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EDITORS MAIL

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To the Editor of the Commercial:

Dear Sir:— One hesitates to discuss denominational differences in the public press, but in view of the large interest taken by the general public in the question of Church Union, and in view of the many unfair and misleading statements heard at the Anti-Union meeting in the Presbyterian Church at Chatham on Friday evening, I would like the privilege of setting before the people a few items of documentary evidence I do this for the sake of the people who may wish to know what the official records say.

First, then, with regard to the question of "coercion." Rev. Dr. Duncan sought to create the impression that the Action of the General Assembly has been overbearing, tyrannical and unjust. Let us read the exact instructions of the General Assembly, meeting at Port Arthur, Ont., in June last, to its official committee on Church Union which is as follows:—

"The Committee is hereby empowered for, and on behalf of, the General Assembly, in its conferences with the like committees of the other negotiating Churches and by such conferences with representatives of the minority to use its best efforts, by amendment of the proposed legislation or otherwise (consistently with the principle and general form of the legislation as approved by the Assembly) to maintain the unity of the Church, or if that be impossible, then to reach a satisfactory agreement with the minority in reference to the

name and status of the non-concurring congregations and division of the denominational property and rights of the Presbyterian Church in Canada without recourse as far as possible to the Commission referred to in the said legislation."

In following these instructions the Assembly's Committee on Union, acting for, and on behalf of the Joint Union Committee of the negotiating churches, issued the following statement:—

"The committee resolved to draw the attention of any minority in the Presbyterian Church to the readiness of the Assembly's Committee on Union to Receive and Consider all Suggestions and Recommendations in terms of the above or to Confer Formally or Informally with any minority in terms of the above up to December 1st, 1923."

This offer to negotiate, has been before the anti-unionists since last June. Does this sound like "coercion?" The fact of the matter is Mr. Editor, that the inside history of the Union negotiations for the past twenty years shows that the majority has been exceedingly patient and charitable with the minority ever since there was a minority. On each and every occasion those in favor of this great forward step have used their utmost efforts towards conciliation and peace. The great movement has been delayed on two or three occasions in the interest of conciliation. This policy of Christian forbearance and patience is still being practised, and is evidenced by the fact that men like Rev. Mr. Mackintosh and Rev. Dr. Duncan are given the privilege of church buildings though they carry on a campaign in direct opposition to the decision of the church constitutionally expressed. Several persons in the audience on Friday evening last had a burning desire to answer the baseless contentions of the speakers but patiently desisted. The intelligent people of Chatham themselves are quite capable of judging between the spirit of these

speakers and that which dominates leaders of the Unionist movement.

Again, because Unionists are seeking an Act of Parliament to incorporate their Church, Dr. Duncan charges that the United Church would be a "Parliamentary Church" and "in bondage to the State." Let the incorporating Bill speak for itself on this point.

SPIRITUAL INDEPENDENCE
"Section 26—Notwithstanding anything in this Act contained it is hereby declared:

"(a) That the said Union of the negotiating Churches has been formed by the free and independent action of the said Churches through their governing bodies and in accordance with their respective constitutions, and that this Act has been passed at the request of the said Churches in order to incorporate the United Church and to make necessary provision with respect to the property of the negotiating churches and the other matters dealt with by this Act.

"(b) That nothing in this Act contained shall be deemed to limit the independent and exclusive right and power of the United Church to legislate in all matters concerning its doctrine, worship, discipline and government, including therein the right and power from time to time to frame, adopt, alter, change, add to or modify its laws, subordinate standards and formulas and to determine and declare the same or any of them, but subject to the conditions and safeguards in that behalf contained in the basis of Union."

In conclusion allow me to say that I have every respect for those who cannot CONSCIENTIOUSLY see their way clear to favor Union, but it gives me a feeling of sadness and disgust to see the discussion of a great religious issue cheapened and degraded by personal aspersions and baseless innuendo. Let us "speak the truth in love."
Yours very truly,
W. McN. MATTHEWS
Millerton, N.B., Nov. 24, 1923



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Here and There

In order to handle the grain this fall the Fort William, Ont. force of 360 elevator men will be increased to 700. From 120 to 150 grain trimmers will be employed.

For the five months to August, 1923, Canadian newspaper exports were valued at \$35,303,043 against \$27,267,332 for the same period in 1922. Pulp exports in the same period were valued at \$20,008,461 against \$16,076,533.

Grain loading on Canadian Pacific lines during the month of September totalled 26,976 cars or 38,245,200 bushels. This at the beginning of the loading season which was two weeks late this year on account of the retarded harvest.

This has been the greatest season for automobile tourists Montreal has ever experienced, according to the Secretary of the Automobile Club of Canada. Cars, he stated, had come into the city over the King Edward Highway at the rate of two hundred a day, an unusual number from California, Florida, Carolina and Virginia being noticeable.

There was nearly \$100,000,000 increase in the total trade of Canada for the first five months of the current fiscal year, according to a return made by the Department of Customs and Excise. The total trade of the Dominion, according to the return, for the five months ending with August, was \$785,000,000, as against \$628,000,000 during the same period a year ago. Imports during the period were about \$233,000,000, as against \$303,000,000 a year ago, while exports of Canadian produce rose from \$316,000,000 approximately to \$336,000,000.

There is a heavy demand for bushmen, according to the Government Labor Bureau at Montreal. The big lumber companies have been engaging men for the bush, and the prospects are that the demand will be sufficient to make fall and winter conditions good. Wages paid this year by the lumber companies are higher than last year, the rates paid being \$40 and \$45 a month, whereas a year ago the schedule was down to \$28 a month.

With the completion of the harbor works now in progress, Montreal will be in a much better position in 1924 to handle a record flow of grain than ever before. Windmill Point elevator will be increased by 1,250,000 bushels storage capacity, making its total capacity 3,250,000. Four additional shipping berths are being provided at this elevator and will be in commission early next month, and the elevator's loading capacity will be increased from 10,000 to 90,000 bushels an hour.

Reports to the Canadian Pacific Railway, show that there arrived at Winnipeg from the British Isles this year for the purpose of working on the harvest, 11,883 men. Special efforts are being made to find occupation for as many as possible to cover the winter period, and it is stated that it is now probable that a considerable number of these harvesters from Great Britain and the Irish Free State will remain in the Dominion.

Addressing a recent meeting of the Vancouver Board of Trade, President E. W. Beatty, of the Canadian Pacific Railway, announced that the company proposed immediately to add two large modern steamers to its coast fleet in order to take care of increasing tourist traffic over the company's coastal lines. He also announced the early completion of a new pier at this harbor at a cost of several millions, which has been made necessary by the steady development of Canada's trans-Pacific trade.

LIQUID LIGHT IS THE LATEST

Modern methods of lighting by gas and electricity may become as extinct as the dodo; if a new invention does what is claimed for it, it is a light which never goes out. There is nothing to pay except the original cost of buying, say, a half pint of Liquid Light.

The Liquid Light is poured into a bulb, and the resultant light is said to be superior to electric or any other known light, except Nature's own brand of daylight. This light, being in fact, radio-active, will remain good for seven years or more, when the bulb may require to be replenished.

It is claimed also that this liquid will eventually make coal and oil power a thing of the past. If that is the case, the real abolition of smoke seems to be in sight, for although electric power is smokeless, there will be smoke as long as fuel is used for its generation.

CAN CANADA GET THEM BACK?

(Bangor Commercial)
Canada is starting a campaign of repatriation, designed to bring home those Canadians who are located in other lands. It is one thing to start the movement, quite another to conduct it to success, but there is certain to be some measure of success. Canada must do more than in-bulk back its people who have sought other lands, more than to sound the tocsin of patriotism and loyalty to home. The reason Canadians have crossed the border or gone elsewhere is because they have found higher wages, more work or better living conditions. If the Canadian campaign is to succeed it must supply similar facilities at home and this will be a very difficult performance. Our own State, which has a large Canadian population, especially in the mill towns and adjacent to the border, has a vital interest in this Canadian movement.

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