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CHRISTMAS.

Today is Christmas, the anniversary of the birth of the Nazarene, whose teachings are as fresh and as applicable as when he preached that greatest of sermons on the Mount of Olives. The effect of the life and teachings of the Christ has been so potent for good that it might not inaptly be said that the only history worth reading is that which commenced with His advent among men. Considering Him simply as an ethical teacher He is the greatest, that was ever born when the fruit of His tutelage is taken into consideration. Compare the effects of the teachings of Mahomet with His and what an infinite difference there is between the results wrought by the two. The followers of Mahomet are steeped in bigotry, ignorance, intolerance, cruelty, selfishness and superstition, while those who believe and follow the teachings of the Saviour are enlightened, humane and represent all that is good and great in the world. They represent the civilization that founds the asylum for the sick and the helpless, and that provides the refuge for the fatherless and motherless. It is the civilization of progress and advancement, and that which has produced the highest moral type the world has yet seen.

What wonder is it, therefore, that Christians all over the world make Christmas the most joyous festival of the year? Everywhere that the Christian dwells the day is made an occasion of a general gathering under the home roof-tree. Christians cross wide oceans and continents and make perilous journeys in order that they may join in the home festivities of yuletide. Today there is happiness and joy in the hearts of millions over the fact that many of the long absent are gathered around the board and enjoying the good cheer and the kindly spirit that seems to bear the impress of the teachings of the Saviour. It is essentially, however, the day of days of the children, when the merry, good and generous Santa Claus comes to them loaded with the very things that they most wished for. Here in Rosland the people will enter heartily into the spirit of the holiday time and gather around the festive board and indulge in the Christmas tree festivities with as much zest as though they were with the old folks at home. They will burn the yule log with as much enthusiasm as have their ancestors for hundreds of years in the Motherland. They will sing Christmas carols, as has been the custom in Merrie England, since which time the memory of man runneth not to the contrary. In short, they are carrying out today all the old British customs with as much heartiness as though they had always remained at home. Whether they are British born, or the children of British born, one, two or three generations removed, it amounts to the same thing, for they adhere to all the old Christmas traditions.

This is as it should be, for the effect of the observation of the time-honored holiday is good and wholesome. Who of us will ever forget the first year, when we thought Santa Claus paid us, when we believed in his existence as implicitly as we do that the night will follow the day? The festivals are the white stones that mark our lives, and the longer they are kept the better it will be for mankind, and the longer we can keep up an interest in them the better it will be for us individually. And so we will fervently hope that Christmas will forever be what it is now, the greatest of Christian holidays, for it brings with it nothing but peace and good will and great joy.

THE DEMANDS OF CAMBORNE.

The enterprising citizens of Camborne, the metropolis of the great Fish River country in the Lardcan, seem to have lost all patience with the McBride government and boldly taken the bull by the horns.

There is no richer mineral field in Southern British Columbia than the country tributary to Camborne. The surrounding hills are fissured with a huge network of veins containing almost insoluble wealth in gold, silver and lead. Because of the stupidity of past governments and the absolute

diffidence of the present one, the development of this promising section has been retarded to such an extent that the business men and prospectors there have been rendered well-nigh desperate. They were attracted to Fish River by the marvellous ore showings and naturally expected to prosper as the country was opened and the mines placed upon a dividend-paying basis. They never supposed that the provincial government would be so foolish as to refuse to build the necessary roads and trails to allow development to proceed. But this is just what the government has done, and in so doing has struck a serious blow at the prosperity of everybody now resident in the district. The patience of the good people of Camborne being thoroughly exhausted, they have adopted a more determined attitude than mere supplication. At a mass meeting held last week they outlined their grievances in a very businesslike manner, with the result that the following demand will be presented to the authorities without further ceremony:

"That this meeting endorse the petition now being circulated for a wagon road from Goldfield to Boyd creek.

"That this meeting condemn the work which was done on the Beaton-Camborne road previous to the expiring and endorse the continuing.

"That this meeting ask for \$1000 to be spent on the Beaton-Camborne road.

"That this meeting ask for \$2000 to build a road from a point near Goldfields to Boyd creek.

"That this meeting ask for \$250 to build a trunk line from Fish river to Boyd creek.

"That this meeting ask for \$400 to be spent on Pool creek trail.

"That this meeting ask for \$200 to repair the trail on the west side of Fish river.

"That the government be requested to finish the Boatrice trail."

There is a reasonableness about these demands that should instantly appeal to any sensible government, but as the province does not enjoy the blessings of a sensible government at the present time the prospects for a reasonable understanding of the matter are none too bright. Regardless of the fact that Camborne is represented by a McBride supporter, the people of that section are liable to get scant justice at the hands of Premier McBride. It is hoped, however, that they will stand out stoutly for their rights, for the whole country will benefit if the development of the Camborne camp goes ahead.

THAT G. T. R. DEPOSIT.

In lieu of the \$5,000,000 cash or the equivalent of that sum in government securities, the Grand Trunk Pacific company has deposited G. T. R. stock to the value of \$5,000,000 to bind the contract with the Dominion government.

This stock, it is asserted, is above par and is therefore at least as valuable as cash or government securities. That may be; but it is neither cash nor government securities, and these are the guarantees required by the contract. Legislation will be needed to alter the contract so that the proffered deposit can be made legally acceptable.

Will there be another session of parliament for this purpose, or will Sir Wilfrid decide to go to the country confident that his government will be returned to power and trusting to the next parliament to pass the necessary legislation? We think it is more likely that the former course will be adopted. The desire to have the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme endorsed at the polls is one of the reasons given for the proposed premature dissolution of parliament, and the government could hardly ask the electors to approve of an uncompleted contract.

But this question will occur to many: If the Grand Trunk Pacific company is able to deposit five million dollars worth of G. T. R. stock which is worth more than par, why is it unable to deposit cash or government securities of that amount? If the stock is selling above par, it should not have been difficult to exchange it for cash or government securities.

TO FIGHT THE STANDARD.

A very interesting piece of news is the announcement that the four "Independent" oil companies doing business in Eastern Canada have joined forces and organized a new company, with headquarters in Hamilton, for the purpose of fighting the great Standard Oil company. Such an exhibition of courage is stimulating. The new organization is like a young commercial David going forth to do battle against a mighty Goliath. To those who are familiar with the resources and methods of the Standard Oil trust, as set forth by Henry Demarest Lloyd and Miss Ida Tarbell, the boldness of this organized Canadian opposition to the puissant Rockefeller will be appreciated. However, these Canadian oil men are proceeding with their eyes wide open. They know just what they are up against, and as they are shrewd business men there is no doubt that they have carefully estimated their own fighting powers and advantages as well as those of the enemy, and have concluded that they have a good chance to maintain their ground. Their challenge will hardly be ignored, and we may be sure that exciting times are ahead in the Canadian oil trade.

POLITICAL CONVERSIONS.

Britain has seen many fatal crises in her varied political history, but it may be doubted whether any one of these has been more sudden and dramatic

in its possibilities than that of which the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain is the author. Today, on the verge of three score and ten, he stands alone, stripped of the most herculean task ever undertaken by a single statesman. There is something of the Titan in the figure of this embodiment, inwardly and outwardly, of the modern spirit—the man who seeks to turn the current of an Empire's history into a new channel. Yet he carries his burden lightly as his comrade leaders have left the party before or have led them into strange and devious paths, but rarely have they stood just as Mr. Chamberlain now stands.

The last half of the 19th century witnessed three remarkable transformations in British party politics. Each of them ended differently, all of them directly or indirectly ultimately made for the good of the nation. The first of these came when Sir Robert Peel recognized that the maintenance of the corn laws was an impossibility. It required the Irish famine to drive home conviction to his mind. But the work of educating the people had already been accomplished. In his new departure he took with him all his colleagues except Lord Stanley—afterwards Earl of Derby—the Rupert of debate. His own particular friends, afterwards known as the Peelites—and seldom has a more distinguished band stood within the walls of parliament—rose to eminence in the ranks of the Liberal party. The greatest of them, William Ewart Gladstone, on whom Peel's mantle fell, completed his leader's work and raised the fabric of free trade, whose foundations the man of today now seeks to destroy. No one now questions the uprightiness of Peel's character or the purity of his motives. But the apparent betrayal of the landed interest wrought by the opportunity of Benjamin Disraeli, afterwards Earl of Beaconsfield, who began his career by launching at Peel unceasing diatribes of satire, sarcasm and venom.

Time brought its own revenge. The same party that resented so bitterly Peel's change of front meekly followed Disraeli in his astute scheme to "dish the Whigs." That remarkable man deliberately set himself to educate his party and succeeded. As was wittily said he found the Whigs bathing and stole their clothes. From the party who had so strenuously opposed the moderate reform bill of Lord John Russell came the Household Suffrage Bill of 1867. But Disraeli had sowed the seed of success, and Gladstone's administration of 1868 was followed by the Conservative government of 1874, and the rehabilitation of that party in the councils of the nation.

Very differently ended Gladstone's great reversal over home rule—the third and last of the century. In that unexpected departure he took with him the bulk of his followers and many of his colleagues; but he failed to carry the country and gave to the Unionist which long spell of domination which may only now be broken, not by the vigor of the opposition, but by its own weakness and the impulsive action of its strongest member.

What the feeble remnant of the once all powerful Liberal party could do for itself Mr. Chamberlain has done for us. The man whose bickerings and rivalries have made them the despair area of their own party have found common ground at last under the old banner of the anti-Corn Law League. Under it, too, will fight those Unionists to whom free trade is still a blessed word. They will be armed with all the catching phrases and speaking object lessons which did duty in the old days of the reform demonstrations. They will have with them the seething mass of discontent which exists and which will now come rapidly to a head. The education bills of the government have roused deep resentment among the Nonconformists—the disclosures of the South African commission have led to a general demand for a victim. Then there is the fluctuating class who think it only fair to let the other side have a chance—the activity of the new labor party—the spread of Socialism—a declining trade always laid to the account of the government. None can deny that Mr. Chamberlain has work to do which might well daunt any statesman. Yet to a man of his type difficulties exist only to be overcome.

TO THOSE ABOUT TO SWEAR OFF.

About this time many good citizens are pondering the advisability of "swearing off" on the first day of the new year. By way of encouragement to those who, though never guilty of spree, yet touch the harp so regularly and with such perfect rhythm that the amount of alcohol they absorb is great—in the course of the year than the aggregate consumed by the erring brother who is addicted to "periodicals," and thereby advertises himself unfavorably, we quote his medical authority to show that the "steady" is more liable to injury—barring tumbles on the icy pave and fights—than the "occasional."

A man may provide well for his family, attend strictly to business, accumulate a goodly store of this world's goods, break no hearts nor bring any gray hairs down in sorrow to the grave and still be a slave to alcohol and its certain prey.

Dr. Edward C. Spitzka, an American physician, is no shouting reformer. He is simply a recognized authority in nervous diseases—a scientific investigator who studies causes and effects. Dr. Spitzka adds his testimony to that of other physicians who have found that the man who now and then indulges in strong drink to excess is less liable to the injurious effects of alcohol than the steady drinker. He declares, by the way, that no drop of alcohol ever did any real good, except in emergencies, and then the benefit derived was only temporary. The man who believes he needs a stimulant, that nature cries for it and, being infallible must be obeyed, deludes himself. Especially dangerous to brain workers is this fallacy. The weary business man or professional man who seeks to aid his brain by taking an alcoholic stimulant does and spews the jaded beast but does not refresh it. The nerves are already suffering from the poison of weakness and the poison of alcohol has a more injurious effect than in the case of a man who is merely physically tired.

"One of the particularly disastrous features of steady drinking to excess, of course," says Dr. Spitzka, "is that the man addicted to it becomes in time unable to take the same amount of alcohol into his system without suffering disproportionately therefore. This is the kind of patient who may appear to be suffering from a delirium after having taken only a few drinks, but the delirium is not really due to the amount of liquor he has taken, but, in fact, is because of the brain changes which have already occurred in consequence of his previous drinking. From the time that the brain becomes thus affected, the consequences of even moderate drinking are comparable to an avalanche which gains in its power for harm as it rushes onward."

So it seems that he who swallows his seven or eight toddies a day, and carries them like a major, is in greater danger than the man who lets the party severely alone for weeks and then "paints the town" in a way that is scandalous. This is not a temperance lecture. It is merely a hint from recognized scientific authority. It is worth thinking over.

THE FAR EASTERN CRISIS.

There would seem to be no escape from hostilities in the Orient. Japan has learned and has not approved of Russia's terms regarding Manchuria and Korea. A refusal to accept and a request for the modification of the terms has been sent back to St. Petersburg. Whether it is accompanied by an ultimatum or not the dispatches do not say. But from the present position to the ultimatum is as short a step as from that to war. The Japanese are spurring for a fight and the Russian government is apparently quite willing to accommodate them. The caution and conservatism of the Japanese government is all that has prevented the two nations coming to blows. The cool heads who are guiding the destinies of the Orient island empire realize far better than do the Japanese people the danger of measuring swords with so formidable and merciless a foe as Russia. The stakes in the conflict would not be even. Russia would place at the hazard of war's fortune some ambitions, some territory and some Pacific ports. Japan on the other hand would almost risk national existence. If Russia should beat the Japanese forces in Korea, soil, where the land battles would be fought, it would mean the end of Japanese expansion. The is-

THIRTY-TWO TO ONE.

Thirty-two to one is the ratio virtually agreed upon by the Commission on International Exchange as the proposed ratio to be established by concerted government action between gold and silver. Professor Jenks of the commission—upon which only China, Mexico and the United States are represented—has just received the conclusions of the monetary commission of Japan, also endorsing the ratio of 23 to 1 as the proper ratio to be adopted for silver coinage by all silver-using countries which may adopt the gold standard.

The ratio has already been adopted by Japan, the United States in the Philippines, and other adopted or resolved upon in most European dependencies in the East Indies. Mexico will probably adopt it, calling in her present silver coinage.

The renewed international discussion of this subject grew out of the trouble caused in the world's dealings with China. The fluctuations of exchange were so frequent and so violent that no merchant in China or other silver-using countries could ever know what he must charge in silver for commodities which he had paid for in gold, in order to get his money back. The outcome will probably be an interna-

AFAIRS IN ONTARIO.

With the loss of the North Renfrew seat, prospects for the Ross government of Ontario look rather doubtful, to say the least. The defeat in that district was certainly most richly deserved, for the government had deprived North Renfrew of representation in the house for about a year and a half, simply because the government thought it was thereby furthering its own interests. Its loss of the seat is therefore poetic justice, and no man who has a regard for the true princ-

lands are already over-populated, and provision must be made for an overflow. With Korea taken away there is no place left. If Russia should win on the sea nothing but British interference would prevent the earl insisting upon provisions in the terms of peace which would enable him to immediately or eventually dominate the land of the Mikado. The members of the Japanese administration and the older advisers who have been called to council realize how serious it would be if the outcome of war with Russia should be anything but a complete victory for Japan. Therefore, they hesitate and temporize.

The Japanese people demand war, and it now looks as though the demand would have to be conceded. A spirit of this sort pervading a people is an awkward thing for statesmen who want to arrange a compromise. But it is the best thing in the world for a general undertaking like a campaign. In the present case Russia's numerical strength and the Japanese spirit, if war is declared, should furnish the world with a bloody spectacle.

Some person, evidently closely connected with the McBride government, has been writing to the Winnipeg Free Press in the matter of British Columbia's finances. The letter is not published, but the Free Press gives the following summary of its statements: "Our present indebtedness to the bank is of very recent date, and consists of \$1,000,000 borrowed upon special warrants to pay off accumulated deficits, and that the interest has been paid, and that the financial arrangements now being made will wipe out the province's indebtedness to the bank by next June and probably leave the province with a surplus on the year's operations." It is to be doubted, unfortunately, whether this comforting prediction will be fulfilled. The allotted loan will not meet the debt to the bank and the accrued interest, and the new order of taxation may not raise as much revenue as the government needs. But the richest part of the letter to the Free Press is this sentence, which is peculiarly McBrideque: "The Bank of Commerce did not refuse the province credit, but merely did its part to aid in the reform necessary to bring about the rehabilitation of the province's credit." Oh no of course not. The bank did not refuse a loan, but it inspired the government to pile on taxes so that it might be sure of its interest. Government by permission of the money lenders is the state of affairs in this province just now. It is very refreshing to have the fact announced from an "authoritative source"—Mr. McKillop or another.

B. C. AND THE BANKS.

Canada has good reason to feel gratified over the rapidly with which its great Northwestern territory is now developing. For many years after the first Northwest "boom" came and went the country dragged along in a rather doubtful manner, its people regarding themselves to a prospect of gradual improvement and outsiders remaining in ignorance of the opportunities there to be found. From this state of affairs there has been a marked transformation, as facts quoted by the Winnipeg Commercial in a review of the past year show. The past two years have wrought a wonderful change in almost every section of Western Canada. The development during the years previous to 1906, while fairly rapid, was not nearly as great as during the past two years. During 1902 there was a large increase in the annual immigration, particularly from the United States. In that year immigration from the United States for the first time assumed really important proportions and began to attract general attention.

The year 1908, now in its dying days, has in many respects been the most remarkable in the experience of Western Canada. The great development in 1902 has been outdistanced by the more rapid growth of the last twelve months. The movement of settlement from the United States to the fertile plains of Western Canada has been accelerated. Settlers from the south have been coming in thousands, and there is every prospect that this stream will continue to flow, until our country has received a great number of thrifty settlers from this source of supply. The general development of the country has been in keeping with the great increase in immigration. Railways have been reaching out into new territory. New towns have been springing up where there was scarcely any settlement a few years ago, and some of the older towns have experienced a remarkable growth. Large areas of territory which contained scarcely a settler three years ago have been fairly well filled up within the last year or two. Everywhere there has been the throbbing of a new life. The work of the nation-building in the new West has everywhere been going on with feverish rapidity.

The momentum reached in the movement of developing the great West has now acquired such force that it would be difficult to stay the march of progress. Like the avalanche which sweeps down the mountain side, the movement has been gathering force as it moves onward. Only a remarkable series of catastrophes could change the course of the wave of progress and development which is sweeping over the country, and turn the tide of immigration to other parts. It is true that conditions have been favorable for advancement. The enormous crop produced by our farmers in 1902 was a great advertisement for the country. Again a very good crop this year, in most sections, has assisted in accelerating the movement. A crop failure next year, while it would undoubtedly mean a serious loss, would not stop this development.

WESTERN DEVELOPMENT.

There is a good prospect that the much wronged Captain Dreyfus will be given a proper measure of justice when his case comes before the court of cassation—which is the equivalent of our court of appeal. According to recent despatches he has some very strong points in his favor to present, and the civil tribunal will not have the same motives to work injustice that actuated the notorious military court at Rennes.

The revision commission, which was composed of military officers, was moved to grant the new trial by the submission of evidence brought to light by the minister of war as the result of an investigation made in his behalf by one of his staff officers and which points conclusively to the innocence of Dreyfus. Some of it was deliberately suppressed at the second court-martial which was held at Rennes, because it bore directly upon the outrageous conspiracy formed against Dreyfus and which resulted in his conviction of treason, his degradation and dismissal from the French army, and his exile for four years on Devil's Island. Moreover, the revelations which followed the second court-martial and fired the enthusiasm of the honorate on Count Dreyfus and forced Colonel Henry to commit suicide, have caused the chief architect of the headquarters staff, where the Dreyfus conspiracy was hatched, to modify the damaging testimony he gave against the accused officer.

The people of France are now sufficiently removed from the influence of the events which originally prejudiced their minds against Dreyfus to accept complacently the decision for a revision of his case. The exposure of the conspiracy and confessions, flight and self-immolation of some of the chief conspirators have evidently convinced them that a grave injustice has been done which needs correction. The danger to the security of the state which was formerly supposed to be associated with the Dreyfus case no longer exists, and there is consequently no political agitation over the revision. Popular sentiment evidently favors his ex-oration of the high crime for which he has so long unjustly suffered. The civil tribunal before which he is now to be tried will not be hampered by the prejudices which controlled the military courts and prompted the suppression of evidence damaging to those behind high position in the army to prevent the possibility of trouble in that quarter. Dreyfus desires to be retried by a court-martial, obviously for the sake of being restored to the army which would follow his acquittal by that body. It is doubtless better for the purposes of justice, however, that a civil tribunal should sit on the case, and, in the event of his exoneration of the charge of treason, which is already foreshadowed as certain, the government may be trusted afterwards to correct the wrongs he has suffered.

JUSTICE MAY BE DONE.

With its government conducted on national lines British Columbia might hope to share in the great prosperity now visiting the prairie country. All natural conditions are favorable, but we still have our artificial handicaps. There is but too little reason to hope that they will be removed under the present regime.

BRITAIN AND RUSSIA.

If war actually breaks out between Russia and Japan, there is every reason to believe that Britain will not only lend Japan any moral assistance possible, but may even enter the field as an ally against the formidable power of the czar. For years Russia and Britain have been territorial rivals and it is a wonder that they have not yet come to open hostilities in some one of the places where their interests are so directly opposed.

Russia's attitude in Persia a year or two ago, where she and Britain were striving for commercial supremacy, created a very unpleasant feeling in London. The Persian government, already indebted to British bankers for extensive national loans, was at that time trying to negotiate further advances when Russia, getting wind of the proceedings, stepped in and in some way brought sufficient influence to bear upon the Persian monarch to force him to break off the negotiations with Britain and to accept instead a loan from Russia large enough to cover the then existing contingency, as well as to take up in full the previous British indebtedness. As a security Russia insisted on taking the administration of the Persian customs into her own hands, thus effectually eliminating British influence and commerce from the situation.

The decidedly hostile impression which this showed if somewhat unfriendly diplomatic stroke created in the British capital has not been alleviated by the ill-digested haste and eagerness with which Russia has been constructing a railroad, to be connected with her European and Asiatic systems, which touches the very border of the territory dominated by Great Britain. Inasmuch as this line has not been opened for traffic and as travel is strictly forbidden and the whole enterprise veiled in secrecy it is no wonder that Britain looks with suspicion and anxiety upon such a very apparent strategic move toward a future invasion of India. Though few diplomats admit this course as a probability; all look upon it as a veiled threat on the part of Russia.

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plous of constitutional government will find any cause for regret that Mr. Ross and his colleagues have been so punished. We have had a completely settled case in this province, in the old North Victoria district, which was left unrepresented for one whole season because the Dunsmuir government was afraid of the result of an election. The cowardly tactics employed in these two cases have had such untoward results for the guilty governments that their use ought surely to be discouraged in the future. We should in Canada be able to at least approach the British standard, which places the constitutional rights of the people far above the interests of any party or any set of politicians who may for the moment control the government. It is therefore very satisfactory to find North Renfrew severely rebuking the government of Ontario for its unworthy course in this instance.

It is likely that other causes have created against the Liberal candidate in North Renfrew. At least one old Liberal appeared on the platform to declare his loss of confidence in the government on account of its encouragement of corrupt methods in elections. Probably there were others who have turned against the government for similar reasons, but who did not see fit to declare their defection publicly. Reports say also that Gurney's platform performance converted many to the Conservative side. It is hard to see how this could be, unless the election of North Renfrew are particularly fond of odiferous politicians. When Leader Gurney refuses to countenance the "man from Manitowish," who acknowledges him as a co-worker, and when the local Conservative leaders in North Renfrew openly expressed a preference for Gurney's absence, the latter's efficacy as a campaigner would seem to be at least doubtful. It may be, however, that many of the North Renfrew electors considered him a good enough witness against the government, even if his own character has been very badly smeared.

Altogether it seems probably that the Ross government will go under at the next election, and that cannot be very long deferred. The government has now a majority in the house of three, which is hardly sufficient for safety, although it is actually a more reliable majority than the McBride government has in this province, being composed entirely of solid party men. Neither of these governments seems likely to live very long.

RAILWAY SLAUGHTERS.

The year 1908 has shown a bad record of accidents on railways in America. Several extensive disasters marked its opening days, and the last few weeks have seen an almost daily chronicle of a considerable loss of life. Three of unusual extent were reported in the past week, namely those on the St. Louis & San Francisco, on the Baltimore & Ohio and on the Pere Marquette. The growth of the number of accidents leads an American exchange to remark: "The crowding of business on American railroads, which is steadily increasing, is adding to the peril of their operation. Railroad managements are employing all kinds of devices and methods for the insurance of greater safety to life and property in handling the traffic. They appear, however, to be entirely inadequate. The list of fatalities is increasing yearly. While the British railroads are being operated with comparatively little loss of life to passengers and a minimum of casualties to operatives, the proportion of fatalities on the railroads of the United States is increasing at an alarming rate. Increased density in population is evidently creating conditions in this country which railroad managements have apparently been unable to meet with suitable provisions for safety to the travelling public and their own employees. The last quarterly bulletin of the Interstate Commerce Commission shows that during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1908, 3564 passengers and railroad employees were killed outright on the railroads of the United States, and 45,977 injured, the mortality being the previous fiscal year. The report of the secretary of the department of internal affairs in Pennsylvania represents that during the year 1902-03 the number of casualties on the steam railroads of the state aggregated 15,382, and on the street railways 227 killed and 3069 injured. These figures are big enough to make everyone thoughtful and to call loudly for the adoption of improvements in methods of operation for greater security to life and property."

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 REV. MR. GRANT, NOW IN ROSSLAND, FIGURED IN BOOK.
 SAID TO BE CENTRAL FIGURE IN RALPH CONNOR'S WORKS.
 Rev. Hugh R. Grant, the Pine Creek divine, who is to fill the pulpit of St. Andrew's church here for two weeks ensuing, is an interesting figure in the ranks of Western clergymen. He is stalwart and earnest, spontaneous in the best sense of the expression, but with a most successful minister of the gospel among all clergymen of his large congregation. Mr. Grant brings with him to Rossland a love of the air that plays around the hills of the Alberta country.

It is a fact, understood that Ralph Connor's best work has been written. The militant mission of "Black Rock" is said to be no other than Mr. Grant, and certain it is that he has the thews and muscles to perform the deeds accredited to Connor's hero in "Black Rock." "The Saviour" by the name in fact; but various incidents cropping up in the course of the book—notably the erection of the mission house in the territory—are said to be reproductions of incidents in Mr. Grant's career.

It is a fact that Mr. Grant has been frequently successful in his Alberta pastorate. At Pinech Creek he has built up a strong church and his influence among the residents of the community and district is considerable. Personally he is an athlete and a hockey player of very considerable skill. Last season Mr. Grant retired from active participation in the game, but he was one of the strongest supporters of the team, as was evidenced when he journeyed to Rossland with the players and helped to cheer them to victory in the Rossland carnival.

HAMILTON WANTED.

A REQUISITION ASKING EX-ALDERMAN HAMILTON TO RUN FOR MAYOR.
 DANIEL NOT A CANDIDATE.
 MAYOR DEAN STILL IN FIELD.

THE SITUATION IN RESPECT TO THE approaching municipal campaign is rapidly straightening itself out. Barely three weeks intervene before election day, and already matters are in such a shape that the outlook can be fairly well defined, so far as the mayoralty is concerned at least.

The ex-alderman Charles B. Hamilton will now be a candidate scarcely practically assured. It has been understood for a week or two that if he was presented with a requisition indicating that his candidature was desired by a strong element in the community he would consent to make the run. Such a requisition is now in circulation, and is meeting with marked favor in all directions. When completed the requisition will be presented to Mr. Hamilton and a strong effort made to induce him to accept the nomination.

Alderman Harry Daniel is now on the run for mayorality honors. He was spoken of as a candidate recently, but it is now stated that Mr. Daniel has positively stated his intention of declining a nomination.

Mayor Dean is still among the possibilities for the mayoralty, all report to the contrary notwithstanding. His worship has not defined his position on the question, and in council he does so no one is authorized to speak for him. Pending a statement to the contrary it is only fair to place Mayor Dean in the category of probable candidates for the position of chief magistrate.

No other candidates are seriously discussed up to the present time. As to whether any dark horses will loom up on the political horizon in the next fortnight remains to be seen, but it is not likely that any further strong move will take a hand in the game.

The question of aldermanic candidates is still open. The present members of the council have almost unanimously stated their intentions of retiring from public life, but it has usually been the case that these anti-nomination statements are severely shaken when it comes to the point of actually declining nominations. The non-payment of salaries in council certainly be one of the minor issues of the contest.

On the wider issues that will arise during the contest but little has been said as yet. It is generally felt that the trifling questions of policy should be subverted to the larger question that really affect the prosperity of the community and its principal industry. A council in such a community as Rossland is should exercise some

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