

# Messenger and Visitor.

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**Marconi Confident of Success.** Mr. Marconi, about whom and his scheme of trans-Atlantic wireless telegraphy, everybody is talking, is described by a Montreal newspaper reporter as a reticent man who never volunteers a statement, but in the presence of the interviewer preserves an attitude of defence. In appearance Mr. Marconi is described as not particularly noticeable. He is tall and thin and delicate looking with a rather dreamy face, and might give the impression of a young man whose enthusiasms had been spent and who took life rather listlessly. He speaks English idiomatically and with scarcely a trace of foreign accent. This is not surprising seeing that his mother was an Englishwoman. And when he speaks he gives evidence of an alert and agile intellect. The great inventor is not disturbed, we are told, by the claims which have been made to his invention. He knows what he has done, and what he still can do, and he returns confident, from Ottawa, that wireless messages can be sent across the Atlantic in a very short space of time. Mr. Marconi laughs indulgently at the suspicions that in some quarters have been cast upon the reality of his having received in Newfoundland signals from England, especially the statement attributed to Sir Thomas Preece, at one time superintendent of the British postal telegraph system, to the effect that when electrical disturbances occur the letter "S" represented by three dots, is frequently disclosed. "I know precisely and definitely," said Mr. Marconi, "the signal I received. In these electrical disturbances to which reference has been made, we get the letters 'G,' 'H,' 'D,' indifferently. The Almighty might as well have sent the letter 'H,' as 'S,' but unless he determined to interfere with my test he would scarcely have sent either letter at the exact speed which I had determined upon. It would be a wonderful atmospheric effect, indeed, had it happened so." Mr. Marconi expresses entire confidence as to the success of the wireless system for trans-Atlantic operation. He is willing to put his own money into it and finds that there is abundance of capital ready to be invested in the venture.

**The Next Session of Parliament.** The opening of the next session of the Dominion Parliament is to take place on February 13, one week later than the date of opening last year. It is expected that the session will be a short one. The departmental business is said to be so well in hand that the reports for most departments are in a condition to be submitted, and it is understood that the estimates will be presented immediately after the opening of Parliament. The Government evidently desires that the session shall be a short one, principally it may be supposed on account of the Coronation ceremonies occurring in June, at which it is expected the Premier will be present. All the Colonial Premiers are expected to be in London at that time, and it is said that advantage will be taken of the occasion to hold an Intercolonial Conference, when matters of mutual interest will be discussed. Legislation that would be likely to provoke strenuous opposition and prolonged debate will therefore probably not be introduced at the forthcoming session, and it is expected that an end of the business will be reached not later than the middle of May.

**Lord Rosebery and the Liberals.** Lord Rosebery's Chesterfield speech, delivered a month or more ago, has had a stimulating effect in political circles and has inspired no little discussion. A good deal that has been spoken and written has been distinctly favorable to the attitude assumed by Lord Rosebery and his intimations as to political policy. There has been a disposition evi-

dent within the Liberal ranks to rally the forces of the party under his lordship's leadership. How influential this disposition may be it has not been, nor is it yet quite possible, to determine. If the surface expression of a meeting of the party held in St. James' Hall, London, on Monday last, can be accepted as an indication of the party feeling in general, the prospect for Lord Rosebery resuming the leadership in the near future can hardly be called bright. His lordship was not present, but when a letter from him was read it was received with a demonstration in which the groans and hisses seem to have rather predominated over the cheers. However, it would not perhaps be wise to take these unfavorable expressions too seriously. It is not always those who make the most noise in a mass meeting who exert the greatest influence in determining a party's policy. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's attitude at the meeting is regarded as statesmanlike and wholly creditable to him. In his speech he minimized the differences between Lord Rosebery's Chesterfield speech and his own views in reference to the Boer war, enlarged upon the points of agreement and indicated his willingness to accept Lord Rosebery's leadership, by welcoming him back to public life. Some astute observers are of opinion that the leaven is working toward a Rosebery leadership.

**The Truro Convention.** The Prohibition Convention which, at the call of a Committee of the Sons of Temperance, assembled in Truro on Wednesday last, is reported to have been the largest and most representative in the history of the movement in that Province, more than one hundred delegates being present, representing nearly every section of the Province. Mr. D. W. B. Reid of Musquodoboit was elected chairman, and Mr. W. S. Saunders of Halifax, secretary. The purpose of the Convention, as announced in the notice calling the meeting, was to urge upon the Government of the Province the importance of enacting a Prohibitory Law. The subject was discussed at considerable length, and some difference of opinion developed as to pressing for the immediate enactment of the proposed legislation. A number of the delegates were of opinion that it would be well to await developments in P. E. Island and Manitoba, so that the proposed forward step might be taken in the light of the experience of those Provinces as to the value of provincial prohibition. The adoption of prohibitory legislation hastily by the Province, under present conditions, it was urged, might prove a backward rather than a forward movement in the interests of the reform which all had at heart. The large majority of the Convention, however, evidently favored a movement for the immediate enactment of a prohibitory law for the Province, and the following resolution was finally carried by an almost unanimous vote:

"Whereas, the Privy Council has, by its recent decision in re the Manitoba Act, shown that the Prohibition of the liquor traffic is within the power of the Provincial Legislatures: Resolved that convention petition the Legislature of Nova Scotia at its approaching session to enact a law prohibiting the liquor traffic in this Province: And that a committee of 27 be appointed to wait upon the Legislature and that this committee be empowered to assist in every way possible in maturing such legislation in order that it be fully satisfactory to the temperance people of this province."

The following persons were named as a committee to carry out the will of the Convention, having power as we understand to increase their number to 27. Annapolis, Rev. Mr. Coffin; Antigonish, W. Pearl Cunningham; Colchester, Edward Fulton; Cumberland, C. S. Chapman; Cape Breton, Rev. F. C. Simpson; Digby, Amos Outhouse; Guysboro, Wm. Ferguson, ex-M. P. P.; Halifax, A. M. Bell; Hants, W. H. Gould;

Inverness, Rev. R. S. Stevens; Kings, S. C. Parker; Lunenburg, Judge Chesley; Pictou, A. Carson; Queens, Rev. Mr. Sloat; Richmond, John Morrison; Shelburne, R. T. Irwin; Victoria, M. D. McAskill; Yarmouth, E. H. Armstrong. A resolution calling upon the Dominion Government to amend the Scott Act, so as to secure its better enforcement was adopted in the following form:

Whereas, the Canada Temperance Act has been adopted by 13 out of 18 counties in the province of Nova Scotia: And, whereas, it has been found difficult to enforce some of its provisions on account of defects in the law: And, whereas, Parliament in 1881 voted to amend the Canada Temperance Act: And, whereas, the Premier, Sir Wilfred Laurier, is reported to have intimated that the act would be amended if the temperance people ask for it: Therefore, resolved, that this convention now in session, composed of temperance delegates throughout the province of Nova Scotia, respectfully request the Dominion Government to amend the Canada Temperance Act at the first session of Parliament in the direction of making it more easily enforced.

A third resolution was adopted complaining of a great injustice being done the prohibition movement by "the persistent and continued insinuations in the political press of the Province" that the temperance church and religious journals are influenced by party considerations in their advocacy of prohibition, and holding the proprietors, alike with the editors, "responsible for the mischief caused by this base and unwarranted species of journalism."

**Opening at Westminster.** The British Parliament was opened by the King in person on Thursday last, amid impressive ceremonies similar to those witnessed last year. The procession to the House of Lords was of the same character as that witnessed on the occasion of the opening of the first Parliament of King Edward's reign, while within the sphere of the House was seen the same state pageantry, the same historic dresses and the same revival of ancient forms. The speeches from the throne in recent years have not been remarkably significant, and the speech of last Thursday kept safely within the lines of this precedent. It opened with a reference to the tour of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and expressed the conviction that it had served "to rivet more closely the bonds of mutual regard by which the vigor of the Empire is maintained." Referring to Great Britain's foreign relations, the King said: "My relations with other powers continue to be of a friendly character." The speech gave no definite assurance as to an early closing of the war in South Africa, but said that the course of operations had been favorable to the Imperial arrangements, that the area of war had been largely reduced and industries were beginning to be resumed. The King praised the British troops engaged in the war for their cheerful endurance of the hardships involved in a guerrilla warfare and for their marked humanity in their treatment of the enemy. This point of the speech was received with unprecedented cheering in which Peers, Peeresses and high Officers of State joined. It was the most emphatic denial possible on the part of the nation of the charges of cruelty and misconduct against British soldiers so constantly reiterated in many European newspapers. The speech made sympathetic allusion to the need of relief in the sugar-producing colonies, caused by the bounty system on the Continent, also to the conclusion of a treaty with the President of the United States providing for the construction of an interoceanic canal, and to some other matters of more or less importance. The reading of the speech in the Commons and the moving of the address in reply, were followed by a rather tame discussion. The debate in the Lords, in which among others, Earls Lytton and Spencer, the Prime Minister and Lord Rosebery took part, was of a much more lively character.

—As the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island has declared the Prohibitory Law of that Province to be *intra vires*, it is to be hoped that a more vigorous enforcement of the law will now take place.