

Czar Nicholas Advocates Universal Disarmament.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 25.—By order of Emperor Nicholas, Count Muraviev, the foreign minister, on the 24th inst. handed to the foreign diplomats at St. Petersburg a note declaring that the maintenance of peace and the abolition of the excessive armament now cranking all nations is the ideal for which all Governments ought to strive.

The Czar considers the present moment favorable for the inauguration of a movement looking to this end, and invited the powers to take part in an international conference as a means of thus assuring real and lasting peace, and formulating the progressive increase of armaments. The text of the note is as follows:

"The maintenance of general peace and the possible reduction of the excessive armaments which weigh upon all nations present themselves in existing conditions as the most important and ideal toward which the endeavors of all Governments should be directed. The humanitarian and magnanimous ideas of His Majesty the Emperor, my august master, have been won over to this aim in the conviction that this view is in conformity with the most essential interests and legitimate views of all the powers; and the Imperial Government thinks the present moment would be the very favorable to seeking the means."

"International discussion is the most effectual means of ensuring all people's benefit—a real, durable peace, above all, putting an end to the progressive development of the present armaments."

"In the course of the last twenty years the longing for general peace has grown especially pronounced in the consciences of civilized nations, and the preservation of peace has been put forward as the object of international policy. It is in its name that great States have concluded between themselves powerful alliances."

"It is the better to guarantee peace that it may have developed in proportions hitherto unprecedented, that military forces, and still continue to increase them without shrinking from any sacrifice."

"Nevertheless, all these efforts have not yet been able to bring about the beneficial result desired—pacification. The financial charges following the upward march strike at the very door of physical prosperity. The intellectual and moral strength of the nations' labor and capital are mostly diverted from their natural application, and are unproductively consumed. Hundreds of millions are devoted to destruction, while the engines of agriculture, though to a large extent regarded as the last word of science, are neglected, and labor loses to their value in consequence of some fresh discovery in the same field. National industry, economic progress and the production of wealth are either paralyzed or checked in development, in proportion as the armaments of such increase, they less and less fulfill the object the Governments have set before themselves."

"The economic crisis, due in great part to the system of armaments, therefore, and the continual danger which lies in this massing of war material, are transforming the armed peace of our age into a crushing burden which the peoples have more and more difficulty in bearing."

"It appears evident that if this state of things were to be prolonged, it would inevitably lead to the very catastrophe which is desired to avert, and the horrors whereof mankind is thinking being shudder in advance."

"To put an end to these incessant armaments, and to seek the means of warding off the calamities which are threatening the whole world—such is the supreme duty to-day imposed upon all States."

"Filled with this idea, His Majesty has been pleased to command me to propose to all Governments whose representatives are invited to the imperial court the assembling of a conference which shall occupy itself with this grave problem."

"This conference will be, by the will of God, a happy prelude for the century which is about to open. It would converge into one powerful focus the efforts of all States sincerely seeking to make the great conception of universal peace triumph over the elements of trouble and discord, and it would at the same time cement their agreement by a corporate consecration of the principles of equity and right whereon rest the security of States and the welfare of peoples."

C. O. P. Officers.

OTTAWA, Ont., August 28.—The Catholic Foresters Convention at Hull closed yesterday. The motion for the adoption of a reserve fund was unanimously adopted on condition that the greater portion of the fund belong to the province of Ontario. The officers elected are: Provincial chief ranger, A. A. Gibault, re-elected; Provincial Vice-Chief Ranger, F. S. Conroy; Provincial Secretary, F. X. Blodden; Provincial Treasurer, F. P. Jackson; Physician, Dr. Pellatier, W. G. Froulx, Montreal, Ed. Fliche, Quebec, Hull, M. J. Flanagan, Montreal, Dr. Laviolette, Montreal, J. M. McHardy, Montreal. Delegates to the International Convention at Burlington. Messrs. Pelletier, Leonard, Bernard, Murphy and Morrisette, to represent the district of Sherbrooke; Messrs. Tourigny, Dr. Beland, Capt. Tabor, Lemelin and Sullivan, to represent Quebec district, and Messrs. A. A. Gibault, F. X. Blodden, Rev. Lapalme, Dr. Lalonde, Eugene St. St. Aris, G. Z. Rondeau, J. Poulin, R. G. Simon, to represent Ontario. It was decided that the next provincial convention would be held at Fraserville, Riviere Du Loup.

SHANTROP, Ont., August 26.—The fourth annual convention of the Ontario Foresters Association, the Catholic Foresters concluded its work yesterday. Pombroze was chosen as the next place of meeting. This date being fixed by constitution on the fourth Tuesday in August. The convention assembled between 9 and 10 o'clock in the morning to elect officers and concluded in session, except

for a brief adjournment for breakfast, until the work was completed. The following officers were elected: P. O. V., Chas. O. Boudarant; P. V. G. R. L. V., Richard, P. S. Arthur Morel, Ottawa; P. T., Geo. W. W. Seguin, Ottawa. Provincial trustees—Messrs. J. A. Oshin, Thos. Webb, Rev. J. J. Feenoy, O. A. Fong, and the representatives to the High Court were elected.

A Knock down Blow for Chamberlain.

LONDON, August 25.—The election for the seat in the House of Commons for the South-East division of Lancashire, the trade vacant by the acceptance by Mr. George N. Curzon, of the Viceroyalty of India, was held on Wednesday, and resulted in the return of Sir Herbert Taylor-Loyland (Liberal), by a majority of 723. The Conservative opponent, Lord Skelmersdale. The poll was: Sir Herbert Taylor-Loyland, Liberal, 5,100; Lord Skelmersdale, Conservative, 4,378; Liberal majority, 722.

At the last election for the seat, Mr. Curzon, in the Conservative interest, was returned by a majority over Sir Herbert Taylor-Loyland. The result of the election is a bad defeat for the Conservatives. Mr. Curzon, having lost the seat in 1898, peculiar circumstances affected the contest. A section of Liberal Unionists, headed by the chairman of the Local Unionist Association, declined to support Lord Skelmersdale on the ground that now that the Home Rule agitation is dead, there is no longer any need for Liberals to vote for Conservatives. Thereupon, Mr. Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, plunged into the fray with a letter urging the Unionists to vote solidly for Lord Skelmersdale, because Home Rule was not dead but only sleeping.

The Unionist leaders protested to Lord Curzon for this "little Unionist" move, the success of which is likely to have important results as regards the relations of the parties in the future. All the papers agree that Lord Skelmersdale's defeat is an expression of the electors' dissatisfaction with Lord Salisbury's Chinese policy.

The Daily Chronicle and the Daily News (Liberals), declare that it sounds the knell of the Conservative Government.

Religious Ceremony at Loretto Abbey.

It seems paradoxical to the progress-ive spirit of the age, that women turn away from and attract the highest ways to fame and fortune and seek the inmost depths of the forest where the music of the world's laudations never penetrates. But day by day the beautiful attractiveness of religious life unfolds itself to the chosen ones who seek admittance to the cloister, that home of silent prayer. Loretto Abbey, which was opened on Wednesday last, when a number of guests were admitted to witness the very interesting ceremony, the reception of four postulants and the profession of seven nuns. The adornments of nature and the adornment of the church enhance the beauty of the temporary chapel, which presented a lovely aspect. The sanctuary was filled with clergymen from Toronto and elsewhere, among whom were noticed: Rev. J. J. McCann, D.D., V. G. Administrator of the Archdiocese, who officiated, also Rev. Fathers Ryan, Treacy, Hand, Molony, Cruise, Feehan O. C. O., McKown, Walsh, McChayer, Rev. J. J. McCann, D.D., Dolan, and others. The choir, under the direction of the Very Rev. J. J. McCann, D.D., sang a magnificent sermon, taking for his text the words: "Whoever shall do the will of my Father shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven." The entire discourse was a beautiful, powerful and sweetly, sublime in sentiment and delivery, combining in effect. At the close of the sermon, the postulants, attired in bridal robes, and each attended by a little train-bearer, approached the altar in the usual manner, and were clothed in the habit of religion. When leaving the chapel to divest themselves of their worldly attire, the beautiful words of the profession were recited. The depth of the meaning lying hidden in the sacrifices they contemplated. Returning in the costume worn by the novices, they received the white veil, cincture and rosary, and then retired to their places in the choir, where the novices aspiring to profession came forward for the celebration of a ceremony even more solemn and more significant than the reception. They first received the black veil, then the cincture, crucifix, and habit, and then the virtues peculiar to the religious state.

Mass was then celebrated by Rev. Father McKown, and the solemnity of the Holy Sacrifice was enhanced by the appropriate hymns sweetly rendered by the choir. The choir, with the violin obligato, was particularly beautiful. At the "Domine non sum dignus" the novices approached the Holy Table, and before communicating each read and signed her vows, after which they were greeted by the welcome words: "Veni Spem Christi," which came in sweetest accents from the choir, as if they interpreted the invitation of the Heavenly Bridegroom.

At the close of Mass the Te Deum was sung, and the choir, accompanied by the violin obligato, was particularly beautiful. The choir, with the violin obligato, was particularly beautiful. The choir, with the violin obligato, was particularly beautiful.

There is a more serious menace to good health in the present age than kidney disorders, and it's an appalling fact, but a true one, that four-fifths of the country's people have their kidneys diseased with them. Dr. Cass's Kidney-Liver Pills cure all kidney ailments.

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Resolution of Condolence. Toronto, August 24th, 1898. At the special meeting of the Provincial Commandery of the Roman Catholic Union of the Knights of St. John, held on the 24th inst., the following was submitted and adopted by a unanimous vote of the Commandery: In Memoriam: It hath pleased Almighty God to call to his reward, in the full vigor of life, in the zenith of a most distinguished career, crowned with honor and the highest respect of his fellow citizens, the late V. G. Administrator of the Archdiocese, John Walsh, D.D., Archbishop of Toronto, and his intense sense of loss at his sudden death. Resolved that the different Commanderies of our Order throughout the Province be instructed to have, as far as practicable, a Mass of Requiem offered for the repose of his soul. Resolved that it hereby officially and personally extends to the Very Rev. J. J. McCann, V. G., Administrator of the Diocese, and to the relatives of the deceased Archbishop, the tenderest expression of its deepest condolences. Resolved that as an additional token of affection and respect it is hereby ordered that this memorial, and the resolutions attached, be spread upon the minutes of our proceedings and a copy thereof be officially forwarded to the Very Rev. Vicar General McCann, Administrator, and to the Rev. James Walsh, nephew of the deceased Archbishop.

Montreal '98 Centenary Association. MONTREAL, Aug. 25.—The final meeting of the '98 Centenary Association was held on Tuesday in the Hibben Hall, a large number of delegates being present. It was unanimously decided to attend the sum of one hundred dollars through Mr. Patrick Ford, of the Irish World, New York, to the Irish Famine Fund. Before the dissolving of the association, Mr. Frank McCabe, the popular secretary, who labored so energetically for the success of the demonstration last June, was presented by the association with a gold headed cane in recognition of his services. The presentation was made by the chairman, Mr. B. Wall. A committee of seven was appointed to make arrangements for a convention of the Irish National societies of Canada, to be held in this city in the near future. A committee was also appointed to make final arrangements for a banquet to be held in the Young Irishmen's Hall, on the 15th of October.

Death of Mr. M. Parcell. It is with great regret that we chronicle the accidental death of Mr. Michael Parcell, of Geary, which occurred on Saturday the 13th August under very painful circumstances. A train going over the crossing on his farm passed over him. The deceased gentleman was in his 60th year and was a well known brother of the well known Parcell family of railroad contractors. He was extensively engaged in agricultural operations on his fine farm on the lake front, five miles from the town of Geary. The community at large have lost in Mr. Parcell one of the most respected

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