

THE STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B. SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1907.

SEVEN

BAPTIST MINISTERS IN HOT DISCUSSION OVER NEW THEOLOGY

Rev. P. J. Stackhouse's Paper "What is Christianity?" Causes Storm—"Foolish", Says One Critic—Heresy in the Air—Rev. D. Hutchinson President of Ministers' Institute

WOLFVILLE, Aug. 22.—Delegates from all parts of the Maritime Provinces are gathering at Wolfville to take part in the annual Baptist convention. It is expected that the number in attendance will be greater than any previous year in the history of the Baptists. A number of distinguished Baptist clergymen outside of the boundaries of the convention are present. Among them are Rev. Dr. Goodspeed, a former editor of the Messenger and Visitor, but now a professor of theology in a Baptist college in Texas; Dr. O. C. S. Wallace, a former chancellor of McMaster University, but now a leading preacher in one of the New England states; Rev. G. A. Gordon and Rev. Dr. Gates of Montreal. Every train brings new delegates, and by Saturday night the town will be filled almost to overflowing.

The Baptist Institute opened at 10 a. m. The attendance of ministers was four times larger than last year. This may partly be accounted for because of a general impression that an attempt would be made to get the Institute to take some action against the new theology. The expectation was not realized.

The paper read by Rev. P. J. Stackhouse on "What is Christianity?" raised quite a storm, however, one clergyman of the old faith going so far as to call it "a foolish new theology." Another said he did not know what the new theology meant, but he hated it just the same.

A third critic said the paper might have been accepted for soundness, but for the "rumor of heresy in the air."

The paper was warmly defended by Rev. W. C. Kelstead and Mr. Stackhouse. The author also replied to the arguments advanced against his ideas.

At the morning session two very interesting papers were read on the message of the First Thessalonians, the first by Dr. Crowell and the second by Rev. Osmond Morse.

The afternoon session was a lively one.

The first paper was read by Rev. P. J. Stackhouse on "What is Christianity?"

"What is Christianity?"

In his introduction Mr. Stackhouse spoke of the difficulty of defining the essence of Christianity in a paper as brief as this must necessarily be. He announced his method of investigation as psychological and historical-psychological because it involved a study of the religious consciousness of the Christian; historical because it is impossible to limit ourselves to any particular age. His conclusion was that the study of the religion of man with his God we have the very essence of the Christian religion. The place of Jesus Christ in Christianity is largely determined by the fact that He is the One who brings men into fellowship with the Heavenly Father, and enables them to live the divine life. Mr. Stackhouse said that there were many metaphysical questions in regard to Jesus that he frankly confessed he was unable to answer, but when a man through faith in Jesus Christ had found God and the forgiveness of sins he was ready to confess with Peter that He is the Christ the Son of the living God. He is ready to confess with the apostle that He is God manifest in the flesh.

Christianity as a religious life has had many manifestations. It has expressed itself in creeds, confessions of faith, doctrinal statements. He held that a creed does not make religion, but a creed is a confession and as such has a very important place. There has been a tendency on the part of some to make Christianity identical with a creed. Those who take this position usually hold to the finality of their particular creed. It needs but a superficial study of the history of Christianity to convince one that there has been a constant development in doctrine. The heterodoxy of today to a later age is frequently the faith of the Father. We have a very good illustration of progress in doctrine in these Maritime Provinces in the recent union of the Free Baptist and Baptist denominations in one United Baptist body. We have buried the old issues over which the fathers fought and have come together because of a recognition that there are no questions of conscience keeping us apart. To make Christianity identical with a doctrinal statement is to expose Christianity to three very serious dangers. First it will tend to divorce religion and morality. Second, it is a fruitful source of bigotry and persecution; third, it renders faith difficult or impossible to a large number of thinking people.

Christianity as a religious life has expressed itself in ethics. Some have thought that the essence of Christianity is to be found in morality and that Jesus was simply the teacher and martyr of those truths. That was the position of Kant, who made religion merely a recognition of the voice of conscience as the voice of God. That is the position of utilitarian and many Unitarian preachers and writers. Here again we have another illustration of an expression of Christianity identified with a religious life means more than ethics. It implies the conscious communion of man with his God and when that communion has taken place in the individual soul good works naturally follow.

One of the great historic expressions of Christianity is the church with its

various ordinances, offices and officers. Jesus founded no church in the modern sense of the term. He prescribed no form of church polity. Organization, however, is necessary if the best work is to be accomplished, and it was not long before there grew up church organization, at first simple, but as time went on becoming more and more complex. The church before many years had passed what was regarded as so important that membership in it was made essential to salvation. That which was simply an expression of Christianity was made identical with Christianity.

the definition of Christianity as given by the writer.

Dr. Boggs objected to the paper because of a quotation from Dr. Clark, who is a professor at Colgate.

"Foolish New Theology"

Hated it Just the Same

Rev. C. T. Wilson also confessed that he did not know what the new theology was, but stated that he hated it just the same. He also stated that the paper would have been accepted but for the rumor of heresy in the air.

W. C. Kelstead, Ph. D., strongly endorsed the paper, and met the criticism advanced.

Rev. Mr. Stackhouse closed the debate by reviewing the arguments advanced against his position and announced that he would not be moved by the rumor of heresy in the air. A unanimous vote of thanks was extended to the writer of the paper.

"Religion in the Common Schools"

Dr. W. C. Kelstead then read a paper on "Religion in the Common Schools," which was ordered to be published in the Maritime Baptist.

In substance the paper was as follows: Against a system of purely secular education on the one hand, and a system of state supported and controlled religious instruction on the other hand, the writer advocated a public school dominated by religious aims and spirit and yet giving to its pupils religious instruction. It is possible for the school to have a religious aim and yet be a positive religious instruction. It is absurd to say that the school is godless because it does not impart formal teaching of religious dogma. It is absurd to say that the school is godless because it does not impart formal teaching of religious dogma. It is absurd to say that the school is godless because it does not impart formal teaching of religious dogma. It is absurd to say that the school is godless because it does not impart formal teaching of religious dogma.

But any compromise effected to allow formal religious instruction in the public schools is at the loss of the great value and mission of the public school system. The public school develops the sense of homogeneity, the brotherhood of man, a moral and spiritual unity, necessary for citizenship, even for religion itself, but the



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Standing styles in sealskin this year. This attractive and becoming fur lends itself to the designer's best form.

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moment sectarianism enters that value of the public school is lost. The present situation in the town of Bathurst shows the danger of any introduction of sectarianism. In that town the convent is used as a public school building, and the nuns are the teachers, and Protestant children are not subject to the same conditions as the other schools of the province. They are not visited by the regular inspector of the district but by a special French Inspector. The nuns wear their peculiar religious garb and adorn their persons and the building with the emblems of their faith. After school hours they give formal instruction in the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church. But everybody knows that the public school has been enslaved by the Catholic church. And the feeling of injustice and sectarian strife it continually excites is more injurious than the avowed denominational school. Moreover, such schools are established neither in the interest of education or of religion but as the result of political expediency.

Commonwealth Has Much Faith in British Government's Promises

LONDON, Aug. 23.—There is no doubt but that the All-Red route is claiming considerable attention in Australia. An Australian writer says that both States regard the British government's pledges as something more than mild, and a serious disappointment will follow if nothing is done.

APPROVE SUBMITTING QUESTION TO HAGUE

Comment of London Press on Newfoundland Fisheries Dispute

The London News says it is certain that the Newfoundland fisheries question will be submitted to the Hague Conference. The Chronicle hopes the negotiations for submitting the fisheries question to the Hague will be successful, as the matter is well settled by arbitration, being not one of policy, but of interpretation of a treaty. It is an obvious thing for England to carry the principles enumerated at the Hague into practice. The Express, while admitting that reference to the Hague is a good thing, holds that the negotiations, strongly condemn any modus vivendi on the lines of that of last year, and remarks that arbitration is a slow process. In the meantime, is Newfoundland to be goaded to despair?

NO DAMAGE DONE BY FROST IN WEST

Now Believe That Crisis Is Past—More Expected

WINNIPEG, Aug. 23.—The weekly crop report of the Canadian Pacific Railway today indicates that no damage has been done by the frost which has been reported during the past few days from a number of places in the west. Railroad officials and grain men are of the opinion that the crisis is passed and there is not liable to be another visitation of frost for some time.

BRICK LADEN BARGE SUNK BY STEAMER

MONTREAL, Aug. 23.—The St. Lawrence Navigation Company's steamer Imperator collided with a barge in the harbor this afternoon with the result that the barge containing 60,000 bricks was sent to the bottom. Six people including four children on the barge and she was headed for the dock. Then the barge loomed up in front and the engines were reversed to prevent collision. The Imperator proceeded on her way to Quebec after a short delay.

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ROOSEVELT MAY HOLD UP PROPOSED MERGER OF BOSTON AND MAINE

Scents Violation of Anti-Trust Law in Efforts of New York, New Haven and Hartford Railway to Acquire Other Lines—Honest Corporations Need Have No Fear.

BOSTON, Aug. 23.—United States District Attorney Asa P. French announced tonight in a communication to Greenville S. MacFarland, chairman of the executive committee of the Independence League of Massachusetts, that President Roosevelt and the department of justice has under consideration the proposed control of the Boston and Maine railroad by the New York, New Haven and Hartford road.

The district attorney further states that he had been directed by the attorney general to investigate the proposed merger and also the acquisition of other lines by the New York, New Haven and Hartford road.

District Attorney French's communication is as follows: "I have received your communication of August 21st calling my attention to the alleged violation of the federal anti-trust law by the New York, New Haven and Hartford R. R. Company, by Charles S. Mellen, its president, and possibly by others, with respect to the acquisition and control of stock in the Boston and Maine R. R. Company, upon the theory which you advance and undertake to demonstrate, that the two railroads compete in interstate commerce."

"I beg to say in reply that this whole matter has been under advisement by the president and the department of justice for some time. The stenographic reports of Mr. Mellen's testimony before the Massachusetts legislative committee on railroads and his previous communication to Governor Guild, from both of whom you quote, were promptly transmitted to the

attorney general and I was directed by him some weeks ago to begin, and I am now making a careful inquiry, not only into the facts of which you refer connected with the attempted consolidation of the two railroads but of the acquisition, directly and indirectly by the New Haven road during the past five or six years, of other steam roads, or street railways and of steamship lines engaged in competitive interstate traffic. The purpose of this inquiry is to ascertain how far, if at all, these transactions have been violative of the anti-trust act, and to take such action as the result of the investigation may justify, and to the end that the policy of the national government with regard to carriers engaged in interstate commerce, as expressed by congress and interpreted by the supreme court in the Trans-Missouri and Northern Securities cases, may be maintained and that individuals, as well as corporations, offending against the law may be adequately punished.

"The policy of the administration as to persecutions under the anti-trust act has been too clearly and emphatically stated by the president in his recent speech at Providence, and as by the attorney general to leave any doubt in the minds of the people, that, while honestly conducted corporations and their officers have nothing to fear, there is to be no temporizing with those who, after a thorough and impartially conducted investigation appear to have been violators of the law."

\$25,000 FIRE IN MONTREAL YESTERDAY

Caverhill, Learmont & Co. Suffer Second Loss Within Short Time—Carbolic Acid Victim.

MONTREAL, Aug. 23.—Fire this morning in the wholesale warehouse of Caverhill, Learmont & Co. did \$25,000 damage. This is the second occasion within two months that this structure has been on fire, the first blaze creating damage to the extent of \$40,000, which it is expected that the one today will at the least estimate cost the insurance companies \$25,000. The blaze which broke out at 10 a. m. today was a brass moulder by trade, had just returned home from work and being thirsty, picked up a ginger ale bottle which he found on a table in his bedroom. The bottle contained carbolic acid, but Morin failed to notice the drugist's label. He died within an hour.

ATLANTIC FLEET GOES TO PACIFIC

Statement issued by Roosevelt Says They will Leave Next December—Ports Not Stated

OYSTER BAY, N. Y., Aug. 23.—The Atlantic battleship fleet will start for the Pacific next December, according to the following official statement issued tonight by Secretary Loeb at the direction of President Roosevelt: "A conference this afternoon between President Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of Navy Newberry, Rear Admiral Brownson, chief of the Bureau of Navigation, and Rear Admiral Evans, commander of the Atlantic fleet, was held to decide some of the details in connection with the fleet going to the Pacific. The fleet will consist of seventeen battleships and will start some time in December, going through the Straits of Magellan and up to San Francisco, and will probably visit Puget Sound. The question of the route by which it will return has not been decided. The destroyer flotilla will leave for the Pacific about the same time as the fleet, but will not accompany it."

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ANOTHER VICTIM OF DEADLY CANOE

Young Englishman Drowned at Temiskaming Lake—2,000 Bluesoes Held Picnic at Calgary

WINNIPEG, Man., Aug. 23.—Two thousand bluesoes, former residents of the Maritime Provinces held a picnic at Calgary yesterday. The attendance was about six thousand and a good programme of sports was given.

Canoeing from Halleybury to New Liskard on Lake Temiskaming this afternoon H. J. C. Byrne of Midland and Samuel L. Harris and Chas. E. Davis, two young Englishmen were upset. Davis was drowned the other two being rescued by tug Alert after having been in the water for an hour and a half.

A famous exhibit of five cars of prize strength worth fifteen thousand dollars, owned by Sir R. P. Cooper of England, arrived at the exhibition today.

MAY COST MORE BUT WILL BE PURE

Secretary Burns Does Not Think However That Milk Regulations Should Cause Increase in Price.

Secretary Burns, of the Board of Health, stated yesterday that the measures the board had taken to ensure the protection of the people against contaminated milk should not affect the price of milk. The inspection of cattle, he said, cost very little. The Sussex Milk Co. gets its milk from fourteen different herds and each herd was inspected for the trifling cost of \$2.50. A fee of one dollar per herd is charged in St. John, bringing the total cost per herd to \$3.50. The cost of sterilizing cans would be an additional expense to milk men, said Secretary Burns, but would not be very heavy. Even if the price of milk were raised, the public should be willing to pay in consideration of the fact that pure milk would be ensured.

GENERACY.

Never in the history of the human race—not even in the gladiatorial days of Greece and Rome, was strength was worshipped almost like a fetish—has so much study been devoted to bodily development and well being. In spite of all this, however, we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that, while medical reports, while the standard of health may be going with a section of the people, it is steadily going down with others—in a word, that physical degeneracy is alarmingly on the increase.

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