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The Northwestern and the Northwest may now be made on a more scientific basis than was possible when the first glowing reports were sent out, or when the late statements predicted heavy damage through frost and other causes. Threshing is now going on, and the actual loss is determined in many places. Careful estimates of the yield now range between 50,000,000, and 60,000,000 bushels for the whole western country. This is far below the early prospects but it is above the estimates made in August. F. W. Thompson, Vice President of the Ogilvie Company, who claims to have made a thorough enquiry over the whole field believes that the crop will reach 58,000,000 bushels. This is about the same as last year, though the yield per acre must in that case be considerably less. It is held that the selling value of this year's crop will be some \$10,000,000 more than that of 1903. The gain to the western farmer through the extra twenty cents or twenty-five cents per bushel is enormous. To the eastern customer who may pay one dollar to two dollars per barrel more for his flour the advantage is not so obvious. Quebec and the Maritime Provinces consume over 2,500,000 barrels more than they produce and must pay a part of what the West gains from the advance in price.

Wheat Crop.

Estimates of the crop in Manitoba without the power to enact a general prohibitory law. At Blenheim, Ontario, Mr. Borden the opposition leader was asked what the prohibitionists might expect of his party if it should attain power. He replied that in view of the recent decisions the questions could more appropriately be asked of the Premier of Ontario. Mr. Borden went on to give his reasons for believing that at present the matter rested with the provincial legislature, as there was no certainty that the privy council would in future act upon the former Scott Act decision.

The Canadian Constitution and Moral Legislation.

Promoters of legislation against the sale of liquor, and in favor of the observance of the Lord's Day have been greatly hampered by uncertainty as to the jurisdiction of parliament and the legislatures to enact such laws. Though it is now nearly forty years since the British North America Act, which is the constitution of Canada, became law and though that imperial statute undertakes to define and distribute the powers of the provincial and federal legislatures, there are still many conflicts of jurisdiction. Especially do these arise over the clauses relating to legislation for the peace, order and good government of the country. While these uncertainties afford Governments an excuse, more or less plausible, for postponing action even where they might safely proceed, they have been a serious embarrassment to those who had a desire to legislate effectively. The recent decision of the privy council in the Lord's Day case favors the jurisdiction of the federal parliament, and throws doubt on many of the laws supposed to be in force in the provinces. This has led the Lord's Day Alliance to prepare a draft bill for enactment at Ottawa. Legal members and advisors of the Alliance believe that the proposed measure is in line with the judgment of the highest court of the Empire. But the Minister of Justice who has examined the bill is not satisfied it is beyond the power of the provincial legislature. Accordingly he has recommended the submission of a number of questions to the supreme court of Canada covering the doubtful matters involved. This recommendation has been approved. The questions are seven in number. Among other things the court is asked whether the legislature of a province has power to pass the proposed bill, in whole or in part, and if in part which provisions are beyond the power of the legislature to enact. There is also the general question:

Has a Province jurisdiction to legislate prohibiting or regulating labor so as to prevent any work business or labor from being performed within the Province upon the first day of the week, commonly called "Sunday," except work of necessity or mercy and except work or labor of the character and to the extent prohibited in sec. 2 of the said draft bill?

Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick also asks:

Has a Province power to restrict the operations of companies of its own creation to six days in each week by provisions in the charters or acts of incorporation of said companies or otherwise, so as to render it unlawful for them, their servants or agents to do any work, business or labor within the Province on the first day of the week?

In regard to prohibition of the Liquor Traffic it is decided that the provinces have the power to prohibit the retail sale within their own limits. This does not mean that the Dominion is

Public and Political.

Lord Minto is expected in Ottawa about Wednesday, at which time a dissolution of parliament may be announced. Evidently such action is expected by many politicians, but no official declaration had been made at the time of this writing.

Hon. E. J. Davis, Commissioner of Crown Lands in the Ontario Government has been unseated by the election courts. This leaves the Ross Government with no majority except the casting vote of the speaker.

Hon. F. A. Lawrence, M. P. P., barrister of Truro, speaker of the Nova Scotia legislature, has been nominated for the House of Commons by the liberals of Colchester.

Dr. Hugh Cameron, who represented Inverness in the House of Commons during four terms, has been chosen by an opposition convention at Antigonish as the Conservative candidate for the House of Commons.

It is expected that the transfer of the Canada Eastern Railway to the Dominion Government will take place this week. The contract for the purchase was completed some weeks ago, but the actual transfer has been delayed by legal difficulties.

The surveying parties which are to locate the Grand Trunk Pacific between Moncton and Quebec are now organizing at Moncton and other points.

Rhodes Scholars.

The Canadian Rhodes Scholars are now either on their way to Oxford, or about starting for that ancient seat of learning. For the next three years they will have great experiences and opportunities. The "home of lost causes and impossible loyalties," as Matthew Arnold tenderly described Oxford, cannot fail to leave its mark on generous and intellectual youth, such as are entitled to these scholarships. One can hardly suppose that such inspiration will be other than helpful to those who are elected to this noble chance. Another group of young men in our colleges are eagerly computing their own chances for future scholarships. One benefit from this Rhodes bequest is the spirit of emulation which it promotes, not in scholarship only, but in strong, manly and generous qualities. It falls to Acadia and Mount Allison to make the selection this year from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick respectively, and it is understood that both schools have among their recent Alumni and in their undergraduate classes several young men who would do honor at Oxford to their own college and to their province.

Progress

of the War.

During the past week Japanese troops have been moving systematically toward and around Mukden. At the time of writing the strategy of the advancing columns had not been revealed, but it is supposed that Kuroki is proceeding as he did at Liao Yang, and that a great turning movement on the Russian left will make further withdrawal necessary. Meanwhile other divisions are going forward rapidly from European Russia, and it is announced that the force in Manchuria will speedily be brought up to 300,000. The reinforcements go forward now with less delay since the railway around Lake Baikal is completed, and it is no longer necessary to transfer the whole force and equipment from train to boat and from boat to train. Heretofore General Kuropatkin has had the direct personal control of

the Russian forces which were operated as one army, while the Japanese opposed to him were divided into four and sometimes five distinct armies all working in unison, but each under separate control as an organization. The Tsar's military advisors seem to have become convinced that the Russian machinery is too cumbersome. In appointing General Griffenburg, a veteran of many wars, to the command of the second Manchuria army, the Emperor states that in his opinion the forces can be operated to better advantage under two distinct commands. At Port Arthur the Japanese have gained great advantages. A spirited and determined assault accompanied with a tremendous bombardment resulted in the capture of three or four important positions, one of which is said to command the best source of Port Arthurs' water supply. The assailants are now strengthening themselves in these positions, mounting guns in some of them, so that they will increase the effectiveness of the canonade. Many prophecies concerning Port Arthur have failed, but it is almost certain that the end cannot be postponed many days longer. The Baltic fleet is still in the Baltic. Though the ships left Kronstadt they have not yet proceeded to the Far East.

Britain and Russia in Thibet.

Russia is making strong protest against the terms of the Treaty which Great Britain has made with Thibet or is negotiating with China concerning Thibet. This treaty made at Lhasa, where it was signed by the ruler under the constraint of a British expedition, gives Great Britain a practical veto over the presence of any other foreign power in that nominal dependency of China. Russia claims that when Young-husband's expedition started assurance was given by Britain that the only purpose was to secure certain commercial privileges to which the nation was entitled by previous compacts with China. The British foreign secretary denies that any assurance was given which is violated by the subsequent conduct of the Government. Still it is quite likely that the original British idea has been modified by the resistance of the authorities and army of Thibet. If the officers sent forward to demand the fulfillment of treaty agreements had not been escorted by an armed force they would have been killed on the road. As it was the expedition had to fight its way to the Lama's headquarters. Arriving at the capital the agent had to insist on such terms as would prevent a recurrence of those troubles. Naturally Russia is the party most offended for Russia has been for many years pushing her conquests and alliances toward the gates of India. British statesmen having to deal with India affairs are quite familiar with the results of Russian intrigue, and they know that either Britain or Russia would, within the next ten years, control the destiny and determine the friendships of Thibet. Britain has gone there and holds the position. The Treaty will not be so modified that Russia can get a foothold in a new position from which India may be threatened. It not only provides that certain trading posts shall be opened to India, but it is stipulated that Thibet shall not negotiate with other nations, or give railway or trading or mining concessions to other countries without the consent of Great Britain. Russia seems to be right in saying that this amounts to a protectorate over the country. But it will probably be found that British protection is better for the Thibetans than the supremacy and dictation of Russia.

—Rev. A. C. Dixon, D. D., pastor of Ruggles Street Baptist church, Boston, will speak for three days Sept. 27-29 in the Olivet Baptist church, Montreal. His subjects are: "The Atonement," "The Doctrine of Heaven and Hell," "Amusements," "Home Life," "Soul Winning." Mr. Moody is reported as having said of Mr. Dixon that "he is the strongest pastor-Evangelist in America." We heard Dr. Dixon repeatedly at Chicago with great delight.

—At Lewiston, Me., Sept. 26, by the wrecking of passenger train No. 24 on the Maine Central railroad, two and a half miles east of this city, late that afternoon, Engineer John L. Kimball and Fireman W. M. Campbell and eight other persons were killed and a dozen other persons injured slightly and taken to the Central Maine hospital, and a score more cut and bruised.