

THE MORNING GUARDIAN.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1898.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION.

As in British North America when the terms of the Quebec scheme of federation proved unpalatable to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia the amended terms of the British North America Act were substituted, so in Australia it is proposed to amend the projected constitution of the Commonwealth. It will be remembered that New South Wales failed to accept the federation scheme though a large majority of the electors were in its favor, there being a still larger majority of 80,000 votes stipulated for. New South Wales is apparently very desirous to see the federation accomplished. And Queensland, at first hostile, is disposed to reconsider the question, but both these and some of the colonies desire to have the plan amended.

Victoria seemed more than willing to have a federation formed with New South Wales, her rival province, left out, and refused to reconsider the terms. Now a more conciliatory spirit is apparent. Confederation is still a very live question, and bids fair to occupy the public mind until the union becomes a fact accomplished. The delay of a year or two will by no means be lost time if by that means a constitution is evolved which will work equitably and without friction.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Spain now proposes to establish a national lottery to replenish her finances. The method is characteristic of the nation but how the condition of the Spanish people can be improved by buying lottery tickets is one of the things hard to understand.

The western papers tell that a company has been formed with a capital of \$100,000 for the purpose of manufacturing gin at Berthier, Que. This is an entirely new enterprise, all the gin hitherto consumed in Canada having been imported. The significance of the formation of this company appears to be that they ostentatiously parade the fact that they have no fear of prohibition. We infer, however, that not much money will be expended in the venture until the results of the plebiscite are known, and then it may turn out that the proposed gin-mill will not be set up.

General Kitchener proceeds by slow but resistless steps towards Khartoum. He is now reported within about fifty miles of the Mahdi's last stronghold. Hitherto the Sirdar's policy has been always to surprise the enemy, but it is difficult to see how this can again be done. The Mahdi will hereafter be in momentary expectation of an attack. Omdurman, across the Nile from Khartoum, has been strongly fortified and no doubt a stubborn resistance will there be offered. We may have news of a great battle at almost any day in the near future.

THE WEST SPEAKS

Regrettable Apathy in West Prince.

NO CALL FROM PULPITS

Has Aroused the People to Action—The Crop Reports from Different Sections—Early Wheat Badly Damaged—Re-opening of a Church.

The continued wet weather is a serious drawback to farmers. The largest crop of hay which was ever cut in this part of the country is at last about through with. For the most part it was saved in good condition although some was partially damaged. A very much more serious loss is the general failure of the wheat crop. Up to about the first of August the prospect of a heavy and good wheat crop was the very best. Since that time owing to the wet foggy wheat rust has appeared in all but the very driest sections. It is within the limits to say that taking the entire district of West Prince one half of the wheat is almost a complete failure, 25 per cent more seriously damaged and the balance fair to good. The kinds of wheat that have fared worst are the white chaff and Colorado bearded. The only really good fields are white Russian. Some rust is to be seen in the late oats but from present prospects the crop will be an average one. The potato crop gives promise to be a very good one, and other root crops also are very promising. Grass is as green and as abundant as in June, and as a result stock of all kinds are doing well. The horney which was agreeably scarce in June and July is out now in full force and as a consequence the flow of milk is not as abundant as the good pastures and aftermath would warrant. The re-opening of the Presbyterian church in Elmsdale took place on the 7th inst. It had been closed for several weeks undergoing repairs external and internal. Besides the present incumbent two former pastors took part in the services, the Rev A F Carr and Rev Jas Murray. Not much interest seems to be taken in the coming plebiscite election and it is probable that but a very small vote will be cast on the 19th Sept. It is argued by some that as the voice of the people has already been given on this question it is all a mockery to go over the same thing again, many not seeming to realize that this plebiscite is for the whole Dominion instead of for the smallest province in the Dominion, and that both great political parties have given their unanimous assent to the taking of a plebiscite. Some public meetings are being held

but very little enthusiasm seems to be aroused. It is well to see some of the leading party papers announcing themselves on the side of fight but others by publishing garbled reports of Dr Allison's utterances and Dr Grant's misleading and erroneous statements are thereby like the old Scotch woman with the brooms tick showing which side they are on. But also what are the Christian pulpits of the land doing? So far no opinion is heard from that quarter. At present no question of equal importance appeals to their sympathy and support.

If you have been sick you will find Hood's Sarsaparilla the best medicine you can take to give you appetite and strength.

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