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The War. The Russian retreat from Liao Yang toward Mukden, and probably beyond that ancient capital, has been carried out with great skill. General Kuropatkin has saved the greater part of his army and it is supposed that his loss in the ten days fighting around and at Liao Yang was less than the Japanese suffered in their furious and repeated assaults on the entrenched positions. The Russian commander-in-chief has sent to St. Petersburg a detailed account of the operations. The immediate reason given for the retreat was the failure of General Orloff to check Kuroki's turning movement. Briefly his story is that as the Russian army lay facing the south, with the Tai Tse river behind and the Japanese attacking in front, it was learned that Kuroki had crossed the river with a considerable force some distance to the west and was advancing down the northern bank. If this movement should continue the Japanese would cut the line of communication between Kuropatkin's main army and his base. Accordingly he sent with Orloff what was supposed to be a superior force to intercept Kuroki, and cut him off. But the Japanese force across the river was much stronger than was thought, while Orloff failed altogether to meet the emergency. A report, which is not official, says that the Cossacks who came to Orloff's rescue saved the retreat from becoming a rout, but could not permanently stop Kuroki. As a result Kuropatkin would have had an army in his rear as well as one before him and one on his flank if he had not moved his own main body across the river. It is considered that he was fortunate in getting away in time and considering the size, of his army, the character of the river, and the fact that he was opposed on two fronts by superior forces, the experts give him credit for his successful withdrawal. From Liao Yang to Mukden, nearly thirty miles, there is no point where he could rest without the danger of Kuroki getting behind him. Even at Mukden, which is a large city, the metropolis of Manchuria, there is no safety, and it is understood that the Russians will next take a position of some strength farther west. Meanwhile other Russian corps are going forward, and it is probable that Kuropatkin when he makes his next stand will have an army of nearly 300,000, a much larger force than he commanded at Liao Yang. But the retreat of the Russians leaves the Japanese in full possession of all Southern Manchuria except Port Arthur. They have all the ports in both bays. The Manchurian railway from Mukden south, with all its branches will be operated by Japanese. All the harvests of that rich country will be available for their food, and the 500,000 men that they have now on the mainland of Asia will be in a position to pass the winter there if necessary without danger of privation. At the time of writing Port Arthur still holds out and it appears that the Japanese have given up the idea of capturing the place by assault. The operations are now of the nature of a regular siege and bombardment. The Russian fleet imprisoned in the harbor has not made any further excursions, though it is altogether likely that the ships will make another dash for Vladivostok or the open sea before the place is taken or given up. Meanwhile the Baltic fleet, which includes four splendid battleships and several effective cruisers, together with a number of older or smaller vessels, has sailed from Kronstadt. It is not clear what this squadron is expected to do, or where it is to go. Vladivostok will be closed with ice by the time the ships arrive, and there appears to be no other port where they can find a home. They will need coal, and that cannot be procured in a neutral port.

If He Had

Accepted.

An interesting circumstance in the life of the late Rev. Dr. George M. Grant, Principal of Queens University, Kingston, has been brought to light in his biography, issued in Morang's, Makers of Canada Series. It seems that twenty years ago, Sir Oliver Mowat, then Premier of Ontario, strongly pressed Dr. Grant to become a member of his Government as Minister of Education. The President of Queens took time to consider, and discussed the matter quite fully. At length he declined

the proposition stating that he did not like to give up his vocation as a minister of the gospel or to abridge his political freedom, and that he desired to go on with certain literary work that he had undertaken. After this correspondence closed Sir Oliver offered the position of Minister of Education to Mr. G. W. Ross, who had been for ten years a member of the House of Commons. The offer was accepted, and Mr. Ross, after serving under Sir Oliver and Mr. Hardy, succeeded the latter in the Premiership. We are all at liberty to speculate as to what would have happened by this time had Dr. Grant joined the Mowat Government.

Of Political and

Public Interest.

Though no announcement has been made of the date of the election there is undoubtedly a general impression among the rank and file of both parties that the present Parliament has held its last session. The full term does not expire until November of next year, and the elections could be postponed until December. But it is not uncommon for a Government to appeal to the people at the end of four years. This was done by Sir Wilfrid in 1900, and by Sir John A. McDonald in 1882 and 1891. In Ontario both sides have selected nearly all their candidates, and the West is in the same position. Most of the candidates have been chosen in Nova Scotia, and all those in Prince Edward Island. In New Brunswick few formal nominations have been made outside the sitting members most of whom will seek reelection. The Cabinet was in session last week at Ottawa, and most of the ministers are still there. Party leaders and active workers are anxiously awaiting the announcement of election day, or the intimation that it will not arrive this year.

Lord Minto has been making a farewell tour of the West. He visited the Coast; returned to Edmonton and started thence on a horseback ride across the prairie toward Winnipeg. Last week he travelled several hundred miles making excellent time.

Three of the eight provincial election petitions set down for trial in Ontario have been concluded, with the result that two members have been unseated. As these were both supporters of the Ross Government, which had a majority of four including the speaker at the close of the session, the situation is not without interest.

Engineers have been appointed to direct the surveys on the Grand Trunk Pacific from Moncton to Quebec and thence to Winnipeg. This part of the Transcontinental is to be built by the Government, and it is announced that no time will be lost in locating the line.

R. L. Borden, M. P., leader of the Opposition, is addressing a series of meetings in Ontario.

Exhibitions.

The Halifax Exhibition, which closed last week, is described as one of the most successful ever held in that city, and the Fair now in progress in St. John is a remarkably fine display of the products of Eastern Canada. There are some features connected with all these Exhibitions to which objection is properly taken. Yet the Exhibitions themselves have a great educational value, and are a wonderful stimulus to farmers, fruit-growers and other producers who are in a position to compete. They bring the local producer and the consumer together, and enable men in the same vocation to hear from each other. The usual methods of advertising used by traders and men in large business are not available to the average farmer. An Agricultural Exhibition gives him and his products valuable publicity. Probably fifteen or twenty columns of this paper could be filled with the bare list of farmers' exhibits alone at the St. John or Halifax Fair. These are seen by tens of thousands of people, and this in most cases is of more advantage to the owner than the first prize. In addition it has lately become the custom of the managers to bring to the Exhibition competent lecturers on general agriculture, stock raising and fattening, dairy management, fruit-growing and packing, and kindred subjects. These are impar-

tial and capable judges of exhibits, and their addresses are followed with great profit by those interested in the subjects.

Free Baptists

and Union.

The Free Baptists of this Province met on Saturday in open annual conference at Tracy Station. During Thursday and Friday the Elders' Conference was in session. It is understood that the question of Baptist Union was the principal subject of discussion. The amendments made at Truro to the basis of union were considered, and after full debate were accepted by the large majority. This week the subject is before the open conference of ministers and lay delegates.

King Edward.

The following paragraph on King Edward from the entertaining pen of "Lally Bernard," the well known correspondent of the Toronto Globe, now in London will be read with interest:

"King Edward is without doubt a very wonderful specimen of manhood; he has lived his life at the very highest possible pitch, and he has had two most serious illnesses since he arrived at manhood. I doubt if there were six people in the kingdom who believed that after the operation performed in 1902 King Edward would ever be able to carry on his existence on the same lines as before. Contrary to all expectation, he has lived a more strenuous life than he hitherto did, and those who know him best say that he is more active than he was before his illness. He has grown much slighter, takes more exercise and is more particular about his diet. Yet certainly no royal household ever kept so eternally "on the move" as our English one. Half the year, or very nearly half, is spent on a yacht, and the royal ladies are almost as good sailors as the men. The king who goes for his "euro" this week, is an especially good traveller, delighting, I am told, in the incognito which preserves him from continual wayside addresses. Extraordinary precautions are to be taken, it appears, by the secret police service during his trip to Marienbad, for the recent tragedies in Russia have roused all sorts of fanatics the world over to deeds as desperate as they are dastardly. The King is said to be a man totally devoid of fear, but he recognizes that when a crowned head travels, those with him share in his peril, and so he assents to precautions of an unusually careful nature being carried out. The other day a man who should know said that in Geamahy alone the secret police number something like ten thousand, while Italy and Russia have even more. In all great functions in England there are included hundreds of detectives in plain clothes, and upon certain occasions scattered among the guests at large banquets members of this body have been recognized by those who were 'in the know.'"

—Our readers will join us in expressions of sympathy with the family and immediate friends of Brother Charles E. Knapp, of Dorchester, whose sudden death at Halifax last week is deeply regretted. Mr. Knapp died from injuries received while he was boarding an electric tram-car, a carriage struck him and inflicted fatal injury. Mr. Knapp attended the Convention at Truro and spoke on behalf of work for the African portion of our population. He combined in his speech a gentle humor and a kindly feeling that had the unmistakable Christian ring. His testimony to his personal interest in the salvation of the colored people was what one would expect from Mr. Knapp who for a very long period was faithful to his Christian belief and the principles of his denomination when it was anything but popular for him to do so. He gave continuous testimony by his personal endorsement, and by the devotion of his means to the maintenance of the church to which he belonged and which owes much to him. He was a regular attendant at our denominational gatherings in which he took a deep interest, as he did in all that concerned the welfare of the body and of the community.

—The reference in the "Personal" column, in last week's issue, to Mr. Ralph M. Jones, was prepared before his appointment as instructor at Acadia. Its insertion was an oversight. Mr. Jones will teach in the College as we reported last week.