

# Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,  
VOLUME LXIV.

{ THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR  
VOLUME LIII.

Vol. XVIII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1902.

No., 47

**The Doukhobors  
Sent Back.**

The Government, acting through the officials of the Immigration Department has adopted strenuous measures in respect to the wandering Doukhobors, compelling the men, as well as the women and children, to return to their villages. When the Doukhobors arrived at Minnedosa, six hundred strong, they were met by Mr. Pedley, who endeavored to persuade them to return to their homes. He seems to have understood them to consent to this proposal, but when the time came for boarding the train which had been prepared for their conveyance, they refused to do so, and their entrainment and removal were accomplished only through the application of physical force. The Doukhobors' doctrine of non-resistance evidently did not prevent them making a passive resistance of a very determined character. According to a C. P. R. press despatch, the Doukhobors were in the rink when the order for entrainment was given. After the removal of a leader, named Zebroff, who was exhorting them to remain firm, the rest went voluntarily out of the rink "but outside they locked themselves together by every man hugging another, making a solid body. Then the excitement commenced. The citizens turned in and helped the police, but it was hard work for a while to get the Doukhobors apart, taking four or five men to pull one Doukhobor from this interlocked mass. They had to go, however. Some went quietly when broken away, while the majority fought every inch of the ground. The scene was one that has never been equalled in the history of Canada. A sullen, stubborn mob of people fighting fiercely with police and citizens, not in the usual way of warfare, but just to be left alone and allowed to go their way. One citizen had an ear nearly bitten off. A Doukhobor had his ankle broken, and there were many minor mishaps. A few of the Doukhobors went to the coaches alone, but the big majority were carried bodily, dragged, pushed along, or loaded in waggon of farmers who had gathered to see the fight. The latter course was bitterly opposed by the Doukhobors, as they strenuously objected to being drawn by horses. . . . The Doukhobors were by far the heaviest men, and used every ounce of their immense bulk to advantage. Although not on the offensive they certainly made a great fight, and many were the remarks of admiration for the fight they put up. Victory at last crowned the Government forces, and the Doukhobors were all in the coaches, and although they tried to get the windows open, after a last feeble stand they capitulated, and the Government was victorious." It is possible that the account here given exaggerates the resistance offered by the Doukhobors. Other accounts say that while about 200 of the 600 resisted and had to be pushed into the cars, many of the others appeared to be glad to be allowed the privilege of being carried homeward.

**Liberty and  
Fanaticism**

The preceding paragraph, having reference to the enforced return of the Doukhobors to their homes, is not altogether pleasant reading. One does not like to hear of compulsion and force being used against people who have committed no crimes and who presumably have no criminal intentions. These people are certainly fanatics of a very radical type according to the standards of belief and conduct accepted by most of us. But a fanatic has rights which must be respected so long as his actions do not interfere with the rights of others. These vagabond Doukhobors have evidently been led away by fanatical preachers to adopt delusive and half insane beliefs and practices which seriously interfere with their own happiness and usefulness, the welfare of their families and in some degree with the welfare of the country. It may be said, too, that the freedom of belief and the rights of conscience are to be held sacred, even if liberty, separating itself from knowledge and reason, sometimes runs to fanaticism. It may be urged, further, that the attempt to make men think rightly by depriving them of liberty is an invasion of the sphere of sacred natural rights, and that the application of force has not generally proved effective as a remedy for fanaticism. One may question whether these Doukhobors

will not become the more deeply imbued with their fanatical beliefs because they have been compelled to abandon their pilgrimage and return to their homes. Still one cannot but sympathize with the authorities in the very difficult position in which they have been placed in this matter, and probably there are few who will feel disposed to condemn the measure of compulsion which has been employed to restrain the free action of these people. Apart from any rights of liberty or conscience involved, there would seem to have been sufficient grounds for Governmental interference. The presence of an army of 600 wandering mendicants in the country would seem to be in itself a sufficient ground for such interference. And on the grounds of humanity in the interest of the Doukhobors themselves, considering the suffering to which they would be subject through weather conditions liable to occur at any time, the Government could hardly be justified in not taking some effective action to protect these misguided men and their families from the consequences of their folly. When a man's fanaticism goes the length of causing him needlessly and recklessly to sacrifice his own life or the life of those dependent upon him, it seems time that the State should begin to take him in hand.

**Emperor William's  
Visit to England.**

The visit of the German Emperor to England is to the subjects of King Edward a matter of interest not altogether unmixt with apprehension as to the purpose of the Kaiser's coming. The official statements to the effect that the royal visit is quite devoid of political significance have not been accepted at face value. Emperor William is not personally unpopular in England, but the feeling of the English people toward the Germans is not cordial, and suspicions and apprehensions as to the influence of German diplomacy in British affairs are quite definitely expressed in the English press. The Emperor is regarded as a shrewd statesman who is not likely to neglect any opportunities that may arise for advantageous moves on the diplomatic chess-board. There is a belief that the visit of the Emperor to England three years ago was not without a certain political significance, although there were official statements to the contrary at the time. It is believed that at that time assurances were given which inspired in the British Government officials confidence that there would be no interference on the part of Germany in the Boer war. There is not unnaturally a feeling that if the Emperor gave such an assurance on behalf of his Government, he did so on the definite expectation of a *quid pro quo*. What undertakings, if any, Lord Salisbury's Government entered into in this connection is not known to the general public. There are rumors of a secret agreement or undertaking between the two Governments as to East Africa and Asia Minor, and it is believed that Germany has obtained concessions in China which could not have been secured if the South African war had not made it impossible for Britain to give the necessary attention to her interests in the East. The English papers accordingly are evidently suspicious as to what may be going on, and think it necessary to warn the Government against being drawn into disadvantageous diplomatic arrangements with Germany.

**Cabinet Changes.**

There have been some changes in the Dominion Cabinet consequent upon the retirement of Mr. Tarte from the department of Public Works. Hon. James Sutherland of Ontario, who has been head of the department of Marine and Fisheries, has been appointed Minister of Public Works, and Mr. Raymond Prefontaine, of Montreal, has been

appointed to the department of Marine and Fisheries. Mr. Sutherland is a man of recognized integrity and of ability in public affairs, and his service as a Minister of Marine and Fisheries, covering it is true only a short period, has, we believe, given very general satisfaction. His transference, therefore, to what is generally considered the more important department of Public Works, meets with very general approval. The appointment of Mr. Prefontaine, as Minister of Marine and Fisheries, does not meet with so general approbation, and the criticism in this instance is not confined to the party in opposition. There appears to be no question that, so far as energy and ability are concerned, Mr. Prefontaine is equal to the work of the department, but his public acts in connection with the municipal affairs of Montreal have by no means met with unqualified approval, and among his severest critics have been certain newspapers which are generally favorable to the Government. The *Montreal Witness* which had been a severe critic of Mr. Prefontaine's methods in the past and had strenuously opposed his appointment as Minister of Marine and Fisheries, seems willing to believe that, after all, the new minister may render faithful and valuable service in the important department with which he has been entrusted. It says: "Mr. Prefontaine's services, not only to his party but to the country are undeniable. He stood by Mr. Joly when others fell away on account of the Premier's uncompromising rectitude, and won for him Chambly. In 1886 he carried the same county against Mr. Chapleau. During the South African war he sprang to the front as a leader of loyalty at a time when such a leader was much needed. His friends say that, whatever may be said of his municipal record, his parliamentary career is irreproachable. We cannot but assume that the Premier has assurances that his administrative career will be the same. We have done all that we could to keep Mr. Prefontaine out. Now that he is in, let us hope that all misgivings will prove fallacious, and that the new minister who is certainly strong, and withal generous of nature, may prove to be one in whom his country can confide." It has been shown for some time past that Sir Wilfred Laurier's health has been in an unsatisfactory condition, and there have been reports that his condition was so serious that he would be no longer able to sustain the onerous burdens of his position. While these latter reports have not been confirmed, it is announced that the Premier will lay aside official duties for a time and seek to build up his strength by complete rest for a few months in Virginia. In the meantime the duties of the Premiership will be discharged by Sir Richard Cartwright. Sir Richard, by the way, has been recently appointed by the King a member of the Imperial Privy Council, and accordingly becomes a "Right Honorable." The honor of the appointment has hitherto among colonists, been reserved for Premiers.

**Immigration.**

The immigrant arrivals in Canada for the fiscal year ending

June 30 last were as follows:	
United States	26,388
British Isles	17,259
Austria, including Galicia	6,870
Russia and Finland	3,759
Scandinavia	2,451
Germany	1,048
Hungary	1,048
France and Belgium	654
Miscellaneous nationalities	7,902
<b>Total</b>	<b>67,379</b>

The figures show an increase of 18,230 over the previous year, made up as follows:—

Britain	5,449
United States	8,401
Continent of Europe	4,380

While these figures do not indicate that our Dominion is filling up with very great rapidity, they do indicate that the tide of immigration is a growing one, and the increased immigration from the United States, amounting last year to more than one-third of the whole, is especially noteworthy. It is expected that the immigration figures of next year will amount to one hundred thousand.