

The Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 82 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada.

SUBSCRIPTION.
Daily Edition, by Carrier, per year.....\$5.00
Daily Edition, by Mail, per year.....3.00
Semi-Weekly Edition, by Mail, per year.....1.00
Single Copies Two Cents.

TELEPHONE CALLS:
Business Office.....Main 1722
Editorial and News.....Main 1746

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1911.

THE LAYMEN'S CONVENTION.

On the first three days of next week a convention of laymen interested in world evangelization will meet in St. John. The occasion will be unique, because never before have been seen so many laymen joining together, sinking denominational differences and striving unitedly for a single object. Under the spell of the Laymen's Missionary Movement men have begun to discover a great truth, long concealed, that their ultimate aim in religion is the same, though their means of accomplishing that end may differ. It is recognition of this truth which determines the form the convention will take, two days when all meet together to obtain information and inspiration, with a third day devoted to denominational conference, when representatives of the various denominations determine in what they may best carry out the one great, general purpose laid before all.

Nineteen hundred years ago the mandate went forth for this very work, when a Man stood in the midst of His followers in an Eastern land and uttered these words which have never lost their meaning: "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations." Today a movement world-wide in its scope is gathering strength to carry out the commands of the Master. It aims at bringing the Gospel message in his own tongue to every man on the face of the earth within the next twenty-five years.

Men of all denominations are welcome to partake of the good things of the convention, bringing themselves thus into harmony with the spirit of aggressive missionary work; then they are privileged to move over into their own particular denominational field and spread the enthusiasm with which they have been filled. It matters little or not at all to the movers in this cause by what particular route the end they seek is attained, so long as it is attained. There is no grander work in which men can engage than the upliftment of humanity, nor is there any better method that has yet been discovered than this same Gospel, in practice among men.

BRITAIN AND GERMANY.

At a recent church conference at Stoke-on-Trent more than ordinary interest was excited by the speech of Sir Frank Lascelles. This was due to two causes. The first was that it related to a subject of never-failing interest—the relations between Germany and Great Britain. The other lay in the fact that Sir Frank Lascelles was for thirteen years British Ambassador at Berlin and hence spoke necessarily from an "inside" knowledge of the relations he discussed.

On the whole his address was reassuring. The principle of international arbitration he believes to have made considerable advances that the establishment of The Hague tribunal had considerably diminished the probabilities of war.

With respect to German relations, he pointed out that he had been Ambassador at Berlin during the whole of a time when, if the newspapers were to be believed, the danger of war between England and Germany had to be taken into account. His arrival in Berlin coincided almost exactly with the Jameson Raid and with the irritation caused by the German Emperor's famous telegram on that occasion. Then came the Boer War, when the sympathies of Germany were enlisted almost entirely on the side of the Boers. After that came the construction of the German fleet, which was regarded in England as a menace, the only object of which was to place Germany in a position to invade England. It was somewhat curious to observe, at the time of which he was speaking, that while a number of people in England seriously believed that it was the intention of Germany to take a favorable opportunity of invading England, there were just as many people in Germany who believed that England intended to take the first favorable opportunity of attacking Germany and destroying her fleet before it became too powerful.

The situation thus created was one with which it was very difficult to deal. The German people were taught to believe that England was the enemy, that she was constantly seeking to thwart Germany in all parts of the world, and, by a system of understandings with other countries, to hem her in in Europe and surround her by a circle of hostile states. The English people were taught to believe that the one object of the German Empire was to undermine the power of England in all parts of the world, and to invade England itself, and the relations between the two countries went from bad to worse. Deploable in itself, the situation thus created was dangerous to the peace of the world. Although there was no definite ground of quarrel between England and Germany, the ill-feeling that existed between the two countries might tend to encourage the opinion that a good understanding and the establishment of cordial relations would be hopelessly impossible until the position of each country was fixed definitely as the result of a war.

"In my opinion," proceeded the speaker, "a war between England and Germany would be one of the greatest calamities which could befall the world. Each country would certainly suffer, and it is difficult to understand what advantage either would obtain from a war in which it was successful.

"England might destroy the German fleet and thus secure the predominance at sea; Germany might curtail the power of England and possibly obtain some colonial possessions. But it is inconceivable that either power should annihilate the other or obtain more than a temporary advantage, which would be more than compensated by the loss sustained.

"So far as I am aware, there is no question between the two countries which would not be susceptible of arrangement by negotiation. There is certainly none which would justify war."

Sir Frank thinks that commercial rivalry would militate against the outbreak of hostilities. He fears it will take a good while to dissipate the atmosphere of suspicion, distrust and bitterness which now exists. He is, however, hopeful that if once the idea can be got rid of that each country is in danger of attack by the other a good understanding will result.

WORK FOR PRISONERS.

A subject which was discussed with keen interest at the annual Congress of the American Prison Association held recently at Omaha, was that of the proper employment of prisoners. The discussion ended in the decision to appoint a special committee, among the members of which is the President of the American Federation of Labor, to investigate prison labor conditions in the United States, and to report at next year's congress recommendations at a later date.

dations as to the best labor methods to be pursued in the correctional institutions of the various states.

The aroused public interest in this country in regard to the whole question of the treatment of convicted offenders against the law is such that everything bearing on that question claims special attention. The proceedings of the congress at Omaha teemed, as the New York Outlook puts it, with aspects of the prison labor problem. From New Zealand the success of reforestation by prisoners was reported; from Toronto, the remarkable working of convicts on a wide prison farm without armed guards. From the District of Columbia came reports of several successful years of collection of important sums from convicted offenders on probation, for the benefit and support of their families.

Colorado has built almost half a hundred miles of state road by prisoners in the open, and other states have emulated the record. The congress was dominated by the idea that prisoners should be steadily and profitably employed, not exploited by state or corporation or individual, and that so far as possible the families of prisoners should receive some portion of their earnings.

REFORMS IN FIRE INSPECTION.

A new fire inspection ordinance went into effect in New York this week and is of some general interest, as showing a determination to prevent, if possible, the many fire horrors which have shocked the world during the last few years. Cases where men and women workpeople were penned in behind zinc-coated doors, three or four stories in the air—often with the doors locked, usually with inadequate fire escapes, and always causing a horrifying loss in human life—these and events arrived so rapidly and caused so much unfavorable comment, that immediate reforms were demanded. The law was enacted at the last session of the Legislature.

Nearly 600 of the most capable and trusted members of the New York fire department have been detailed as official fire inspectors. Their duties are not only to pass upon and accept or reject new structures, as they are erected; but once in every month, trained inspectors must go over every shop and factory, and every office building, and make careful note of every defect discovered.

They are required to see that New York buildings have ample and uncluttered elevators; well-arranged fire escapes, neat coils of rope on every floor, fire buckets and chemical spraying mechanisms on every landing; and in addition to the above precautions, in all the public school buildings, the children must perform regular fire drills twice a week; and if there come a fearful holocaust among the little ones hereafter, the act makes provisions for the arrest and trying of the guilty fire inspectors on charge of murder or manslaughter, as the circumstances may warrant.

For years New York city has been trying out members of the police force, many of whom were bribed by the owners of the buildings, and a few of whom have confessed to their crimes—pleading guilty to manslaughter, sooner than stand trial on charge of murder. Having tested the not-over-scrupulous police and found many of them wanting, New York will now try members of the fire department, most of whom have shown themselves far more reliable than the police.

A GREAT WINE YEAR.

Europe is finding some consolation for the extraordinary heat of last summer; the sun that tortured man and beast ripened the grapes and 1911, like 1811, will be a famous wine year. Not for quantity but for quality, so that those whose taste is discriminating and who have the money to gratify it should stock their cellars in time.

The reports from France are particularly favorable. According to the London Times' annual statement the whole output of the sixty odd highest grade vineyards, from Chateau Margaux and Haut Brion to Leoville and Pontet Canet, was bought up before all the grapes had been gathered, at prices 50 per cent. above last year's, so sure are the purchasers of the quality of the Bordeaux wines. The product here is only 60 per cent. of that of 1909, the last fine vintage, which was not a large one. The white wines, Chateau Tugem and the other sauternes, are the best since 1892.

As regards burgundies, in the Cote d'Or, which includes the Chambertin, Romanee Conti and Clos de Vougeot vineyards, the crop is only a third of the average quantity, but the quality is the best in twenty years. Chablis, too, is very fine and very scarce. What little champagne there is of is of exceptionally fine quality, recalling the good years 1865, 1874, 1884 and 1892. The Anjou wines are very good, and from the Charente comes the report that the cognac will be finer than any distilled in the last quarter of a century.

Like reports of a creamy good wine in less than average quantity come from the port districts of Portugal, the sherry districts of Spain, and from Italy, while Madeira sends news of an increased product of extremely fine wine. It appears, therefore, that 1911 will rank among the great wine years, and that the prices that will be asked for its wines will be exceptionally high.

Current Comment

(Vancouver News-Advertiser.)

Hon. Mackenzie King, speaking as president of the Ontario Liberals, has declared that the party will stand by its "fundamental principles," one of which is Reciprocity with the United States. This teaching does not commend itself to the Montreal Herald, or the Halifax Chronicle, which are organs of Liberalism in their respective cities. The Chronicle has declared that Reciprocity is a dead issue, settled forever by the vote of the late election. The Montreal Herald, it is a misuse of words to take up Reciprocity as a fundamental principle. It was a business compact deemed advantageous at the time. Whether a similar compact shall be made or endorsed by the Liberal party in the future is, according to the Herald, a question of expediency rather than of fundamental principle. Mr. King would probably agree with this if he had not found the two words he used pleasing to his vocal organs.

(Montreal Gazette.)

A conference representing British miners has decided by a huge majority not to proceed with the vote of the calling of a national strike. The men with much authority and little sense of responsibility who come to the front during labor troubles have been having much of their own way of late in Great Britain. The results seem to have been sobering on those who lose most when a strike does not succeed.

(Toronto News.)

A British artist says: "That there will be no art in weather? Thank you. So far as the editor of this column is concerned, art in masculine fashions will have to wait."

(Ottawa Journal.)

In New York, according to a prominent evangelist, it costs \$545 to save a sinner. The cost of some recent trials in American courts shows it is cheaper to save a sinner than to convict one.

(Kalamazoo Gazette.)

The normal school band uniforms will consist in a cap and coat at first, with the probable addition of trousers at a later date.

SHOT THE ARABS IN CATCHES

The War in Tripoli as Seen by a Photographer.

London, Nov. 11.—Frank Magee, special photographic correspondent of the Daily Mirror, has just returned from Tripoli and gives the following account of his experiences of the fighting there last week:

It is a somewhat curious fact that I drove to the front in a cab, yet it is literally true as the cab took me to the very trenches where the Italian soldiers were repelling the Arab attack.

The driver was an Arab, and he could have given points to a London cabbie. His legal fare was 5s. He demanded £1. He accepted 8s. It was a three mile ride. I was on my way back to breakfast after a fruitless expedition to see a scouting aeroplane start. But I heard firing, so my place was at the front.

I was admitted by ticket. Yes, actually as though I were attending a football match. At the trench I presented my permit, signed by Gen. Caneva, to the commanding officer. Then I was allowed anywhere.

I photographed batteries which were pounding away at the Turkish lines and came through a native cemetery where Turkish bullets were chipping pieces of tombstones. Overhead too the bullets were pinging past me.

Then I saw some Italian riflemen in a line between date plantations. The officer signed me to lie down, but I didn't understand him till a shower of bullets around me translated his signs.

A few moments later a volley came into us from behind. The rebel Arabs in the city were firing from the cover of the date trees. We were between two fires and couldn't budge for an hour.

After getting away from where the rebels attacked in the rear, near Shara Shlat, I crawled along through trenches and made my way around under cover of the plantations. The officer signed me to lie down, but I didn't understand him till a shower of bullets around me translated his signs.

There was no attempt made at inquiring into individual cases, nothing approaching a trial or court martial. After some little time an officer arrived and from that time on the soldiers who had caught prisoners marched them out to the trenches and shot them in batches as fast as they were brought in.

They were splendidly indifferent to their fate, the majority of them maintaining a stolid silence and making no attempt to protest or resist. Whole basketsful of arms were brought in, an extraordinary concentration, British bayonets, French bayonets, old horse pistols, antilocks, blunderbusses, the majority of them utterly useless.

They had been taken from the prisoners and had evidently been served up to make a show that for any practical use they could possibly be.

Among the prisoners were several who had protested vigorously that they were innocent of having taken any part in the hostilities against the Italians.

They had been caught in the plantations from which the rear attack had come, but they maintained that they had been gathering dates, and confirmed this by showing handfuls of dates from the pockets of their voluminous robes.

My answer they received was to be clouted with the butts of rifles by their captors. They were marched off like the rest and shot in the back just outside the lines.

I went out at the back some little distance from the house as a large gang of them—forty or more—were being led out to their death.

Most of these, unlike the fighting men who had been taken red-handed under arms, were lame, their faces pale and suddenly the whole group broke and fired in different directions shrieking and yelling.

A fusillade promptly followed, their escort firing on them as they ran. Several of them fell wounded.

A number ran toward me, evidently thinking that the Italians would not fire on them for fear of wounding a white man.

But their confidence was misplaced, and the bullets sang all round me. Fortunately they passed overhead, as the firing party had to aim high to avoid the risk of hitting their comrades in the trench.

But we took no chances, I and my camera, and bolted into the cover of the cactus.

Scores of women and children brought into the house, but I never saw one of them leave again. I can only imagine what happened.

There were also many number of poor old infirm men and cripples driven in hobbling on sticks or umbrellas. They were scarcely able to drag one leg after the other. Many of them were so infirm they could scarcely walk at all, but they were constantly prodded and butted along by their escorts, who used the butts of their rifles and the points of their bayonets to hasten them on.

I saw certainly dozens of cases of this kind, and in one instance as a very old prisoner was being brought in a mounted officer cantered up alongside of him and began slashing at him with a kind of sabre.

I ran forward, and the moment the officer saw me he stopped and dropped back again, looking very sheepish. There is no doubt the officers did not like the sight of the prisoners, and they had to recognize it. It was a permit to go anywhere I wished.

I was, however, the only correspondent who was allowed to get through the lines. On my way back late in the afternoon I told some of the officers in the trenches of the disastrous carnage and other horrors I had witnessed at that house. The troops all round received the news with wild delight.

There is one thing I must say for the Italian soldiers. They are incredibly brave and steady coolness in the South African campaign, but every thing has been eclipsed by what I saw in Tripoli.

For instance in going across the open space under a heavy crossfire between one plantation and another, the men never quickened their pace a fraction.

All round bullets were whistling and kicking up dust spots in front of him and all among them. They would just stoop down and pick out the bullets from the sand and save them as souvenirs.

Even the sight of their comrades dropping at their side left the survivors unmoved, and they joked and talked as the whizzing and singing of the bullets flying past.

For sheer cold, unemotional daring I have never seen anything to equal it. They are, as a whole, a splendid body of men from the point of view of physique and are magnificently disciplined.



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Brownhead, Nov. 17.—Passed Montreal, Montreal; Spiral, Shediac, N. B.

Philadelphia—Schr Elm City, Baltimore, for Stockton, Me., in distress.

New York—Schr. John R. Fell, St. George, N. B.; Edda, Hillsboro, N. S.

Vineyard Haven—Schr. Calvin P. Harris, South Amboy for Rockland, Me.; Moonlight, do, for Calais, Me.

Spartan, do, for Eastport, Me.; Melissa, Trask, do, for Ellsworth, Me.

Rockland, Me.—Schr. Rebecca, M. Wales, St. John, N. B.; John B. Richardson, New York.

Bangor, Me.—Schr. Edward E. Barry, Newport News; Melville, Newark, N. J.

Liverpool—Schr. Empress of Britain, Quebec.

New York—Schr. St. Lawrence, New York, N. S.; Diana, Windsor, N. S.

Quebec, Nov. 17.—Arr: St. Lawrence, Matias, from Liverpool; Virginian, Gamble, from do; Cervona, Spoke, from Middleborough.

COULD TAME LIONS BUT NOT HIS WIFE

New York, Nov. 17.—Jack Bonaville, the lion tamer in private life John Frederick Gentner, was served with papers today at Tenally, New Jersey, in suit for divorce brought by his wife, who before her marriage was the Princess De Montglyn, of Belgium.

Gentner has been living at Bergenfield, N. J., where she is known as Mercy De Argentine Gentner. Bonaville met the Princess in Paris some ten years ago, about the time he lost almost his entire right arm in an attack by a lion, and the couple were married in that city in 1903.

The Princess during most of her stay in this country has been raising blooded dogs and cats and exhibiting under the name of Princess De Montglyn.

CRYSTAL PALACE SOLD.

London, Nov. 17.—The Earl of Plymouth has purchased a Crystal Palace one of the greatest amusement places of England for \$1,650,000. His purpose is to hold it until the nation shall purchase it thus avoiding its sale at public auction.

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