

# Messenger and Visitor

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## The War.

During the week the Japanese advance on Mukden has proceeded. Russian and Japanese troops are now once more in close contact. It is believed that the next great battle will be fought at a pass a few miles north of the present Russian position. The Port Arthur garrison has made several vain attempts to recapture the position commanding the chief water supply of the city. The fighting has been severe, but so far the Japanese hold all that they have gained.

## Public and Political.

On Friday last public suspense was ended by the announcement that Parliament was dissolved. The general election will take place on Thursday, November 3rd, with the nominations one week earlier. In Ontario, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and the western provinces nearly all the candidates on both sides are nominated. New Brunswick preparations are not so far advanced.

No changes in the Government are announced, but a number of important appointments have been made. Sir Richard Cartwright, who has been a member of the House of Commons continually since confederation, with the exception of one session, retires from that arena to become a Senator. It is said that he will retain his portfolio, and will succeed Mr. Scott as leader of his party in the Upper House.

Hon. Donald H. McKinnon who sat for East Queens, Prince Edward Island, in the parliament which has just closed, and who had previously been Attorney General of that province, has been appointed Lieutenant Governor in succession to Hon. P. A. McIntyre whose term has expired.

Benjamin Russell, D. C. L., lately M. P. for Hants, Nova Scotia, has been called to the bench of his native province. There were two vacancies on the Nova Scotia bench, one caused by retirement of Chief Justice McDonald, the other by the death of Judge Ritchie. It is not yet announced whether Judge Russell will be Chief Justice, or whether one of his colleagues will be promoted. Judge Russell is a Mount Allison University graduate, and a professor in the Dalhousie Law School. He is reputed to be an able lawyer and his tastes and habits are those of a scholar.

A number of judicial and other appointments have been made in Quebec. Chief Justice Casault retires, Judge Routhier takes his place, and is himself succeeded on the bench by Senator Sir A. P. Pelletier, who has been Speaker of the Senate and was a member of the Mackenzie Government. Judge Choquette retires from the bench to re-enter public life of a Senator.

The Liberals convention of the united counties of Kings and Albert has nominated Hon. A. S. White, formerly Attorney General of New Brunswick, as the party candidate for the House of Commons.

The Canada Eastern Railway was formally taken over by the Dominion Government this week, as is now operated as part of the Intercolonial.

The City Council of St. John has decided to extend a system of works to Lock Lomond, a large lake about three miles beyond the present source of supply. This is expected to give a practically unlimited supply of water, with sufficient pressure for fire protection purposes. It is estimated that the outlay for the additional works will be over \$300,000, including the cost of property purchased to avoid claims for damages, but this is held to be justified by the saving in insurance rates, and the greater safety of uninsured property.

## Passive Resistance

### Still Strong.

There is no evidence of any decline in the zeal of that very considerable body of non-conformists in England, whose attitude toward the recently enacted School Bill is described by the term passive resistance. The well known London correspondent of the *New York Tribune* in a recent letter to that journal says: "The ministers are warned that the

passive resistance movement against the education act steadily increases rather than declines. About 2,000 summonses have been issued this week against delinquent taxpayers for refusal to pay school rates making about 33,000 since Dr. Clifford's movement began. The Rev. Mr. Campbell, pastor of the City Temple, is among the lawbreakers for conscience sake, and Nonconformist ministers throughout England are setting an example of defiance of magistrates and tax collectors, when the school rates are used for the support of religious teaching considered by them erroneous. The dangerous movement is serious enough to England, where the Government, as Lord Rosebery says, has arrayed Nonconformity against it, but the situation is more critical in Wales, where the entire principality is against them and co-operating under Lloyd George's guidance in a systematic attempt to render the present law inoperative by wholesale dismissal of the teachers employed by County Councils, withdrawals of all Nonconformist children from church schools and the opening of new schools in chapels which will not be dependent upon rates or grants. All the Welsh counties, with a single exception, have adopted Lloyd George's plan of campaign, and the Morionethshire will probably be brought into line before the approaching conference of County Councils at Cardiff. This movement, if carried out will subject the Government resources for the upholding of law to a severe test."

## Progress in the West.

Hon. A. G. Blair, Chairman of Railway Commission of Canada, who has recently returned from an extended visit to the Northwest and British Columbia, is reported as speaking enthusiastically of the progress which the West is making in the development of natural resources and the increase of population. "I certainly was greatly surprised," said Mr. Blair, "at the progress which has been made in the West during the last two years. I saw almost all the towns, with the exception of those off the main line, and all had grown in population and business. There were none that failed to show evidences of prosperity. It goes without saying that Winnipeg's progress has been phenomenal. Some of the officials there told me that no less than 700 new buildings were now in course of erection. One very noteworthy fact is that all the eastern wholesale houses have established branches in Winnipeg. They are not scattered through the city, but whole blocks of them, five or six storied structures of brick or stone, are to be seen, and those previously located are adding to and extending their accommodation. In my opinion there is a great future in store for Winnipeg. It is the conduit through which the business originating in the vast area north of Winnipeg and westward as far as the Rockies must pass. The C. P. R. have acquired the necessary property and are now establishing yards which are claimed to be the largest of any railway in the world, consisting of 70 miles of tracks. They are erecting a new station and an enormous hotel. The sum of their expenditures in Winnipeg amounts to about \$3,000,000." Mr. Blair mentions particularly the evidences of growth noted at Regina, Prince Albert, Edmonton, Calgary and in the districts of which these prosperous towns are centres. "Calgary has grown immensely and has a very promising future before it. The C. P. R. have made substantial progress with irrigation works in the vicinity of Calgary, which are intended to serve a million and a half of acres. I saw a 55-foot cutting in connection with the main irrigation canal, and the soil was a fine rich loam. How much deeper that rich soil goes I cannot tell. There will be three secondary canals aggregating in distance 115 miles, in addition to the main channel. Then there will be distributing canals, comprising a total length of 900 miles. The area of land to be served by the irrigation works will support, it is computed, a farming population of 250,000 souls. Subsidiary to the area watered by the irrigation works are another million and a half of grazing lands of the best quality

a number of roller mills have been sent into the country north of Edmonton, one of them for the Hudson's Bay Company. I took the trouble when in Winnipeg to inquire of Governor Chipman of the Hudson's Bay Company as to the truth of this statement. He said they had erected a mill at Dunvegan, 1,200 miles northwest

of Edmonton, and were grinding wheat raised in the locality and meeting the wants of the people there. That I consider a remarkable fact. Between Red Deer and MacLeod we noticed from the train thousands of cattle on the ranges. They were simply rolling in fat. The C. P. R. this year transported 60,000 head of cattle from that district alone for exportation to Europe, as compared with 30,000 in the previous season. The ranchmen south of the international boundary line, I am told, when they take their cattle off the ranges have to fatten them on corn for five or six weeks. In the Territories, grazing on the ranges suffices. What impressed us in travelling through British Columbia, was the possibilities of fruit growing in some sections. Fruits of excellent quality are raised at Yale, and also at Nelson, on Kootenay Lake. At Vernon there are some splendid orchards, including those of the Earl of Aberdeen. All along the Okanagan Lake orchards are strung out where pears, apples, peaches, plums and grapes are grown. The growth of business in British Columbia is perhaps not quite so pronounced as in the northwest, but still there are very considerable evidences of prosperity. We gathered the impression that British Columbia by means of its lumber, minerals, fish and fruits has a great outlook in store for it."

—The *British Weekly* has much to say on the Free church case. Of course many of its comments are of special local interest. But some apply to Christians everywhere. For instance in referring to the false position and evil results of subscribing to creeds that are not believed the *Weekly* says: There has been too great willingness of many to profess adherence to the confession of faith and once they had obtained admission snap their fingers at all their professions. There has been a great deal too much of that. The apathy which has crept over the Scottish churches is very largely due to the fact that men undertake the most solemn obligations to gain a living, and repudiate these obligations once they are in. We know now what is the legal view of subscription to the confession of faith. All men know it. The significance of signing the old formula is now unmistakable. In other words the dishonesty of professing a belief that is not really held has brought its punishment in the decision of the House of Lords that men must mean what they say; that they have no special dispensation to lie because the field of operation is in the church and in theology. The *Weekly* further says: "Another happy result of the crisis is that it has directed the mighty energies of the United Free church to the discussion of ecclesiastical problems. We have often felt and said during the last twenty years that the strength of the rising ministry in Scotland seemed to be diverted to literary and theological studies. There was apparently little care of the great principles of religious liberty and justice. These principles can never be ignored with impunity. Neglect brings its revenge. What was won by blood and tears has to be kept by constant vigilance and constant sacrifice. Everywhere the exponents of these great principles find eager audiences. There is such an opportunity as has not been for sixty years of training up the new generation in the faith of spiritual freedom for which many of their ancestors died, and we rejoice to believe that it will be fully used. There can be no greater mistake in the present crisis than to wait silently for something to turn up. The United Free church will find innumerable allies rallying to her side but she must first do her own part." The lesson for Baptists is to value their freedom and to make the best possible use of it. The great doctrines of regeneration by the Holy Spirit, justification by faith in Christ, and sanctification through the truth, are too precious to be forgotten or underestimated. Neglect of them would bring revenge indeed.