

Scottish Church Union Imminent

General Assemblies of Two Branches to Meet Last Time

Edinburgh, Scotland.—The General Assemblies of the two great Presbyterian churches will meet for the last time as separate bodies near the close of this month in Edinburgh, when the eyes of Scotsmen and Scotswomen the world over will be turned towards the city. During their sittings the assemblies will come to a decision of momentous import to the Scottish people; after 20 years of negotiation union is at last to be an accomplished fact. The final steps which constitutional procedure requires will be taken in the autumn. Many questions concerning church life and work at home and abroad will be discussed but the subject of union will overshadow all others.

The Church of Scotland membership is practically unanimous for union. At the last assembly an amendment for the rejection of the scheme received only seven votes. In the United Free Church, however, although an overwhelming majority are keen to go forward into the larger union, there is a minority led by Rev. James Barr, with a vote at the last assembly of 48 ministers and elders, which is determined to prosecute with all energy the arrangements for a continuing church.

FREE FROM STATE.

The majority maintain that by the acts of 1921 and 1925 the Church of Scotland freed herself of state control and interference and that the financial bond between church and state was broken. The minority believe the action proposed is against the principle of religious equality which they count as sacred a principle as spiritual freedom itself, and to the principle of voluntary support of religious ordinances.

In the debates which have taken place in the United Free Church Assembly in recent years there has been an absence of rancor in the speeches, the majority having always admitted that those who have consistently identified themselves with the minority have taken the stand in response to the dictates of conscience. There is no suggestion that the parting when it comes will be bitter.

The General Assembly of the United Free Church, having in November last voted by an overwhelming majority in favor of the union, the Presbyteries, Kirk sessions and congregations were asked to express their opinion. The great majority in each case was in support of the scheme. The figures now made public are: Presbyteries, 63 for and none against; Kirk sessions, 1,302 for, 91 against; congregations, 1,320 for, 104 against.

DUKE'S APPOINTMENT.

The appointment of the Duke of York as Lord High Commissioner of the Church of Scotland has given great joy to the Scottish people. It is regarded as a signal act of Royal favor. At the close of the assembly last year it was tentatively agreed that in the event of union taking place Their Majesties the King and Queen should attend the service in St. Giles' Cathedral at which the uniting covenant would be signed. The King's illness, however, made that impossible and it is considered a graceful act on His Majesty's part to send his son. The Duke will be the first member of the Royal family to attend the assembly since James VI. did more than 300 years ago.

His Royal Highness and the Duchess will take up residence at the Palace of Holyrood for 10 days and carry through a busy program of visits to the General Assembly and the numerous charitable and philanthropic institutions in the city.

Members of the Church of Scotland have chosen as their moderator the Rev. Dr. Joseph Mitchell, Mauchline, who has been a warm supporter of the union movement and a valuable servant on committees of the church. The United Free Church moderator is Rev. Dr. Alexander Martin, principal of New College, Edinburgh, who was moderator also in 1920. He has given years of labor to the cause of union. The moderator of the Free Church is Prof. J. R. Mackay, a distinguished theologian and scholar.

W. M. Birks Finds Britain Improved
Head of Chamber of Commerce Returns After Long Visit

W. M. Birks, president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, accompanied by Mrs. Birks and Miss Lois Birks arrived in Montreal in the special train from the Empress of Canada which docked at Quebec. They spent some time in Europe, in the course of which Mr. Birks motor-travelled through five countries besides Britain.

"The progress of Canadian industry and commerce is greatly appreciated in Great Britain," he said. "A proof of this is the fact that the Chambers of Commerce in London, Birmingham and Manchester were sending delegates to the Alberta convention in September. Trade is improving in England. I thought the improvement might be largely fictitious and the leaders of industry might be waltzing to keep their country."

Wet Weather Halts Farming Operations

Grain Growing Districts of Ontario Are Most Seriously Affected

The wet weather that has prevailed this spring in York and adjacent counties has had a somewhat adverse effect on farm conditions. Seeding is reported two weeks to a month late in some localities. Grain growing sections are affected most, but gardening conditions are reported as less serious. A late season for the gardener, however, may mean the loss of the early market.

Farmers of Scarborough are anxious to see a few days of dry weather, said W. D. Annis, clerk of the township. He stated that many of the prominent farmers had reported that their farming operations were retarded a full month.

Market gardeners and vegetable producers in East York Township report fairly good conditions prevalent. James Muirhead, of Agincourt, states that crops, such as oats and barley are coming along nicely in most cases. Fall wheat, on the other hand, requires dry ground, and the general effect of the recent storms has been to rot a good deal of it. In my estimation this is going to be an off year, though an immediate drying up of the weather may yet allow a fair crop," Mr. Muirhead considers that the hay crop is the most promising at present.

The Donalds Farm in York Township, the property of Mrs. D. A. Dunlap, is very well advanced in seeding, according to the superintendent, Dr. R. M. Jenkins. "We are fortunate in being on fairly high ground. Some others have their fields so wet that they have done very little seeding." "In Markham Township the fall wheat came along very well in the early spring," said Norman Porter. "The cold wet weather that followed held it back considerably, and a week ago it seemed pretty bad," he went on. "The last few days of warmth, however, have improved it fifty per cent."

Jess Baker, of Vaughan, who farms 250 acres, said that he had let the cattle out to grass on Friday, which is rather late.

Continued rains in Ontario County have greatly retarded the seeding and planting operations, according to W. M. Crookery, district representative for the department of agriculture. The grain-producing lands of Peel County are still half unseeded, according to G. R. Patterson, of the Department of Agriculture. He said that the northern section of the county in the vicinity of Caledon was in much better shape than the central and southern sections. The season opened earlier in the north on the sloping land and the few days of dry weather had given the section an early start. Spring wheat will be short, hay crops good and alfalfa, except in the low-lying parts, exceptionally good.

"The season is much delayed," said A. P. McVannel, of Milton. "There has been a heavy rain each week and that has held back operations, especially on the heavier land. The seeding around Georgetown and Acton is well on, but other places are not so fortunate."

Vehicles

Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph (Ind.): The opposition of the farming class to a general provincial law is part prejudice, part obstinacy and part laziness, but if the driver of a horse-drawn vehicle were risking only his own life the Government might well take the stand, under the circumstances, that his blood is on his own head. In point of fact, however, he is as much a potential menace to all other traffic upon the road as speeding motorists can possibly be to him.

Note the Bouquet



JAPAN OPENS AIR MAIL

Inauguration of air-mail service in Japan, showing pilot about to leave Tatakawa, airport for Osaka, with full cargo.

Flashing Signs Barred by Edict of Regent Street

London's Rue de la Paix and Fifth Avenue Combined Sets High Standard

London.—The merchants whose shops and stores have turned the rebuilt Regent Street into an English Rue de la Paix and Fifth Avenue combined are strongly in favor of newspaper advertising and just as strongly opposed to garish electric signs and other objectionable means of attracting attention.

This attitude received pronounced expression at the first annual dinner of the Regent Street Association, at which the Lord Mayor of London and many other distinguished guests were present.

A great deal of Regent Street is the property of the Crown, and one of the speakers at the dinner was A. S. Gaye, Commissioner for Crown Lands.

"Regent Street is not going to shrink from advertisement," he declared. "For advertisement is the sort of stimulant without which no trade in these days can enjoy health and vitality. But there are many ways of advertising. Within 100 yards of this room we can see a form of advertising by electric signs."

"We shall fight against anything of that sort being introduced on any large scale in Regent Street. There are plenty of other ways of adver-

tising, particularly by our shop windows and in the press. In relying on newspaper advertising we should intrust the work to men and women with a fine sense of language and for our pictorial art we should employ the finest talent available."

British Officials In India Guarded

Serious Developments Among Natives, According to Reports

London.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at Calcutta, India, reports that stringent precautions had been taken to guard high British officials because of "serious developments" among the natives.

The dispatch said reports filtering in from the hills showed that the Indian Government was facing difficulties, the nature of which have not been explained.

There were rumors current of secret movements of troops and military personnel and material throughout northern India, the correspondent said.

The Daily Mail dispatch said heavy guards had been placed around public buildings, and that Lord Irwin, the Viceroy, and various provincial governors and high civil and military officers were protected by guards.

Nearly thirty blind men are now practising with more or less success in the legal profession, three being recently called to the Bar.

Ferocious Beasts Affright Bathers

Shallower Beaches in Southern Pacific Dangerous For Summer

Sydney, N. S. W., May 18.—(A.P.)—Ferocious snakes, giant octopi, and salt water crocodiles have given a dangerous aspect recently to shallower sections of much of the Southern Pacific, which hitherto have been free from these menaces.

T. Vangioni while swimming in Akarga Harbor, New Zealand, endured terrific agony in the grip of tentacles of a giant octopus. A friend dived into the water and beat off the sea brute with a club, Vangioni being on the point of collapse when rescued.

He said he had dived into deep water when what he described as two devil's eyes, glowing and ferocious, seemed to dart down upon him, and even before the tentacles grasped him he felt utterly powerless. An uncanny fascination or paralyzing horror made him almost incapable of effort against the muscular and tenacious grip. Almost more terrifying than the amazing strength of the tentacles was an electric wires, which they seemed to impart, but whether this was real or due to terrified imagination he could not say.

People of North Queensland who have abandoned the practice almost everywhere of the distinct hot days have abandoned the practice almost altogether as consequence of invasion of salt water crocodiles.

At Carns three youths were bathing in an inclosure near the shore when one of them, Kevl Conlin, age 14, who was in water only 18 inches deep suddenly leaped into the air with a cry of agony. His companions were horrified to see pointing from the water the long jagged jaws of a crocodile wide open ready to snap again at the boy.

One happened to have with him a long pole, with which they had been engaged in some water sports, and with great presence of mind he raised this and brought it crashing down on the snout. Seizing their dazed and bleeding companion, they made for the shore, but the crocodile followed and made another vicious snap at Conlin, this time just missing his left leg, which, on account of a terrible gash in the hip, was trailing helplessly in the water.

After three human tragedies attributed to sharks at Bondi Beach, near the heart of Sidney, a commercial shark fishing company spread huge nets between two ships and secured 29 sharks, one of them a tiger shark, the most ferocious of the species, 20 feet in length and weighing between 800 and 900 pounds.

Several of the catch were "whaler" sharks, a kind which preys on whales. Some of these were found to have received amazing wounds, presumably in battles with the mammals, two being so maimed as to be half eaten away.

"The Raiding Chancellor"

Economic in the Review of Reviews (London): Mr. Churchill may go down to history as a bold but not as a successful Chancellor of the Exchequer. His first Budget was responsible for saddling the nation with a pension scheme which will not become self-supporting, even on his own calculations, until the year of grace 2005. In every other Budget he has raided one fund or resource after another, and has thus cleared out every nest-egg. He has the highly dubious record of having, by a species of financial legerdemain almost without parallel, imposed upon the super-taxpayer an extra year's tax. By the device of changing its name and calling it a surtax, he collects both super-tax and surtax on the same year's income.

Former Shah of Persia is Dying

Ahmed Kadjar, Dethroned and Forgotten, Nears Death in Exile

Paris.—Persia's king of kings, dethroned, forgotten, abandoned by almost all of his followers, is slowly nearing his death in exile, his doctors agreeing that there is little hope of his recovery and giving him but a few months longer to live.

The former shah recently underwent an operation at the American hospital at Neuilly, in the suburbs of Paris. The surgeons found that his condition was far more critical than the diagnosis had indicated. He is suffering from severe kidney trouble which has reached a stage where there is little that medical science can do. Since the king of kings has learned of the seriousness of his situation he had grown morbid, which is a handicap to his recovery. Since his dethronement, Ahmed Kadjar has been abandoned by almost his whole suite of followers. He receives very few visits at the hospital. Samad Khan, former Persian Minister to France, and Hassan Mohamed Mirza are about the only visitors the king receives, except a few members of his former household.

Before he became ill the former Shah was a popular figure in French society, in the theatres and in the restaurants of fashion, where he was always accompanied by strikingly beautiful women. His finances appeared sound, following his 1,000,000 franc coup on the Paris Bourse, although he did lose heavily in an industrial and oil slump.

He has engaged in politics but little. Even before he was dethroned he spent most of his time in Paris and very little in Persia. He often remarked that power was thrust upon him when his father abdicated the throne, before Ahmad Kadjar had a chance to play. He was only 11 at the time. He is but 31 now.

Even his death would cause almost no political concern in Persia, for he has no political followers. His brother, Hassan Mohamed, 30, has political ambitions, according to prominent Persians. If death overcomes the Shah his brother is expected to replace him as pretender to the throne. Hassan is ambitious to become the eighth Shan-in-Shah of the Kadjar dynasty. He insists that he alone is able to restore the dynasty.

Spain's King Opens Fair

Release of Thousands of White Pigeons Adds Brilliance to Scene as Alfonso XIII Declares Ibero-American Exposition Open—Dictator Attends Ceremony

SEVILLE EXHIBITION

Seville, Spain.—Despite all misgivings as to the success of the Ibero-American exhibition, Seville has suddenly become a city of crowded streets. The big fair was solemnly opened by King Alfonso in seven short words. The ceremony took place in the Plaza de Espana in the centre of the exhibition grounds, the imposing spectacle being witnessed by a crowd estimated at 70,000 gathered under a serene blue and cloudless sky.

The arrival of the King, Queen and Infanta was announced by salvos of guns, the signal for a tremendous ovation, while thousands of white pigeons were liberated over the tribune amid the waving flags of Spain and Portugal and the purple standard of Castile.

On each side of the semicircle were seen the diplomatic representatives of the American republics, resplendent in gold-braided uniforms. Opposite were the Cabinet ministers and Spanish grandees, and on the left the flower of Spain's aristocracy.

Gen. Primo de Rivera in the course of his speech said: "Our words vibrate across the world to tell it of the close embrace which unites brothers and sons and members of the same race." Apart from its political significance the fair is regarded as an event of unusual importance. Only after the greatest difficulty did authorities succeed in completing their preparations.

Even now some of the buildings are not ready for the inauguration, as, for instance, the Argentine pavilion.

The Government meanwhile is determined to end the harmful propaganda about conditions in Spain, and it is announced that a Madrid newspaper has been fined 50,000 pesetas for publishing an untrue item regarding an alleged brawl in Seville. This in fact was the only discordant note in the news of the inaugural ceremonies.

It is always risky to give a man who can not control his own manpower fifty or seventy-five horsepower to control.—Boston Herald.

"How can I tell if my daughter has the gift of painting?" asks a reader. "You can usually see it in her face!"—Glasgow Eastern Standard.

King Gustave, of Sweden, and the Queen, have been married forty-eight years now. Sweden, as you may know, is the home of safety matches.—Kay Features.

Canada's Diversified Natural Beauty Attracts Many Tourists



ONE TYPE OF BEAUTY WE IN THE EAST CANNOT ENJOY

Waterton Lakes, National Park, on the International boundary in Alberta, is the most southerly of Canada's scenic reserves.