

Messenger and Visitor

First Baptist Church
care of N. Beckwith
121 Dredon Row

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER
VOLUME LXVII.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME LVI.

Vol. XXI.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Wednesday, March 22, 1905.

No. 12

Imperial Relations

Last Monday in the Dominion House of Commons, Colonel Sam Hughes, member for Victoria, Ont., introduced his resolution on Imperial Relations, of which he had given notice near the opening of the session. The text of the resolution is as follows: "That in the opinion of this House the best interests of Canada and the Empire at large would be advanced, and the peace, progress, and prosperity of humanity be assured by a full partnership union of Great Britain and her colonies, wherein there would be a united Imperial Parliament, empowered to deal with inter-imperial, international, commercial, financial, and other necessarily national problems, but leaving to the existing Parliaments their present powers, functions, control of tariffs, and other matters necessary for their own purposes." Col. Hughes quoted the late Hon. Joseph Howe as well as Hon. Joseph Chamberlain as advocates of Imperial Union. He argued that it was to Canada's interests to remain connected with the Empire and bear a fair share of its military burdens. If Canada were independent, he said, she would have to pay from \$60,000,000 to \$100,000,000 a year for defence to put her in the position of a second class power. If Canada had been a part of the United States her assessment for military purposes last year would have been \$30,000,000. Col. Hughes declared that he would prefer annexation to the United States to independence. In indicating his idea of the form which an Imperial Union should take, Mr. Hughes said he would perpetuate a limited form of a monarchical government; he would have a Parliament elected from various parts of the Empire, and from them an Executive Council would be chosen. They should control the army, navy, Consular agencies, and commercial agencies. The existing Parliaments would continue to control their affairs, etc., except for an Imperial preference to be determined by the Imperial body. Whenever a foreign nation reduced its tariff the preference might be extended to it. Among those who took part in the debate on Col. Hughes' resolution were the Premier and the leader of the Opposition. Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that the subject presented by Col. Hughes was one that had engrossed the attention of some of the best minds in the British Empire, and so far no solution had been found for the problem opened by the question. He referred to the futile efforts of the Imperial Federation League in this connection and expressed the belief that the solution was not to be found within the four corners of Col. Hughes' resolution. British history would show, Sir Wilfrid said, that constitutional changes had come only as a result of dissatisfaction with an existing order of things. In the present instance, he contended, there was no dissatisfaction respecting the relations of the motherland and the colonies and accordingly no conditions out of which a change such as the resolution foreshadowed would be likely to grow. Mr. Borden extended to the resolution a somewhat larger measure of hospitality which however fell considerably short of a cordial endorsement. He regarded the subject brought forward as one of much interest and well worthy of being discussed by the House. Mr. Borden spoke in favor of a system of mutual trade preferences within the Empire and expressed the belief that this policy would be a good one for Canada and for the Empire as a whole. He expressed his hearty sympathy with the movement inaugurated by Mr. Chamberlain and the hope that many present might live to see such a system of preferences within the Empire as the Chamberlain scheme contemplated become an accomplished fact.

The War.

From later accounts it would appear that the Russian defeat in the battle of Mukden was not less disastrous than was supposed to be the case a week ago. We have seen no definite and authoritative statement of the losses sustained, and such estimates as have been put forth cannot be more than approximately correct. A leading St. Petersburg paper estimates the Russian losses at 150,000, and another St. Petersburg paper believes that the losses on both sides will amount to 200,000. From a Japanese source it is estimated that the Russians lost 200,000, including 50,000 prisoners. There is no doubt that General Kuropatkin's army was in a very shattered and demoralized condition when it reached Tie Pass, and even at that point the Russian General found it impracticable to make any lengthened stand. In order, as it would seem, to avoid the result of a flanking movement by the Japanese the Russians

withdrew from the Pass on the night of the 14th, relinquishing the strong positions they had prepared there months ago and setting fire to the railway station and other buildings. The purpose of the Russians is probably to fall back to Harbin, but whether or not they will be able to effect this successfully is doubtful. There has been a good deal of fighting during the past week. On Wednesday a battle was in progress north of Tie Pass, the Japanese having effected a turning movement from the west, and the position of the Russian army was regarded as critical. Following the news of these repeated disasters has come the announcement that General Kuropatkin has been deprived of his command and called home. General Linevitch succeeds as commander-in-chief. The lot of the dismissed General seems a hard one. He has fallen far short of fulfilling his expectations and his boasts when he took charge of the Czar's forces in Manchuria. To be called home in disgrace, after having suffered defeat after defeat and after having accomplished little but retreats, is a great contrast with his expectation of dictating terms of peace in the name of the Czar in Tokio. It is hardly to be expected however that Linevitch or any other General will be able to do much toward retrieving Russian's fortunes in the east for the present. A new army will be necessary, which, considering the disturbed state of things at home, Russia is likely to find difficult, if not impossible, to send. But the Czar and his advisors say that the war must go on.

The Northwest

School Question.

During the past week there have been in circulation a number of rumors and reports in reference to the action likely to be taken by the Government and by Parliament in respect to the Autonomy Bills. It has been said that the Government contemplates submitting the School clauses to the Imperial Privy Council with a view to settling the question of their constitutionality, and that accordingly the Bills will probably be held in abeyance until another session of Parliament. Another report is to the effect that the Bills will be put through this session, and then the School clauses submitted to the Privy Council for determination. A later report, however, contradicts the foregoing and says that an understanding has been reached which will insure for the Autonomy Bills the unanimous support of the Northwest Liberal members. It is said further that if a position is taken by the Government which satisfies the members from the Northwest, the Government's supporters from the other Provinces are not likely to raise any objections. What the provision is to which the Northwest members are said to be willing to subscribe we are not informed, but it is presumed that it will provide for the existence of a separate school system in the new Provinces such as now exists in the Northwest. We shall be much surprised if such a settlement of the matter shall obtain general endorsement at the hands of the Government's supporters in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces whatever may be done by those of the Northwest. As we intimated last week, there is good reason to believe that the people of the Northwest are not willing to endorse the embodiment of anything in the constitution of the new Provinces which irrevocably binds upon them a separate school system. They may be willing for the time being to continue the existing system, they may be willing if left to themselves to continue it indefinitely, but they do not want any such system forced upon them in perpetuity by an act of the Dominion Parliament, and Parliament has no right to take such a step. We repeat here what we said in this connection last week. It is the inherent right of these prospective commonwealths, soon to have within their bounds millions of people, to control their own educational systems, and the Dominion Parliament, with or without the consent of the Northwest members, has no right to fetter the free action of these coming millions in a matter of so great and far-reaching importance.

Canadian

Wheat.

Some interesting statements respecting the future of the Northwest as a wheat growing country were made by Dr. Saunders, Director of the Experimental Farm

of Canada, in his evidence recently given before the House of Commons Committee on Agriculture and Colonization. The year 1904, Dr. Saunders said, was not on the whole a very profitable one for the Canadian farmer. Dry weather injured the crops in the Maritime Provinces and rust did much damage in the West, while in Ontario and Quebec conditions were somewhat more favorable. Altogether about 80,000,000 bushels of wheat were produced in the Dominion. The exports of wheat from the United States, Dr. Saunders observed, are declining rapidly. In 1902 they sent to Great Britain 81,000,000 bushels, or 54 per cent. of the latter's total needs. In 1903 only 45,000,000 bushels, and in 1904, 12,000,000 bushels were exported. Flour exports had similarly fallen off from 7,000,000 in 1903 to 4,000,000 in 1904. In the contest for the production of wheat Canada had many advantages in soil and climate over other countries, and much of its soil was now being taken up by a steady influx of settlers. The relative productiveness of our soil was shown by the following comparison as to yields of wheat last year: Manitoba 16.52 bushels per acre; Northwest Territories 18 bushels; North Dakota 11.8; Minnesota 12.8 bushels and South Dakota 9.6. Our chief competitors in the British market in the future will probably be Russia, Argentina and India. The relative value of our wheat and theirs is shown by the latest quotations in the Liverpool market; Canada No. 1 Northern, \$1.14; No. 2 Northern, \$1.11; No. 3 Northern, \$1.04; Russian, \$1.05; Argentina, 99 cents; India, 97 cents. This was not a bad showing for Canadian wheat for last year when there was very little of our best wheat, No. 1 hard, produced. Dr. Saunders spoke of the results of cross breeding in wheat for seed, and quoted Mr. Angus McKay, Superintendent of the Indian Head Experimental Farm to the effect that the new varieties of Huron and Stanley had been sown five days earlier than the Red Fife in 1903, so that there was hope of getting grains that would resist the danger of frost.

For the Regulation of Motor Vehicles.

A Bill for the regulation of motor vehicles in the public highways has been introduced in the New Brunswick Legislature. As these vehicles are coming into more general use, it is important that the law should take cognizance of their presence and define the rights and responsibilities of those who use them on the highways. The introduction of motor vehicles may turn out in the end to be a matter of very great and general advantage, but for the present it must be confessed their presence on the highways is a source of no small danger to those who employ the more usual modes of conveyance. There is scarcely anything which creates such alarm in the breast of the ordinary horse as one of these motor cars, and no wonder, for it may well appear to the equine mind that this great puffing, ill smelling thing, seeming to move of its own volition, is some awful dragon which must at all costs be avoided. At all events, whatever may be the cogitations of the equine mind on the subject, there are few horses endowed with the nerve necessary to face one of them on a narrow highway with equanimity. No doubt the horse will learn in time that the motor car is not so ferocious as it appears. But meantime the drivers of horses are likely to have an anxious time on roads frequented by the automobile. It is reasonable therefore that the horse and those who put their trust in him should have such protection from the motor car as the law can afford them. The bill now before the Provincial Legislature is said to provide that every motor car must be registered with the secretary of the department of public works and properly marked, so that it can be identified. Also that every person operating a motor shall be registered and receive a badge to be worn when operating the motor. There are regulations in regard to speed. The highest speed allowed in the vicinity of a city, town or village being at the rate of a mile in four minutes. Motors are to be required to show two lights at night, a white light in front and a red light in the back. Heavy penalties are imposed for the violation of the law. The bill has been introduced thus early in the session in order that its provisions may be carefully considered and if necessary amended before final action is taken.