S. Post Office department last year of \$3,500,000, the step to a one cent letter rate is hardly likely to be taken immediately.

Dr. Koch on Tuberculosis. The Congress on Tuberculosis held last week in London was, both on account of the subject under discussion and the eminence of the men in attendance, a meeting of great importance. The interest of the Congress centred in the address of Dr. Robert Koch, the eminent German scientist, who has given special attention to the study of tuberculosis in men and in animals, and who seems to be recognized as the world's chief authority upon that subject. Dr. Koch's deliverance before the Congress was in some respects quite revolutionary in respect to the generally entertained opinions upon the subject, and is said to have created a profound sensation among medical men. Especially in reference to the relation of human tuberculosis to the disease so named in animals does Dr. Koch's opinion run counter to that which has been generally received. He holds that human tuberculosis and bovine tuberculosis are quite distinct diseases. By repeated experiments he has satisfied himself that cattle cannot be affected with human tuberculosis, and though the converse of this is more difficult to prove, yet Dr. Koch distinctly expresses the opinion that there are good grounds for holding that human beings are not liable to infection from bovine tuberculosis. Dr. Koch discounts largely the theory of hereditary consumption, believing that the cases in which it occurs are comparatively rare. The chief source of the disease he holds is the sputum of the persons affected and the means to be used for prevention are the removal of the patients from small, overcrowded dwellings to hospitals established for them, compulsory notification to health authorities of cases of tubercular disease, systematic disinfection of rooms and the founding of sanitariums at which cures may be effected. Dr. Koch takes a hopeful view of the value of both preventive and curative measures, explaining in the course of his address how much good work has been accomplished by consumption hospitals in England and highly praising Dr. Biggs' system in New York, as worthy of study and imitation by all municipal and sanitary authorities. If Dr. Koch's theory as to the distinct character of human and bovine tuberculosis is correct, it follows of course that there is little or no grounds for fear of infection from the milk and meat of infected animals. However, notwithstanding the eminence of the German expert, this conclusion will not pass unchallenged, and physicians will hardly advise their patients or the public generally to banish at once all apprehension as to the possibility of contagion through these sources.

N. B. Eastern Association.

JULY 19-22.

When it was announced that this Association would convene this year with the Havelock church, no further assurance was needed that the attendance would be large and that the delegates would be most royally entertained. For Havelock is well known as an almost ideal place for such gatherings, being easily accessible by the R. P. & H. Railway, while the hospitality of its people seems unbounded. It is somehow expected (reasoning by induction) that once in six years or thereabout the Association shall convene with this church. This year the haymaking, which commenced unusually early, kept the farmers from attending all the sessions, but their homes and hearts were open to receive the delegates. We were privileged in having with us throughout the Association President Trotter, of Acadia, whose kindly words of counsel and inspiring addresses added much to the pleasure of the gathering.

FRIDAY EVENING.

The first meeting of the Associational gathering was devoted to the interests of the B. Y. P. U. work, with Rev. J. W. Brown, President of the Associational B. Y. P. U., in the chair. Rev. Mr. Addison read the Scriptures and Rev. M. E. Fletcher offered prayer. An address of welcome delivered by Mrs. J. W. Brown on behalf of the local Union was responded to briefly by Rev. H. H. Saunders. Reports from pastors having Unions on their fields were then called for, Rev. F. D. Davidson of Hopewell, reported two Unions on his field, one at Upper Cape and one at Lower Cape. Both are quite young and fairly well sustained, though he, the pastor, is not able to meet with the young people except at very rare intervals. Rev. B. H. Thomas reported a strong and active Union at Dorchester, which is doing good work in almost every line of Christian work. Pastor McLatchey reported a Union at Sackville which still exists under some discouraging conditions. The Moncton Union, reported by Miss Sullivan, is still the largest Union in the Association, though not as large as formerly. The membership still exceeds 100, and in financial and other ways is a source of strength to the church. President Brown reported the Union at Havelock as not strong in numbers, but still carrying on the work.

The first address of the evening was delivered by Rev. E. B. McLatchey on the Relations of the Active to the Associated Members. The true relation is that of service. There is in the church too much of the spirit of the world which wants things easy. But easy ways are often barren of results. The motive of the service should be nothing lower than love of God. We have a sound organization, but there is danger of a lack of energy, and the force may be all expended in running the machinery and leave nothing for effective work. So there is needed an indwelling and abiding energy which will result in constant activity, and wisdom given by God for the application of this force.

The programme called for an address by Rev. F. N. Atkinson, but after the programmes were printed Pastor Atkinson informed the Secretary that it would be impossible to attend, and Bro. H. G. Colpitts (L.C.) was expected to take his place. But when his name was called Bro. Colpitts excused himself, but spoke a few words warmly commending the previous address, and emphasizing some of the truths set forth by Pastor McLatchey. The meeting closed with the benediction by Pastor Addison.

SATURDAY MORNING

A B. Y. P. U. session, as has been held at 8 30, but it was 9 before the meeting was called to order by President Brown. Even then only a few were present and in the absence of Secretary and minutes there seemed little to do. But it was decided to elect officers as usual and do other necessary business. The election resulted in the choice of Miss Eva Sullivan, of Moncton, as President; Mrs. B. H. Thomas as Vice-President; Walter Tingley as Secretary-Treasurer; and W. W. P. Starratt, Willis Newcomb and Miss Winnie Keith as additional members of the Executive. A small balance was reported in the treasury and was left at the disposal of the Executive. The meeting closed with prayer by Rev. H. H. Saunders.

The Association proper began promptly at 9 30, with the Moderator, Rev. H. H. Saunders, in the chair. The

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