

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

The eyes of the diplomatic world seem to be turned towards The Hague at this moment. The much-heralded and loudly-trumpeted Peace Conference—that peculiar realization of the present Czar's whim—has commenced its labors. One of the most striking facts in connection with the scheme of combining all the powers in one grand union of peace and disarmament is that the Pope has not been invited to take part—through a regular representative—at the deliberations of the national envoys that congregate in the "House in the Wood." The Czar—who apparently has control of the whole affair—did not deem it well to include Leo XIII. in his list of invitations, because the Vicar of Christ has no army and no navy. This is a very queer, and untenable ground to take, when it is considered that Bismarck—the arch-enemy of the Papacy—selected the present Pope to settle the dispute about the Carolines. It is even less plausible in the face of the despatch dated 2nd May, sent by Reuter to America, and which says:—

"The strained relations between Hayti and San Domingo concerning the boundary are in a fair way of settlement. This question, with others involved, will be referred to the Pope."

The Pope has been, and is to-day, the acknowledged umpire of the nations—acknowledged by Protestant powers as well as Catholic ones;—he is the direct representative of the Prince of Peace; he governs over two hundred and fifty million subjects; he is called to settle almost every dispute between the various nations; and yet he is not asked to take part in the deliberations of a special congress, called for the purpose of discussing issues that must eventually be submitted to him for arbitration. And yet this does not at all surprise anyone; it is but a glaring inconsistency in a chaotic mass of minor inconsistencies.

Sidney Low, writing in the May number of the "Nineteenth Century," magazine, under the title, "The Hypocrisies of the Peace Conference," opens thus:—

"Not long after these pages are in the hands of the readers of this Review, the so-called Peace Conference at The Hague will have met, and solemnly got to work upon one of the most elaborate shams of the century. As, in all probability, the various delegates will go to Holland under the perfect understanding that nothing of any importance will ensue from their deliberations, it may seem hardly worth while to dwell upon the futility of the whole affair. . . . The man in the street can see that before Europe can agree not to increase or improve existing armaments, it will have to dispose of those territorial difficulties, to dissipate those jealousies, and to reconcile those conflicting interests, without which the armed rivalry of the powers would disappear without the assistance of a peace-making autocrat. If the Conference can give Germany an effectual guarantee that France will never want Alsace and Lorraine back, and never take advantage of her neighbor's weakness or embarrassment to see 'la revanche,' the German youth need no fear to be secured against aggressive longer be drilled to arms. If Austria designs on her north-eastern frontier, and against the general break-up in the Balkan regions, she can save herself several millions a year in warlike expenditure. And for ourselves (the British) if any conference could arrange that no dusky chief or enterprising adventurer should disturb us in Africa, that no Mohammedan fanatic would make trouble in India, and no ambitious 'world-power' ever want to stretch a grasping claw into British dependencies or try to shut the gates that are open to British

trade—if this could be achieved, we too might begin to think of calling in that 'far-flung battle line' of ours, and placing no more orders for warships. But we all know that the Peace Conference is about as likely to accomplish these things as the British Association or the Salvation Army."

There is a deal of common sense in these remarks, and it stands to reason that Russia—the most despotic and most despotic power on earth—must have some grand object in view, which does not appear to the surface. If the conference accomplishes anything it will be the securing of that five years' truce—that Truce of God so much spoken of to-day—in consequence of which the powers will agree, for that number of years, to suspend all hostilities, to cease all increase of armament, and to give a "fair trial" to arbitration and universal peace. Now Russia would be the only gainer in that case. To again quote the same writer:—

"It does not seem to have been suspected in St. Petersburg, that Russia's anxiety to obtain a few years' undisturbed preparation for her next great move would be visible to others as well as to her own apostles of peace."

Give Russia five years of perfect security, of protection against any hostile movements from without, and she will hold Europe and Asia forever in her single grasp. Let a five years' general peace be declared, and the Czar will have ample time to crush out every alien element in his vast dominions; to boil down Jews, Protestants, Catholics, Poles, Armenians, Caucasians, Estonians and Finns in one vast cauldron, and to turn out the whole mass in the shape of one gigantic form of 'a soldier, a Slav, in speech and thought if not in blood; by religion and custom a slavish worshipper of the Czar Orthodox.'

The peace-loving Emperor persecutes the Dukhoborts, because they are essentially a people of peace; he hurries on the annihilation of the Finns, and of all their liberties, before the hour for general peace is proclaimed. And let that truce be established by the Conference and all the powers will act in accordance, will cease increasing their armaments, and will turn their attention and energies in the direction of commercial and social advancement. But while they thus slumber in their enforced inactivity, and are off their guard for a space of years, Russia will have time to repair her finances and complete 'the metallic highways down which her troops can pour to the East and the South.' The great work of internal reconstruction could proceed in ruthless tranquility. While the Czar is appealing to Europe to disarm, his ministers are re-organizing his vast armies; he is calling together the representatives of the powers to confer upon matters regarding the establishment of a grand truce, while his government is hurrying along the construction of the Trans-Siberian railway, spending millions of roubles in perfecting the military highways that lead to every point of the compass, putting forth every energy in solidifying the vast national defences utilizing ever increasing regiments in the work of destroying every element that is not positively Russian in his dominions, and in preparing for a grand and gigantic stroke that must sooner or later shatter all opposition to the omnipotence of the Czar.

It is little wonder, then, that the wise but scheming Nicholas did not wish the presence of a Papal representative on the occasion of his dust-throwing in the eyes of Europe. Epigrammatic and exact were the famous words of Napoleon: "Scratch a Russian and you will always find a Tartar."

In Catholic Circles of Ontario.

Continued From First Page.

the man but the office entrusted to me (notwithstanding my unworthiness) as a bishop of the Catholic Church—as the fourth Bishop of Hamilton.

"The tenth anniversary of the installation of a prelate is an event in the history of a diocese, and I heartily concur in the laudable manner in which you are celebrating that event. You are here for a twofold and praiseworthy purpose. First, to honor your dear departed prelates, by erecting monuments to perpetuate their memory; and secondly, to return thanks to Almighty God for the many blessings he has been pleased to bestow on the diocese during the past ten years, of the present administration, notwithstanding the many defects of that administration. In honoring the memories of the three illustrious prelates who have

preceded me, you are practicing the virtue of gratitude in accordance with the admonition of St. Paul the Apostle, who says: "Remember your prelates, who have spoken the Word of God to you."

After referring to the numerous good works to which allusion was made in the address, his Lordship thus continued:—

"The success achieved in these respects is under God due chiefly to the zeal and energy of the clergy and the generous co-operation of the good people of Hamilton. Among all the works enumerated in your address, St. Joseph's Hospital stands conspicuous as the institution perhaps best known and appreciated by all creeds and all classes of the community, for its doors are open to all, rich and poor alike, without distinction of

creed, class or color. Amongst the first benefactors of that institution was the distinguished gentleman who is our distinguished guest to-day. The Most Rev. Dr. O'Connor, who is one of the executors of the late Father Ryan, obtained for St. Joseph's Hospital its first and only endowment of a free ward for the benefit of the poor. And next to him the hospital's best benefactor has been one of our well-known citizens and respected fellow-citizens—not a member of our religious communion—whose name will go to posterity as the good Samaritan who generously donated the elevator that has lightened the work of the good sisters and alleviated the sufferings of many a grateful patient.

"In fine, I have to thank all the benefactors of the cathedral, especially all those who have donated or contributed towards the memorial windows."

And thus he concluded:—

"I am authorized on behalf of my people concluded the Bishop, 'to congratulate you (addressing Archbishop O'Connor) on your elevation, and I do so most heartily. As your old companion and friend, I pray that you may be long spared to adorn the office.'"

"Turning to the congregation, Bishop Dowling went on to say that he took the occasion to reward a priest—Mr. McEvay—who had ever been a faithful servant of God, by creating him vicar-general of the diocese of Hamilton; and he handed the new vicar-general the document elevating him to the office."

Vicar-General McEvay succeeds the late Vicar-General Elena."

DEATH OF DANIEL McGUIRE.

One by one the hardy and noble sons of the older generation of Irish-Canadians are passing away. In the last decade Montreal has lost quite a number of those pioneers of the country, and their places seem to remain vacant, for their names are not forgotten and their good deeds are perpetually fresh in the minds of the people. On Monday 8th May, St. Catharines, Ont., lost one of its foremost citizens, and oldest Irish Catholic residents, in the person of Mr. Daniel McGuire, who closed his useful career at the ripe old age of eighty-nine years. Speaking of the lamented gentleman, one of our Ontario contemporaries says:—

"Identified with the history of St. Catharines for almost three-score years he was one of the row very few landmarks which connected the past with the present. The deceased gentleman was born in Cork, Ireland, on the 23rd of April, 1810, and when about twenty years of age accompanied by his young wife arrived in St. Catharines, then a small hamlet known as 'Shipman's Corners,' and where shortly afterwards the extensive public works of enlarging what was then called the first Welland Canal were commenced, and which soon gave employment to hundreds of his fellow-countrymen.

"Although possessed of but limited means he was full of hope for the future, and soon began business by opening a small general store adjacent to the premises now occupied by Mr. D. C. McGuire, where by the most untiring industry, late and early, coupled with sterling honesty in all his dealings, he in a few years laid the foundation for the respectable competence of his later life.

"Whilst in almost every respect he was an unobtrusive man, he was zealous and sincere in his religious views, and soon after the destruction by fire in 1842 of the little frame building used as a place of worship by the Roman Catholics of the town and surrounding country, he was one of the first to associate himself with the Rev. Father McDonough, the then pastor, and a few others, to help by his limited means and untiring efforts to bring into existence the original of the present handsome sacred edifice which adorns our city."

And in concluding a well-deserved and glowing tribute, the same article concludes thus:—

"It cannot be said the deceased was ambitious, but to the contrary, for although blessed with a fine constitution and rugged health, he preferred quietness to bustle, and cared more to watch over his rising young family than for outside praise or honors.

"Those who knew him in private life knew a sober, sensible adviser, and a friend in need—a man whose word of honor was as good as his bond; free from flattery, and incapable of doing an unkind act to anyone."

The "True Witness" cordially extends its sincere sympathy to the relatives and friends of the deceased, and joins in the prayers of hundreds who knew him, for the rest of his soul.

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PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, DISTRICT OF MONTREAL, No. 1140.

SUPERIOR COURT. Dame Sarah Trudel, wife of Philias Morette, of the City and District of Montreal, Plaintiff, vs. the said Philias Morette, Defendant.

An action for separation of property has been instituted in this cause.

Montreal, 10th May, 1899. BRAUDIN, CARDINAL, LORANGER & ST. GERMAIN, Attorneys for Plaintiff.

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MARKET REPORT

SPECIALLY PREPARED FOR THE TRUE WITNESS.

There have been few notably striking features in agricultural products during the week, but the farming community have the satisfaction of knowing that prices generally hold steady. Eggs for instance continue steady at 11c to 11 1/2c for choice stock. These prices are generally admitted to be high, but this state of affairs is due in a large measure to buyers themselves, who have been unquiescently competing against each other and running prices up to their present level.

Demand for dried apples is rather slow but prices are steady at 5 1/2c to 6c, with light stocks.

Beans rule dull at 85c to \$1.05 per bus. for hand picked pea as to quality. Sulphur \$1.15 to \$1.20 and ordinary mediums 80c to 90c.

Hops are unchanged at 17c to 20c for Canadian stock.

Honey is in slow demand, but prices are as last quoted. White clover in comb sells at 8c to 9c in round lots, smaller lots 9 1/2c to 10c. White extracted is slow of sale at 7c to 7 1/2c in large tins. Buckwheat honey in the comb fetches 5 1/2c to 7c and extracted 4c to 5c as to quality.

Potatoes are quiet but steady, at 6 1/2c to 7c for the best, and 5 1/2c to 6c for inferior. Other roots are quiet. Quebec turnips 85c to 90c. Carrots, 85c and parsnips \$1.25 to \$1.50.

Baled hay is scarcely as firm as a week ago, sales of No. 1 being reported at \$7. Clover sold at country points in car lots at \$4 to \$4.50 f.o.b. in the country. On spot prices range from \$7 for No. 1, down to \$5.50 to \$6, and clover \$4.25 to \$5. Cables from England state that the British hay market is dull under prospects of a heavy crop. As a result of this though exporters are still doing some business, they are not disposed to spread out in any way.

Baled straw is steady, choice bright selling at \$3.50 on track, and ordinarily \$2.50 to \$3.

Maple syrup continues firm under light supplies. In the wood business is light at 7c to 7 1/2c per lb., and in small tins 65c to 70c is realized. Imperial tins change hands at \$1.05 to \$1.10. Choice lots of sugar sell at 8 1/2c and prices range from 8 1/2c to 9c.

Ashes are quiet at \$4.05 in first pots, and \$3.80 for seconds. The talow market is quiet at 4 1/2c to 5c for refined and rough 2 1/2c to 3c.

Packers are taking all the offerings

of live light bacon hogs at \$4.85, a few lots of choice realizing \$4.90. Indications point to higher prices the next week.

The butter market continues steady under good export and local enquiry. Sales are reported of from 2000 to 3000 packages of creamery this week for export at 16c to 16 1/2c as to grade. English advices rule steady.

The cheese market has developed an easier feeling this week, and whereas 9c to 9 1/2c was freely bid by exporters at country points last week, this week, all that they will concede is 8 1/2c to 8 3/4c a decline of 1/4c to 1/2c per pound. Business on spot has not been active but record deals have been put through in cheese at 9 1/2c for which 9 1/2c was refused last week.

In coarse grains peas have shown an easier tendency, and sales afloat in the harbor here have been made at 73 1/2c to 74c. In the West business is reported at 63c to 64c, which figures show a decline of fully 1c on the previous week.

Oats have also decline about 1c to 1 1/2c since last report transactions being noted at 36c afloat, one lot of 100,000 bushels selling at that figure, and prices may be quoted at 35 1/2c to 36c. English demand for Canadian oats has been a source of considerable revenue to our farmers of late, who have been receiving remunerative prices for their grain. London has been our chief customer, but lately there has been less enquiry in an export way.

Barley rules quiet and prices are quoted at 49c to 51c for malting, and 43c to 45c for feed. Buckwheat is quiet at 61c to 61 1/2c and rye at 60c to 61c, while sales reported in the West at 53c and 54c f.o.b. cars.

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