

First Baptist Church 1005
care R. N. Hookwith
121 Dresden Row

Messenger and Visitor

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A Critical Situation.

The Toronto *Globe* regards the situation at Ottawa in connection with the Autonomy Bills and the school question as "to the last degree critical." The warring and irreconcilable elements in the situation and the peril of the outcome *The Globe* says, create a very real and a very serious crisis. The origin of the crisis *The Globe* finds in the seemingly incurable tendency of the Federal Parliament to encroach on the sphere of the Provincial Legislatures. And Federal interference with Provincial rights on the question of education is especially dangerous, because education has been the storm-centre of the worst and most hurtful controversies in the past. All the confusion, peril and humiliation which now attaches to the situation might have been avoided "had the whole question of education been left untrammelled to the Provinces, with such safeguards for the rights and privileges as the British North America Act itself provides. The intrusion of Mr. Sbarretti and the raising of the school question in connection with the enlargement of Manitoba, is only an aggravation of the trouble, and adds to the acuteness of the crisis. The intelligent people of Canada have no share in the abuse of the Papal Delegate, but neither he nor any other ecclesiastic, nor any deputation or committee of any church, Protestant or Catholic, can with impunity hold conferences with politicians, and negotiate for the settlement of political problems because of their ecclesiastical standing or their supposed control of a corporate vote. The interference of any ecclesiastic only aggravates and gives foundation to suspicion and distrust." Is there any way out of the crisis? "None." *The Globe* answers "that is free from danger and loss. Both political parties must suffer, for both have blundered. Not a few politicians on both sides may learn to their cost the lesson which the experience of others should have made plain. But the chief damage will be to those interests that are higher than the fortunes of parties or of politicians." The legislation necessary to secure the rights and privileges of minorities should have been left to the Provincial Legislatures, where it rightly and constitutionally belongs. "If mistakes are made, let them be made by the people who must suffer because of them. If there must be strife, let it be among those whose interests are immediately at stake. The Dominion Parliament has trouble enough of its own without borrowing from the Provincial arena. In the last analysis the question must be faced by the Provinces, and it will never be settled except on the floor of the Provincial Legislatures. Why, then, should Parliament deceive itself, and continue to vex the country over a question which Parliament cannot solve?"

The British Budget.

The British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Austin Chamberlain, made his annual financial statement in the House of Commons on April 10th. The statement on the whole must be regarded as satisfactory. Mr. Chamberlain was able at the outset to make the agreeable announcement that the revenue of the year just closed had exceeded his estimate by nearly \$15,000,000. This means that there has been a very substantial improvement in trade, so that instead of the heavy deficit of a year ago there is now a balance on the revenue side of the account. Although 1904 began badly, the supply of cotton proved to be bountiful, reviving the Lancashire industries, shipbuilding also has showed signs of recovery and the iron and steel industries have slightly improved. The country, Mr. Chamberlain finds, is on the path of moderate but steady recovery, but if cannot be said that the year has been wholly satisfactory in respect to commerce and finance, since there has been much pauperism and distress. The consumption of beer and spirits has been less in 1904 than in any of the preceding fifteen years. The expenditure of the fiscal year 1904-5 was below the estimate by \$7,070,000. The national debt has been reduced by \$37,790,000. This seems a large sum as it stands by itself, but when it is subtracted from a total public debt of \$3,775,860,000 the reduction does not appear very great. The nation is paying off the debt incurred by the Boer war which added several hundreds of millions to the big total and will continue

to form a part of the British taxpayer's burdens for years to come. For the year 1905-6 Mr. Chamberlain estimates that the expenditure will be \$705,100,000, and the revenue on the existing basis of taxation \$720,020,000, leaving a surplus of \$14,860,000. There will be no reduction in the income tax, but the duty on the tea will be reduced by four cents from July 1st. Incidentally the Chancellor said he hoped that the first instalment of the \$150,000,000 of the war contribution promised by the Transvaal would be available in 1906. An interesting and a gratifying feature of the budget speech was the reference to the decline in revenue from excise duties on spirits and the statement that the consumption of beer and spirits was less in 1904 than in any year for the past fifteen years. This decline is not attributed to hard times and the inability of the poorer classes to spend so much for drink as formerly, but to changes in the habits of the people. Out-door recreations and excursions, Mr. Chamberlain says, are becoming more popular and a majority of the people are finding other employment for the part of the money which they used to spend in the public houses.

Abnormal Personality.

There is something very wonderful about personality. When one tries to fathom it he is lost in the "abyssal depths" of his own being. How strange is the unity and persistence of personality which obtains under normal conditions! The old man of seventy remembers himself as a little child, and recognizes himself as the same person he was then, although every particle of his physical being has changed several times during the intervening years. And the problem of personality is not rendered less, but even more, mysterious by the fact that there are occasional exceptions to its normal unity. Cases of double and even of multiple personality are well attested. The latest of these to come under our notice is one of which a London cable says, *The Lancet* gives particulars. The patient in this case is said to be a girl, between twelve and thirteen years of age, who has developed ten varieties of abnormal personality. She comes of healthy parents and was herself healthy in mind and body until she was attacked with influenza. Then the changes of personality manifested themselves. Some were complete and others incomplete, some sudden and others gradual in appearance. In some cases the patient was totally and in all partially ignorant of her life during other states. Acquirements such as drawing and writing and also the normal faculties were present in certain states but lost in others. While in a blind condition she developed the faculty of drawing with the aid of touch alone, this sense being enormously increased in delicacy. Her character and behaviour in some states differed widely from what they were in others. The phases varied from a few minutes to ten weeks. The normal state grew gradually less frequent and of shorter duration until it finally disappeared. The various stages lasted about three years altogether, until ultimately a particular abnormal stage was reached, in which she remembered at the date of the report. In this stage she was intelligent and able to work.

Earthquake in India.

Earthquake shocks of much severity, attended with great destruction of property and very serious loss of life, occurred during the first week in April, in Northern India, principally in the Kangra district. At Dharmasala a hill station 95 miles north of Simla, four hundred soldiers, members of the 7th Gurkhas, are reported to have been killed by the collapse of a stone barrack building. In addition twenty members of the first battalion and fifty members of the second battalion of the 1st Gurkhas were killed, while it is roughly calculated that from twenty to thirty per cent of the native population of the surrounding villages were killed. A number of Europeans also were among the victims. Three of the London church Missionary Society's representatives at Kangra were killed by the fall of the Mission-house there during the earthquake. At Simla, Lady Curzon, wife of the Viceroy, had a narrow escape from the fall of a chimney. Later ac-

counts show that the earthquake was even more disastrous than was at first believed. Of a total population of nearly 5,000 in the town of Kangra, it is believed that only 500 are left alive. Many of these have fled. Of the police only a deputy inspector and four sergeants are alive. Many people are still imprisoned in the ruins. Dharmasala, Kangra, Palampur, Dhawan and all the neighboring villages were completely wrecked. Scarcely a building remains standing. Not much damage was done at Haripur, Deragopipur, Nadaum, Hamirpur, but Sujampur, (sixty six miles from Amritsar, and having a population of about 6,000 souls), is reported to be in ruins. An official despatch from Dharmasala says the place is a scene of complete desolation. Owing to the scarcity of labor great difficulty is experienced in excavating the ruins, but the Gurkhas are doing excellent work.

Suffering in Spain.

In the Province of Andalusia, Spain, there is great suffering because of a scarcity of food and intense drought which is killing the cattle. Many villages have been deprived of their water supply by the drought, and in some of the towns the inhabitants can obtain only a tenth of the proper supply. At San Lucas on April 6 the thermometer registered 105 degrees in the shade. The city of Jerez de la Frontera is threatened with a complete water famine. The suffering of the live stock is intense, and hundreds of cattle are dying for lack of food and water. Owners of starving cattle offer to sell their carcasses at two cents a pound; but the peasants are penniless and unable to buy food of any kind. Hunger is begetting desperation and lawlessness. Numerous bakers' stores have been pillaged by the starving people. Bands of unemployed men are parading the streets of Antequera. They threaten to plunder the houses of the grandees if their sufferings are not relieved. Troops have been sent to maintain order. In Cordova 2,000 famine sufferers demanded of the mayor that he supply them with work or food. The mayor replied that he was unable to do either. The demonstrators thereupon left the town, saying they would walk to Madrid and appeal to the king for aid. The Bishop of Malaga, preaching in the cathedral, denounced the indifference of the wealthy to the sufferings of the poor. He announced that he was willing to sell the episcopal jewels to provide food for the starving. King Alfonso has signed a decree reducing the duties on corn and flour during the distress. The Government contemplates wholly suspending the duties. It will ask the Cortes for an appropriation for the relief of the Andalusians.

The Virginian.

The turbine steamer *Virginian*, the second vessel of the kind which the Allans have placed on the Canadian mail service, reached Halifax at 10.15 o'clock on Friday morning. Her time from Moville was six days twenty-one hours and thirty-four minutes, beating the best previous record for the Moville route, six days, and twenty three hours, held by the Allan line *Bavarian*. The *Virginian*, however, took the southern route to avoid ice and steamed 2,500 miles, which is nearly 250 miles more than the distance covered by the *Bavarian* which followed the northern route. The performance of the *Virginian* confirms strongly the excellent impression created by the *Victorian* in favor of the turbine steamship for trans-Atlantic work. The passengers were enthusiastic in praise of the turbine and were especially gratified at the complete absence of vibration in every part of the ship, the engines working so smoothly that one could hardly tell that the steamer was moving. Though some unpleasant weather was experienced, there was comparatively little seasickness. Dr. J. Trumbull, the ship's surgeon, who had made a hundred trips across the Atlantic, said that he had never so little suffering from that cause. The *Virginian* was given excellent opportunities on the voyage to prove her ocean-going qualities, and stood the test with flying colors. She experienced two or three days of nasty weather, and in a stiff gale which raised heavy seas proved a fine sea boat. She was tried with the gale ahead, behind and on her side, and under all conditions behaved admirably, riding the waves like a sailing vessel and shipping no seas.