

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1904.

JUNE 8, 1904.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH

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Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., JUNE 8, 1904.

THE CASUALTIES.

Of every fifteen Russians engaged in the defence of Kin Chow one was either killed or wounded. Of every eleven Japanese who marched against the various forms of death which held the heights one was either killed or wounded. The Russians had about 12,000 men in their works. The Japanese force in all numbered about 50,000 men. Neither side had its entire force under fire, but this was true also of other actions with which the fighting at Kin Chow has been compared. One man in the entrenched position on the hills must have been equal to four or five in front of him, since the works were well supplied with artillery, had been defended after the most modern methods with some success, and were virtually unassailable except by direct frontal attack. The Russian commander says the Japanese had 150 guns, doubtless an excessive estimate, but in any event they were at a disadvantage as regards position.

The active fighting occupied two days, but the heaviest losses were confined to a few hours during the afternoon of the final assault. Considering the nature of the ground and the dogged courage of the defenders, General Oka's losses cannot be regarded as very heavy in comparison with the importance of the success achieved. In the American Civil War the Union army lost 7,000 men in killed and wounded in half an hour in an attempt to storm Lee's impregnable position at Cold Harbor, and some historians say that half of these fell in ten or fifteen minutes during which the assaults were under the hottest fire of the Confederate rifles and field guns.

The defending force was greatly in excess of that at Kin Chow, and the attempt was more desperate, yet it will be readily seen that had General Oka been in Lee's front and decided that it was necessary to take his defenses, he would have lost even more men than did the Federals before the desperate success.

Again, the Union and Confederate troops had become veterans. They were the survivors of much terrific fighting. While General Oka is said to have under him many of Japan's finest troops, who saw service in 1894 against China, that campaign is ten years old and it was by no means evenly or even studiously contested, as far as at least as the land fighting is concerned.

Somewhat vague despatches this morning indicate that the Japanese are already hammering the principal defenses of Port Arthur, a story which may be doubted as yet, in view of the fact that their siege train could scarcely have been moved within range within so short a time after the action at Kin Chow. Port Arthur can expect no relief from the north, where, as one well-informed observer says, "Kuro's patina's dilemma clearly is to win below Liao Yang or promptly to make good his retreat to Mukden. For to retreat along a line threatened by Kuroki's northern detachments would be to court an appalling disaster."

SAGE ON VACATIONS.

Between the philosophy of Omar Khayyam, whose present was an all too short vacation, and the philosophy of Mr. Russell Sage, whose present is an all too short working day, a great gift is fixed. Some where between the seductive plan of the Eastern Tentmaker and the nose-to-the-grindstone plan of the Western millionaire common sense lies. To banish Mr. Sage from his money bags and compel him to read Omar might kill him, and would likely enough, yet such a course would be only meet punishment for his latest contribution to the literature of a world too much given to the worship of money and material success.

For Mr. Sage, of Wall street and Fifth avenue, has written an article for the Independent on "The Injustice of Vacations." The Independent prints this article not because it is well-reasoned or well written, but because Mr. Sage's name will sell the magazine, and his views, good or indifferent, on any subject, will interest a large circle of readers. Mr. Sage says vacations are a waste of valuable time, that he would not ask for one if he were a clerk, that it would be quite as improper as if an employer were to ask an employee to work for two weeks without pay, and that vacations are injurious. "One vacation disorganizes business," Mr. Sage asserts, saying in part:—

"Then, again, the loss of time, the disorganization of business that results from the absence of a valuable man from his work are difficult to repair. A man some-

times must spend weeks catching up with work that has accumulated while he was away.

"A man should work 'easy,' be economical of his time, conserve his forces and not worry. It's worry and not work that makes the hair grey.

"The doctor may recommend a change of air for a man when he's sick; but why be sick? Sickness is an irreparable loss of time. If I had 1,000 tongues I'd preach 'Save time' with them all. It's infinitely more valuable than money.

"We read of Gladstone who got all the recuperation he needed by simply changing his work. He didn't quit work and go idling about. Time was the most precious thing in the world for him, and by availing of every minute of it he practically did the work of an army of men."

"Why be sick?" asks the aged Cressus. Why indeed. It is a needless and expensive habit, and the doctors quite recently informed Mr. Sage that if he had taken Mrs. Sage's advice and gone into the country or to Europe for a long rest, he would not have required their care so soon as he did. In fact the question often asked—"What ails Sage?"—appears easier to answer since he committed his vacation views to print. He needed a vacation, several of them, indeed. Had he taken them Mrs. Sage, who distributes in good works some portion of her peculiar husband's income, would have experienced less trouble in persuading him that he could afford to live reasonably well, buy more than one suit a year, and give something in charity.

But Mr. Sage says his early associates, who made history, took no vacations and that their progress was not retarded by their omission in that regard. Thurlow Weed, Horace Greeley, Governor Seward and George Jones were constantly at work, says Mr. Sage. All were great men, but not because they never rested. To say that they would have had no fewer peculiarities and faults had they taken vacations is no more convincing than to argue that a man who lives to be ninety and uses tobacco all his life is long-lived because he smokes. Mr. Sage does not know how much more admirable his early associates might have been had they taken a rest occasionally. They might have lived longer and been more useful.

"Work easily," is Mr. Sage's advice. The employer can always do that if his temperament and circumstances permit, but the employee cannot always follow his example. He cannot always set the pace for himself. Often it is set and he must keep it, no matter how hard the work may be. Again, hard work for one man is not hard for another. To Mr. Sage a vacation, evidently, would be an intolerable bore. Very likely he has never felt that he could afford to quit work for a month. Even the rich get these ideas. The less rest they take the more difficult it becomes for them to take a normal view of business, and the race for money—and that long rest which is coming.

THE ALAKE OF ABEOKUTA.

British diplomacy involves some queer tricks. Bear-leading is frequently among them. The strange potentates who have visited London during the last fifty years, and whom it was necessary to entertain, have been led to London by the British. The British desired them to keep guard for her on the outer marches of the Empire, have been sources of much anxiety and much scarcely veiled amusement.

Just lately the Alake of Abeokuta—a West African monarch who has been mentioned in the despatches, not for conspicuous gallantry but for his alarming scheme of personal adornment—reached the British metropolis. The Alake rules a cotton-growing country, and the British have made a little trade with him, whereby they are to buy all his cotton for the next three years, providing they are his sole customers and that he performs certain valuable services for them on his own borders.

The Colonial Secretary assigned to Sir William Macgregor the duty of "showing" the Alake about London. The African is as black as night and as fat as Falstaff, and it was guessed that the things he would most enjoy were Madame Tussaud's waxworks. When Sir William waited upon him at his hotel there was considerable delay. From the royal apartment a clicking noise was heard at intervals, followed by yells and guffaws of delight. The Alake, in fine, was switching the electric lights off and on and could scarcely be persuaded to forego so novel an amusement on the plea that he could indulge in it at any time whereas the waxworks were visible only at stated hours. The elevator led to further delay. The king descended, and then, after a long-drawn sigh of delight, demanded to be carried up and down until he had become accustomed to the astonishing motion of the lift. Then they set out:—

"First," says the chronicler, "his majesty—a big, fat gentleman with an egg-shaped head, and an oblong face marked with all the lines of simple childhood. It was a face made to dupe and crowd; and even the trappings above and below it failed to remove its royal gleefulness.

"On his head was a golden crown, on which were perched two golden lizards rampant; the centre lizard having a peacock's tail or shaggy gold. His semi-state robe was yellow-eruff with gold and precious stones. He had an ebony hand-cuff on one wrist and an enormous silver bracelet on the other. You could only see a foot or so of trousers under his robe. They were rainbow hued and strapped down to patent leather boots.

roundly by ten. The royal smile returned and was magnified with his girth. He shouted for very joy. And so on through the piece, until the potentate's cup was filled to overflowing by the discovery that Henry VIII. was the only English monarch who had many wives and that even he could not have competed with the ruler of Abeokuta. There was one bad moment. A woman, seeing the Alake in repose, mistook him for a magnificent waxwork and screamed when he moved—but Sir William, great bear-leader that he is, hushed the ribald laughter of the crowd, and the royal procession moved on in triumph.

For this, perhaps, the British may need less troops hereafter in a certain part of Africa. And cotton is ever valuable. As for Sir William, he may have his laugh out when his bear-leading is over.

THE REAL CANADA.

The meeting of the Presbyterian General Assembly, bringing together earnest and able men from the various fields where the work of the church is carried on, cannot but give a spiritual uplift and a renewed zeal to the members of that communion. But there is another result, which affects us all. These men, who come from all parts of Canada, and who are in touch with the springs of our national life at a vital point, and who see with a clear eye the development of the present and the possibilities of the future, have a message to all Canadians.

At one of the meetings last week, a series of brief addresses brought in review the whole field of Canadian progress, notably in the great West; and those who heard or read have a fuller knowledge of that progress, a deeper feeling of pride in the potential greatness of their country, and doubtless also a keener sense of individual responsibility, in connection with the formative influences which are to shape the future of Canada.

Each evening in St. Andrew's church, the Rev. Dr. Pringle told of the real Yukon, and those who perhaps had given little or no thought to the subject learned that yonder in the north, between the Rockies and the coast range, lies a vast territory, of healthful climate, productive soil, and enormous mineral wealth. Perhaps most people in these provinces have thought that after the transient fever of the gold rush the Yukon would offer no inducement to the settler, and become again a pathless and forbidding wilderness. But such notions were entirely erroneous. Dr. Pringle told us that twenty-nine years ago he thought Manitoba was merely a sort of home for the failures of the east; but now he says: "Manitoba and the Northwest—that's Canada." So it is found now that the Yukon is not what men had supposed, but that it has homes to offer in the years to come to the farmer and the artisan, as well as to the gold-seeker.

This is a time of revelation in Canada. Upon the wisdom and virtue of the public men of this and the next generation depend issues the vastness of which we may as yet but dimly comprehend. It is well that at the outposts of the new territory which is to be conquered for civilization there are men of the mettle of Dr. Pringle, to represent, as he himself says, to the pioneers in those lonely places the ideals which were the vital part of their old home life, ere they had passed to the frontier, with all its dangers and temptations.

THE DIFFERENCE.

Had Britain held Port Arthur and had she been at war with Japan, not one of the successes which Japan has secured against Russia would have been possible. The Japanese could not have commanded the sea and so could not have reached Korea in force, nor only their transports but their warships would have been bottled up in their own harbors, with a superior British force on guard outside.

When hostilities began four months ago a leading Russian strategist advised the abandonment of Port Arthur. The men who have the ear of the Czar said this strategist was foolish, just as they said Lord Salisbury was foolish when in a public speech, in May, 1898, he said: "I think Russia has made a great mistake in taking Port Arthur. I do not think it is any use to her whatever."

In the hands of Britain, Port Arthur would be the key to the situation in the Far East, but it is to be of use to any Power that Power must be able to sweep the seas about it. Otherwise, as in Russia's case, it becomes a complication, as now when its defence wastes men and guns which are needed in the north with Kuropatkin where the more important actions of the struggle must be fought. So with coaling stations and more extensive possessions overseas. They are likely to become sources of embarrassment rather than strength in time of war unless the Power owning them can not only defend them successfully if necessary but prevent the struggle from lessening their value when they are most needed. The fighting man who carries a pistol must not allow another to take it from him and threaten him with it. It is used only if he keeps it and threatens the other fellow.

Russians lost 81,000 in killed and wounded and three or four times as many either died of disease or were rendered useless by it.

THE OUTLOOK FOR UNION.

The immense importance of church union increases interest in the work of the Presbyterian Assembly, and the labors of that body have now reached the most interesting stage. As has been said, union is in the air. The Assembly is in the mood to do something big. As far as can be judged from Monday's discussion and the previous utterances of those in attendance, a large majority of the commissioners believe the union of Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists is both practicable and desirable. There are some earnest men in the Assembly who have honest doubts. These men, as a rule, are older than most of the others, and their fear is, apparently, that union might involve the sacrifice of some essential principle of Presbyterianism, the loss of which would not be counterbalanced by the beneficent effects of combination.

It has been proposed by some that before the denomination moves farther toward union a committee be appointed to examine its expediency. It would appear, however, that this has virtually been passed upon by the committees representing the three churches concerned, and that the next step is to consider the terms of union—the concessions each body is willing to make in order to find common ground upon which all may stand, united, and contented, having lost nothing, but gained by the consolidation really more strength than now exists in all three denominations.

As was said yesterday by a commissioner who replied pointedly to one of the doubting Thomases, only a few years ago some men insisted that the Presbyterians could not unite, and regarded with horror the suggestion of an exchange of pulpits between clergymen of the different Presbyterian branches. Yet union came and to-day no one doubts the wisdom of those who brought it about.

There are in the Maritime Provinces many places where struggling churches of several denominations are maintained and where services are held regularly or occasionally. In few instances is there any essential difference between the teachings of the bodies represented. In spirit they are really one. Their aims are but one. Union would mean that one flourishing church in which all members had an equal share would replace several struggling churches, none of which is equal to the work in hand. This, of course, is but one feature of the question.

In the discussion now going on there will be a tendency to minimize the importance of doctrinal points of difference and magnify importance of common principles of importance. The Assembly contains a great many men of the highest intellectual standing and force. It is marked, too, by a proper conception of the widening field for church work. It will be strange if the Assembly dispenses without some notable and progressive deliverances in regard to church union.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

More fires and serious ones. The underwriters do not now appear as much in a hurry about chemicals as they were a month ago. They should let the council know exactly what their proposal is in regard to the reduction of the insurance rate if more apparatus is purchased. This is a matter which should be pressed to a conclusion. St. John blows hot and then cold too often in regard to important matters. The men who pay insurance would like to see the aldermen and the underwriters get together at once.

The New York Herald correspondent who saw the Yalu battle was amazed at the failure of the Russians to properly fortify their position and protect its flanks. His words are significant: "The fight for the Yalu reveals the extreme of two conditions. Among the Japanese there was the highest efficiency in every engagement, the most complete preparation and the most thorough knowledge both of the country and of the situation of the enemy. Among the Russians there was only an amazing jumble of incompetency and stupidity, if not worse, and carelessness. Unless there's a decided change in their method they will not win a land battle of any magnitude in the entire campaign. Nothing but the most conscientious and thorough hard work can make headway against the extraordinary military efficiency of the Japanese."

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A GREAT DEBATE.

By "Cleric"

Friday afternoon provided for the assembly one of the great field days which are familiar in the course of the meeting. Principal Gordon, as is well known in the east, was a great man, and left behind in Queen's, Kingston, a noble monument. Unfortunately geography has been against this university, for its great principal has conquered all else that human mind and will could do. But he could not make Kingston either the capital of Ontario, Quebec or the dominion, and to have such great rival seats of learning as are to be found in Toronto and Montreal, is to have neighbors too near and strong to enjoy comfort.

The crisis has come. Shall we leave the life work of Grant unsupported? Shall he go into the work of adopting a great Presbyterian school? Principal Gordon made a speech on the difficult situation which was in the form and power befitting the great charge which rests upon him. We have heard of the great Howe, and have heard the Thompsons and Tappens of later days, but Gordon is worthy of the soil where he stands. His humor is quite sufficient to lighten the tension in debate, and his nature is just keen enough to be a warning against any conflict with the chair. This being true, the question may be asked: What further honors await him who has risen so rapidly through all the ranks?

Will he give the religious world some contribution to her vast literature? Is he to get an appointment in one of our great colleges? Many such surmises may be made, but none of these things trouble the moderator. To one honor which he has coveted with all his heart, is that which he sought at the first, to be a preacher of the gospel unto men. This being the first will also be the last. The pulpit is his throne as others have said, and upon it will be content to stand until his full account has been ready for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Assembly Oration

By "Cleric"

It is admitted that to speak well is an art; and that also that Canada is well fitted to produce orators. From the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks forth the words of the heart. This being the art and we are feeling the strength and energy of youth, the hope and conviction of power and mission and the mystery of undeciphered wealth and greatness, our speech has no reason for excuse. Thus in parliament great orators should succeed one another in increasing standard. In the church also, both elders and ministers, because of their highest call to service, under all these inspiring circumstances, should exemplify the best powers of public speaking. Something may be done also along the line of eloquence to keep pace with the high culture of the voice for music. But conviction is the one quality which gives the true worth to a good delivery and all such fortunate gifts or acquisitions fade when the ring of conviction is dominant. This last factor will correct most disorders, like a strong full heart will throw off disease from the body. But flowers, metaphors and tricks of eloquence will no more make good oratory than red tape can make good legislation.

One would imagine that the moderator's study of eloquence has consisted in how to express effectively what is burning within his soul, and at the same time to behave himself as a gentleman dealing with the public. What did ever Dr. Warden study of gesture and voice culture, outside of the deliberate effort to treat adequately and clearly, the great problems of the age? Who taught ex-Moderator Sedgwick eloquence other than those who taught his many eloquent fathers and brethren in the church and state of these maritime provinces? They are all preachers with no distinct holy tone. They do not come any nearer the sibylhood of the pulpit than such able laymen as Walter Paul, of Montreal; J. K. Macdonald, of Toronto, or Judge Stephens, of New Brunswick. Professor McLaren, of Toronto, has almost lost his voice; Principal Patrick, of Winnipeg, has a pronounced Scottish accent, and McQueen, of Edmonton, a stiff or methodic delivery, yet the clearness of the thought and its weight give all these men instant sway over an audience.

One of the best all round addresses was that of Dr. Morritt, of Montreal, in seconding the appointment of Dr. Scrimgeour to the principality of Montreal. Heart and voice, humor and delicacy were all combined in a first class assembly speech.

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It proves that he knew how to address a court just as Pringle knows how to speak to the multitude. Professor Dyde was not in good voice in speaking for the university council of Queen's, but made a model fighting speech. His nervous, brainy nature has been stimulated by years of glory about his alma mater, and he speaks as one who believes "what we have we hold." The orator from Galt, Mr. Knowles, has hardly got his breath in an assembly where doctors, agents and convalescers have such a race for space to report. There was a "flow of soul" for a few minutes on Saturday, when Manitoba College secured him to second the adoption of their report. Yes, Knowles is an orator, as Dr. Murray is a journalist and Dr. Torrance a statistical genius.

There is such a thing as a "preacher's tone" sometimes in evidence. If it once had veneration and authority, that age is gone. It no longer saves a weak speaker from the assembly's impatience, and sometimes even is the non-conductor of a very good speech. It would be a good thing if our moderator, well skilled as he is in mediocrity, would appoint a committee of the fathers to draft a resolution about the passing away of the "holiness tone."

Of the old guard, Dr. Forrest is still on hand, and why not? He has been a day. He comes like a bolt out of the clear sky. He would be worth while to stir Dr. Battisley, of Chatham (Ont.), out of his mediocrity of body and brain, and to stir the assembly with useless discussion, for this great antagonist to humbug has not had occasion to protest. We hope he may rise on pleasant terms with the assembly, ever alert and ready to speak for a part of the church which he has seen grow to overshadow its older portion. One wonders what Dr. MacGillivray, of St. John, is thinking about on all these subjects. It is about as hard to get some men to enter a debate as it is to get others out, and frequently it is in inverse ratio to their knowledge of the subject. Probably it is because in Chalmers' church, Kingston, he has said more to professors and men now in the ministry than any other man in the assembly. We miss many a great name this year, and hence younger men are cautiously feeling their way. But no interest is weakened.

The assembly preacher, Rev. C. McKinnon, of North Sydney, is the embodiment of much that is written here. Conviction in his soul donates his voice. He turned aside the sharp edge of criticism. With that burning within, the church will yet know more of him. Without that—well, there is no need to prophesy. We are glad he refused the call to Chicago, for we want to keep him in our young Canadian church.

According to the annual emigration returns for 1903 the number of British emigrants—23,950—was greater than in any year since 1890. Canada and South Africa proved the most popular fields.

Less than seven per cent of the power used in manufacturing plants in the United States is electric.

In April the salmon exports from Puget Sound to Japan were valued at \$165,000.