

THE MORNING GUARDIAN

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1898.

THE QUEBEC CONFERENCE.

The leading newspapers of the United States are devoting a good deal of attention to the international conference at Quebec, and never before at the time of a meeting of this character has there been so general an expression of desire that the questions in difference between the two countries should be equitably and harmoniously adjusted. But will this feeling there is some doubt expressed and the fact is recognised that the difficulties to be surmounted are by no means small.

The questions between the two countries as they have been hitherto are enlarged by the recent events in the war with Spain which have made Cuba independent and made Porto Rico a part of the United States. Canada's large trade with the Spanish West Indies thus assumes a new phase and becomes an important factor in any new settlement of the trade question and the Atlantic fisheries. The advantage rests with the United States in this regard and we may be asked to make concessions in other matters if we are to retain our present privileges in West India markets.

A point that receives frequent mention in our American exchanges is the remarkably friendly and cordial feelings now subsisting between the two peoples, and a general desire expressed on both sides of the line that these sentiments may become permanent. There is also in the American papers a recognition of the value of Canadian trade to the producers and manufacturers of the Republic. Canada stands high in rank among the best customers of the United States, from her contiguity, and the similarity of tastes. Our neighbors are evidently impressed with a desire to continue and extend their profitable trade with the Dominion and the readiest means to that end will be a settlement of existing controversies with a measure for reciprocal trade superadded.

The difficulties in the way will be the opposing interests on both sides of the line, and the not unselfish desire on the part of the commissioners of both countries to get the best of the bargain. How far these motives can be subjected to a desire for the general good of all North America remains to be seen. No one doubts that a fair settlement covering all grounds of difference would greatly benefit both countries. But precisely what would be a fair settlement will be a difficult matter to agree upon.

We are glad that the work has been undertaken under such auspicious conditions. It can but fail at the worst, and we trust that it will not fail. For if a settlement of our differences cannot now be made by the able and judicious men representing the two countries at Quebec, and under present favorable conditions of good feeling and mutual desire for a solution, the outlook for a settlement at any time in the near future will not be assuring.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Admiral Dewey who so greatly distinguished himself at Manila, is a ruling elder in the Vallejo Presbyterian church, California—a worthy representative of the church militant.

Moncton is about to open a fine new school building which is to be called the Aberdeen in honor of the Governor General. Lieut Governor McClelan, Premier Emmerson, Dr Inch and Dr Stockton, leader of the opposition have been invited to speak at the formal opening.

Mr Coombs in a letter which appears elsewhere raises a question which may have impressed other minds than his. It adds to the horror of the Bourgoigne disaster when we think of the scores of bodies found floating in the Atlantic with life preservers on. There is no escape from the conclusion that many of these unfortunate persons—must have been alive for hours and perhaps for days after the collision. Surely the awful event should be turned to account as an incentive to provide every possible facility for the rescue of passengers exposed to peril hereafter. Better preparations for launching, better boats and repeated drill by ships' crews in launching boats, are imperatively demanded.

Reference has been made by a correspondent in these columns to Mr. John C. Clark, G. W. P. of the Sons of Temperance, supporting Dr. Robertson as a candidate in the First District of Queens. It now appears that before doing so Mr Clark took pains to inform himself as to the falsity of certain charges against Dr. Robertson which had been freely circulated. These charges were that Dr Robertson, who is managing a drug store in connection with his professional calling, illegally sold liquors. Mr. Clark was informed in writing by Dr. Robertson that he did for some time keep liquors for medical purposes, but soon found it to be a nuisance. Parties would call and insist upon having intoxicants, asserting that they were poorly in health. Dr. R. had also been deceived by false certificates and orders and so some time ago entirely gave up the keeping of liquors for any purpose whatsoever. He took this action from principle and acted on it before there was any talk of his being nominated. Moreover Dr Robertson informed Mr Clark that he is in favor of prohibition, and always has been; that he voted for the Scott Act and is now prepared to use his vote and influence to make prohibition the law of the land; and furthermore that he does not intend to have or keep intoxicating liquors in his dispensary hereafter at any time or for any purpose whatever. It was on the basis of these assurances that Mr Clark gave his political support to Dr. Robertson.

We are informed that the Honorable William Campbell is reading THE GUARDIAN at his political meetings. We are glad to learn the fact and trust that both he and his hearers will profit by this journal's wholesome and judicious counsels. It sometimes happens that the first effect of a good medicine is to make the patient feel worse than he did before. This seems to have been the effect of THE GUARDIAN upon Mr. Campbell. But we assure him that if he will continue to read, mark, inwardly digest and put in practice what THE GUARDIAN teaches it will yet effect a great transformation in him. The better element within him will grow and enlarge until he will be surprised to find that there was so much room for expansion. But it will take time.

Both the Halifax Chronicle and St. John Globe remark upon the fact that many maritime towns were not represented at the recent meeting of the Maritime Board of Trade. The Globe calls upon the Board to explain why it is called "Maritime" under such conditions and remarks that many places, including Charlottetown "which have local boards do not seem to have thought it worth while to send delegates." It may be explained that the Charlottetown Board of Trade appointed an able and worthy delegation but from pressure of private business or other cause the delegates did not attend. This is much regretted, but the Maritime Board ought not to be blamed for the failure.

One of the childish objections to the preferential tariff is that the duty on some articles was raised before the preferential tariff took effect. If the duty was increased it was against all foreign countries alike, and the higher the duty the greater advantage to Britain to have one quarter less duty to pay than other countries.

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