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**British Trade Unionists.** The Trades-Union Congress of Great Britain held its annual meeting in London, September 2nd to 5th. The President's address included a denunciation of the Government's Education Bill and its grain tax which was described as an endeavor to relieve the rich at the expense of the poor. A resolution was adopted proposing more unified action among labor societies in the direction of securing larger labor representation in Parliament. The Shops Bill proposing a reduction of the hours of labor of clerks and other mercantile workers was endorsed and the Parliamentary Committee was instructed to support a measure for an eight-hour day for miners. A heated discussion on the subject of Compulsory Arbitration resulted in an emphatic condemnation of the principle. A resolution in favor of woman suffrage was rejected by the Congress, and a resolution declaring the South African war to be unjust was carried by a vote of 176 to 134. In another resolution the Congress expressed its disapproval of the South African war along with all territorial aggression.

**No Change of Name.** The General Synod of the Church of England in Canada which has lately held its annual session in Montreal, spent the greater part of a day in debating a proposal to drop the name "Church of England" for a name more in harmony with Canadian feeling and sentiment. In favor of the proposal it was urged by a member of the Synod from the Northwest that the name Church of England occasioned real difficulty, inasmuch as the Americans and other foreigners now pouring into the West thought that the church was something for the English people alone. Another member of the Synod instanced the case of Wales which had never taken kindly to the Church of England in Wales, because the name implied something which did not belong to the country. It was further urged that the Episcopal church in Canada was not the same body as the Church in England, since the Church of England was an established Church, while in Canada it was a free church. Moreover, it was argued that in a young country like Canada, they must not be always looking upon the glorious past of the church and what it had accomplished, but rather they must look to the future, and it was for them to assure that future by giving a name to the church which would have a rallying and consolidating effect. But although there was a strong feeling in the Synod in favor of a change of name, the prevailing sentiment was in favor of the retention of the old name. With the more conservative men of the East, and especially with those of English birth, the retention of the name of the parent church, with its prestige and wealth of tradition, naturally makes a more powerful appeal than the new Canadian national sentiment. The amendment postponing indefinitely the proposal involving a change of name was however carried by a majority of only two, and probably with the increase of Western influence the demand for the change will grow stronger.

**The Increasing Importance of Irrigation.** Artificial irrigation is bound to play a great and increasing part in connection with the agricultural industries of different countries. Even now a great deal of attention is being devoted to this subject. As the arable lands which can be cultivated profitably without artificial irrigation are more and more taken up, irrigation becomes more profitable, and as its possibilities become better understood it will be more and more resorted to. Much has already been done in the Western United States in this way to bring arid lands under

cultivation. In the Canadian Northwest irrigation has been introduced in southwestern Alberta and is certain to be rapidly extended. The damming of the Nile is rendering irrigation possible on a greatly enlarged scale in Upper Egypt. In Australia an important scheme of irrigation is on foot with the purpose of using the waters of the Murray River to fertilize the lands of New South Wales and Victoria. The Murray is the largest river of the Commonwealth, forming the boundary between the two States named, and afterwards flowing through South Australia whose interest in the Murray is principally that of navigation. A joint commission on the subject is making an investigation and will report its opinion in regard to the best practicable system for conserving, storing and distributing the waters of the river without interfering with its navigation. Sir Edmund Barton believes that it will be possible to irrigate a very large extent of dry country by means of the Murray River without injuring its navigability. It is proposed also to utilize the Darling River for a similar purpose.

**Methodism in Canada.** In his opening address at the Methodist Quadrennial Conference at Winnipeg, Rev. Dr. Carman, the General Superintendent, presented statistics which showed that the gain in the membership in the Methodist church in Canada during the past four years amounts to 11,353. The census for the Dominion taken last year shows that the Methodist population of Canada is now pretty well up toward one million. But the General Superintendent is disappointed rather than elated at the story which these figures tell, for comparing the rate of increase in the membership of Canadian Methodism for the last four years with that of other quadrennial periods, he finds a very pronounced decrease. The other increases in order were, in the quadrennial periods since 1883, 27,666, 36,399, 27,085, 19,584. This, Dr. Carman said, ought not to be so amid twentieth century evangelistic movements, the multiplied labors of special evangelists, and the Forward Movements of Missions and Epworth Leagues. "We shall soon have to ask ourselves whether there is, after all, any better method for the salvation of souls than the old protracted meeting and the penitential bench used by the revival pastor among his own people. Surely we need well to look to it that we be not drawn aside from our main business and aim, the personal salvation of men, women and children, to other church efforts, however close akin, and however excellent in their character. Whatever other systems may accomplish, Methodism cannot fulfill its mission without continuous and abundant revival. The diminution in the number of Epworth Leagues and Young Peoples' Societies is also worthy of remark." Regarding the percentage of gain in the Methodist body in comparison with other religious bodies in Canada, according to the showing of the recent census, it was found that the percentage of Methodists during the decade 1891-1901, was 8, of Anglicans 5, of Presbyterians 11 and of Roman Catholics 11. The Methodists had gained everywhere except in P. E. Island. With reference to requirements for the extension of the work of the denomination, Dr. Carman said: "While safeguarding the essential interests of our established work in well organized communities, what we would seem at the present moment to need in extended missionary districts and in such rapidly peopling tracts as new Ontario, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and British Columbia are the best practicable ways and means: (1) of securing a supply of suitable ministers and Christian workers; (2) of properly distributing these ministers and workers with due regard to economy and efficiency; (3) of obtaining the resources to sus-

tain these laborers and their indispensable institutions; (4) of inspiring and helping them in their work, especially in securing uniformity and effectiveness of administration of discipline; (5) of a wise and persistent maintenance of a uniform policy of advance, marking out new fields, drawing on the entire connexion for men as they may be required to meet the demands and emergencies, and uniting under proper regulations, all the resources for vigilant and energetic progress. Very much of this work in our older Conferences is already accomplished by our economy in its ordinary operations; and the only question we need ask is whether we are face to face with new conditions, and whether the work, or any part of it, can be more successfully and profitably done by feasible modifications of our church machinery."

**Goldwin Smith on the Political Situation in Ontario.** The present political situation in the Province of Ontario, is not exactly a dead-lock, is sufficiently near to that to be embarrassing to the Ross government and to prompt the discussion of means for relieving the tension resulting therefrom. The *Toronto Globe* in a recent issue publishes an interview with Dr. Goldwin Smith on the subject. Dr. Smith holds strongly to the view that the party system in Canada, and especially in Provincial administration, has outlived its day of usefulness. There is admittedly in Ontario at present no great principle at issue between the parties, and none is likely to arise. And "without a broad and permanent difference of principle, the division of the country into two hostile camps must surely be said to be irrational. Party without a dividing principle becomes mere faction struggling for place, with the necessary accompaniments of such a struggle, and sacrifice of the general interests of the country to the necessity of purchasing votes." Dr. Smith thinks it evidently impracticable for the Government to go on with only one of a majority in the Legislature and with a considerable popular majority against it. In such case "it would always be at the mercy of a single bolter or buccaneer." He deprecates the strain on the political morality involved in fighting out the battle in election courts and in bye-elections, and besides the results of such trials and elections, he thinks, could not be reasonably expected to give the Government a majority sufficient to establish its independence. Accordingly, Dr. Smith advises that the Legislature be called at once, a decisive vote taken, and then, if necessary, appeal again to the country. Such a course might indeed result in reproducing the present situation. In such case he would advise the leaders of both parties to lay aside their senseless and hollow animosities, put an end to their mutual abuse, come together and out of their combined elements form for the Province the best administration in their power. There is certainly much in the principle set forth by Dr. Smith to commend it to acceptance, but probably most men who have to do with the public affairs of the country will doubt its present practicability. It is not easy for men to lay aside cherished political traditions even after the principles which gave them existence have ceased to be vital. The fact that party divisions continue with almost unabated strength without any real principle at stake, would lead us to expect the revival of party divisions even if there should be a coalition of the best elements in the existing political parties. Besides all this, so long as the present party divisions obtain in Dominion politics, there is an argument of considerable weight in favor of similar divisions in Provincial politics on the ground that there is on the whole a better guarantee for the good administration in Provincial affairs when one of the great political parties can be held to account for it than in the cases in which the provincial administration is quite independent of either of the parties which are dominant in Dominion affairs.