

Messenger and Visitor

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER
VOLUME LXVII.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME LVI.

Vol. XXI.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Wednesday, January 25, 1905.

No. 4

Dominion

Parliament.

The address in reply to the speech from the throne in the House of Commons was moved by Mr. E. M. MacDonald, of Pictou, and seconded by Mr. Parent, of Montmorency. Mr. MacDonald is a practised debater, having had experience as a member of the Nova Scotia Legislature. His maiden speech as a member of the Dominion Parliament was well received. Mr. Parent is a young man, a son of the Premier of Quebec. In seconding the address he spoke eloquently in French. Hon. Geo. E. Foster followed signaling his return to Parliament by a speech of an hour's length in which he sharply criticised the Government for some things done and others left undone. Mr. Foster admitted that the country was prosperous, but held that the prosperity was due to the fact that the Liberals had built upon the foundations laid down by the Conservatives when in office. Sir Wilfred Laurier replied to Mr. Foster in a shorter speech. If the Liberals had adopted the conservative policy, the Premier said, as Mr. Foster charged, it seemed that policy in the hands of the Liberals meant prosperity, while in the hands of the Conservatives it had meant ruin. The Premier said that the only important legislation to come before the House was a measure granting autonomy to the Northwest Territories, and he hoped it would be possible to have a short session. The debate on the address was closed by a speech from Mr. W. F. McLean of Toronto. Mr. McLean criticised Parliament for paying too much attention to the interests of corporation and too little to remedying the grievances of the people. He also expressed the hope that he would see the day when Canada would frame her own constitution and rule herself without the aid of a Governor General sent out from England, and would be independent under the British crown. On Wednesday the Premier made a statement in reference to the filling of the vacancy made by the retirement of Hon. Mr. Blair from the Railway Commission. The appointment is to be given to a judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, and although the Premier did not name him, it is understood that Mr. Blair's successor will be Mr. Justice Killam, if he will accept the appointment, of which there is little doubt. Mr. W. F. McLean asked for explanations in reference to Mr. Blair's resignation, and said that serious charges had been made against members of the cabinet in connection with the matter. Sir Wilfred said he had not heard any such charges made, and thought from what had appeared in Mr. McLean's paper *The World* of Toronto, if there were any explanations to be made in connection with Mr. Blair's resignation, Mr. McLean himself might be in a position to make them. Hon. Sydney Fisher Minister of Agriculture, has introduced a bill to establish a census and statistical office under a chief officer, with a secretary and such other officers as may be necessary. The bill provides that the next census shall be taken in the month of June, 1911, and thereafter every ten years. It is understood that there is a further provision that 1906 a census shall be taken of the population and agriculture in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories and every tenth year thereafter. After passing the address in reply to the speech from the throne, the Senate adjourned to February 13. The address was moved by Senator David and seconded by Senator Black. Mr. Kidd, M. P., for Carleton, Ont. has resigned in favor of Mr. R. L. Borden, and it is expected that at the next of his party, Mr. Borden will shortly take his place in the House as leader of the opposition.

Cancer.

Interesting experiments which also it is hoped may lead to results of great value in therapeutics, have been made upon mice in the Gratwick laboratory of the University of Buffalo. Drs. Gayford and Clowes who have carried on experiments in connection with the study of cancer, claim to have effected cures of cancer in mice. They say that they have caused small tumors to disappear entirely and have retarded the growth of large tumors. These results have been reached by means of a serum. The occurrence which led to the discovery of the serum in question, we are told, was the spontaneous recovery of mice which had been inoculated. "The emphasis of the possibility of the animal overcoming the cancer led the experimenters to investigate the conditions under which this occurred, and, having for some time had in mind the possibility of the serum treatment for cancer, they conducted a series of experiments which have proved beyond question that the blood of mice which have

recovered from cancer possesses an anti toxic quality and when injected into mice suffering from cancer stops the growth and when the tumors are not too large causes their disappearance and leaves the mouse so protected that the tumors do not return. Furthermore, the mice which have been cured by this serum treatment also possess in their blood an anti-toxin which works in a similar way, showing that the cure of the tumors is the result of the development of a special immunity from cancer." It will be seen that a very important fact in connection with the experiments and results here noted is the spontaneous recovery in certain cases of mice affected with cancer. Cancer in man is generally regarded as incurable, but it is pointed out that there is evidence that spontaneous recovery from the disease has sometimes occurred, and this fact it is held, shows that there is apparently no discrepancy between the conditions found in man and those observed in mice. It is received as an established fact that a cure for cancer in mice has been obtained, that would not justify the conclusion that it is a plain step to the cure of cancer in man but it perhaps justifies the hope that by a process of experimentation a serum may at length be found which will be effective for the relief and cure of one of the most terrible diseases by which humanity is afflicted.

Mr. Combes'

Resignation.

After a rather stormy history of three years the Combes' ministry has come to an end. The decision to resign was taken at the close of a prolonged and disorderly session of the Chamber of Deputies. The Government was not defeated, being able still to command a majority of ten, but in view of the personal attacks continually made upon him and the extreme difficulty of carrying out his policy with so small a majority, Premier Combes deemed it to be the course of wisdom to resign. In this he has no doubt shown shrewd sense and statesmanship. For a leader to hold on to power so long as any possible manipulation of the forces on the political chessboard makes such a course possible is rarely, if ever, justified in his own interest or his party's, to say nothing of the paramount interests of the country. His voluntary resignation will probably give Mr. Combes great influence in the new ministry which is expected to pursue a line of policy similar to that in which the ex-Premier had so strenuously and ably led. His successor, though at present writing no definite announcement has been made, is likely to be Mr. Rouvier, and the ministry will probably be in part the same as that led by Mr. Combes. The Delcasse, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Bertheaux who lately replaced Mr. Andre when the latter was forced to retire on account of the spying system prevailing in the army, are mentioned as likely to have seats in the new Cabinet. It does not appear that Mr. Combes' retirement is at all a result of his movement for the separation of Church and State. That feature of his policy had the support of a large majority in the Chamber of Deputies. The unpopular feature of the late ministry was the system of espionage, the revelations in connection with which have brought much obloquy and ridicule upon the Government. And although the system had been abolished under the stress of popular and parliamentary indignation, it was remembered to the disadvantage of the ministry and was used as a weapon to force Mr. Combes' resignation.

Why Stoessel

Surrendered.

The correspondent at Nagasaki, Japan, of the London Express reports the results of an interview with General Stoessel. The defender of Port Arthur is represented as saying that the capitulation occurring on New Year's day was merely a coincidence. The loss of 203 Metre Hill and the subsequent capture of forts, combined with the deadly marksmanship with the terrible eleven-inch shells, the depressing effect of General Kondratenko's death and the fearful increase of scurvy really determined the time of capitulation. As regards parole, General Stoessel says that he distinctly discouraged any concerted action. Every officer decided for himself. Generally commanding officers stuck with their men and chose imprisonment. Most of the naval officers also chose captivity many probably being influenced by the fear of impending court-martial. The correspondent adds that conversation with other Russian officers reveals great bitterness against and denunciation of Admiral Alexieff for his failure to

properly fortify Port Arthur, and "his cowardly flight" by the last train from the fortress. They say the torpedo boat destroyers that escaped before the surrender carried all the regimental and naval colors to Chefoo. The junior officers denounce the incapacity and folly of the government in entering upon the war, and declare that all the men who return to Russia from Port Arthur are revolutionists in spirit. These opinions were openly expressed in the presence of General Stoessel, who remarked: "Let them talk; they have earned the right to think as they please by braving untold deaths for our country."

For Hudson

Bay.

President MacKenzie of the Canadian Northern Railway has announced the decision of the company to build a line of railway in the direction of Hudson Bay, starting from a point on the Prince Albert branch. Mr. MacKenzie is quoted as saying that the company will for the present devote its attention to this line to Hudson Bay rather than push forward to the Pacific coast. This decision of the company is taken to indicate the success of the exploration party that was sent out by the company last spring into north east Saskatchewan to explore thence northeasterly, with a view to locating a suitable route to Hudson Bay. It is expected that the company will begin the building of the Hudson's Bay line at some point between Melfort and Tisdale, on the Prince Albert branch. The railway will run northeasterly for a distance of about 500 miles, it is expected, while the company may also take advantage of Nelson River in completing the route. President MacKenzie also announced that the building of new terminals at Winnipeg would be begun "in the spring with a rush." The most important railway construction to be done would be the completion of the main line to Edmonton next summer. The completion of the Prince Albert branch in the spring is planned, and the building of a branch line from Swan River, on the Prince Albert branch, into the Swan River valley country. The company expect to have the line from Toronto to Parry Sound, about 160 miles in length, completed next fall.

A Place of

Skulls.

British soldiers have been recently employed in destroying some of the habitations of cruelty which still survive among some of the native tribes of West Africa. The London Mail says:—News has been received from West Africa of the destruction by the British in Southern Nigeria of two Ju-ju houses belonging to the Andoni tribe, in which ghastly atrocities were reported to have taken place. The first of these pagan temples was found to be a veritable "Golgotha," over 2,000 skulls being counted neatly arranged and fixed to the walls and posts of the house. After an inspection the place was set on fire. Some days later a chief, a Ju-ju priest, and a principal man of the town of Owere, who were found to be connected with a "bush ju ju," were arrested. The second shrine was reached after a canoe journey up a tortuous creek. Finally, the British party arrived at a small hut, completely closed in with vegetation; the interior being so dark that it was necessary to tear down the walls before it was possible to see what the place contained. Among the objects found was a large metal bell, inscribed "Otto Bakker, Rotterdam, 1757," used at the Ju-ju festivals to call the inhabitants of the neighboring towns together, and also during sacrifice.

The Damaged

War Ships

The London Times correspondent at Port Arthur, detailing the damage to the Russian fleet, says the battleships "Peresviet" and "Poltava" can easily be floated, but the former's super-structure is greatly damaged, and that the battleship "Pallada" and the armored cruiser "Bayan" apparently are not seriously damaged and can be refloated. The four vessels, the correspondent says, may be saved after great expense, but the difficulties will be great, as there is no dock in Japan for battleships. The battleships "Retvizan" and "Pobieda" seem to be hopelessly damaged. As regards the armaments, the turret guns were all destroyed before surrender. Some of the guns of the secondary armament are intact, but most of the small guns were removed to the forts. Three days before the surrender the ships were set on fire with kerosene and mines were exploded alongside. Russians state that the fleet was unfit for service after the engagement of Aug. 10. Coal was abundant, and it was used to protect the decks of the war vessels against howitzer shells. On the capture of Roju Hill the ships were sunk by opening sluices.

lines, it never re-
over the
11. 24.