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CHURCH AND STATE IN FRANCE.

The probability increases that, as we have already intimated, next year will see one of the most important political controversies in France that the republic has known since its foundation, says the New York Tribune. This will concern nothing less than the complete separation of church and state and the abolition of the elaborate system of subventions which the government has long been paying to various religious denominations. It is well known that at the present time the French government contributes to the support not only of the Roman Catholic church, but also of Protestant churches, Jewish synagogues and Mahometan mosques, under the direction of a minister of public worship. Under this system the government enjoys some advantages, from the supervision and control which it is thus enabled to exercise over the churches and their work—for every clergyman is now practically a government official and subject to the state. Nevertheless, there are many grave objections to the scheme, in practical detail as well as on general principle.

We printed in our Paris dispatches the other day the text of the law which has been formulated for presentation to parliament in January next. It is not to be understood that the government is committed to the policy of bringing up the whole subject in January and of considering the complete separation of church and state, the abolition of the ecclesiastical subsidies and the abrogation of the concordat. There are the things provided to be done in the formulated bill, to which is added the abolition of the ministry of public works and of the embassy at the vatican. From what has already occurred, it does not seem rash to expect that Dr. Combes and his colleagues will accept for adoption the proposed measure, or one much like it, and that they will be supported in so doing by the chamber. In three cases—the Dreyfus case, the contest with the religious orders and this latest clash with the vatican—the government has unmistakably shown its spirit of independence of clericalism and its desire to make as steadily and as rapidly as possible toward the ideal of a free church in a free state. Beyond doubt, too, the chamber has shown a strong and increasingly strong disposition to support that policy.

What the French nation will say to such a proposal may also be forecast with some degree of assurance. It is a question whether it is, as a whole, growing more or less religious. That it is growing less ecclesiastical—if the expression may be used—is not to be doubted. The whole trend of thought has for years been toward independence of clerical influence in political affairs and toward complete secularization of schools, army and the whole governmental and social system. The alliance with Russia and the approach with Great Britain, both popular things, have promoted rather than impeded the movement. For, while each of those powers maintains a state church, it is a purely domestic and national church that it maintains, and it is thus quite free from external clerical influence. The French people want to enjoy the same freedom, so as to stand with their neighbors on equal ground. It is within their power to do so, and it seems probable that they will do so, to their own advantage and to the real benefit of all the churches.

THE TROUBLES OF MR. SHAW.

When St. Louis induced the United States government to loan it a large sum of money to assist the fair most people congratulated the Missouri metropolis on having pull enough to get the money. But the situation is not so pleasant, after all, as will be readily discovered by the following editorial utterance of the New York Commercial:

Secretary Shaw appears to be somewhat concerned about the ability of the St. Louis world's fair management to pay back to the government in the manner stipulated the \$4,600,000 that it borrowed from the treasury through the authorization of congress. The secretary has begun to "walk the floor" a little early, it would seem, inasmuch as more than a week must elapse before the first instalment from the gate receipts is due. No doubt, he is worrying much more than President Francis is—and with reason.

The latter's position is far more enviable than

that of the secretary of the treasury, if indeed either is of a sort to attract anybody's envy. Whatever of achievement is to be credited to the exposition company so far must attach in large measure to the personality of its president. If at any time within the next month or so the great enterprise shall fail to attract sufficient obligations to the government and the secretary of the treasury, as provided in the act, shall feel called upon to take charge of the show, President Francis would doubtless release his control and responsibility only too readily, and the government of the United States would be in the show business "for fair" during the next six months. That would be a delectable job for the Honorable Leslie M. Shaw! No wonder he is worried at "the absence of any stirring stories in the newspapers about the wonderful things to be seen at the fair."

No wonder his telegram to President Francis expressed a wish that "something be done to arouse interest in the fair." It said, practically: "Come, get a move on you and boom this thing along, so as to save the treasury department from the necessity of taking the big show off your hands! Do some advertising! Let your press agents get busy! I must prefer to have you run this exposition yourself."

And the thought will naturally suggest itself to even the laity among showmen that \$75,000 spent in judicious advertising two months ago would have been a better piece of business judgment than putting the same amount of money into accident policy premiums.

That a vast Antarctic continent exists, perhaps twice as large as that of Europe, is in the opinion of a writer in the National Geographic Magazine proven by the reports now appearing of the recent explorations in that region. This writer says: "The American Commander Wilkes, returning from the far south in 1841, asserted the existence of a vast south polar continent, and described his voyage of 1,500 miles in sight of the coast. Ross, however, returning soon after, discredited Wilkes' conclusions, saying that the land seen by Wilkes was merely a great wall of ice. The world has been in doubt which to believe. That Ross was wrong and Wilkes right is very evident from the report of Captain Scott, of the British Antarctic expedition of 1900-04. Captain Scott shows that the mass of ice seen by Ross is in reality an extensive glacier resting on land and covering the land like the ice cap of Greenland. The glacier is about 700 miles wide, and reaches the sea through a plain lying between Victoria Land and Edward VII. Land. The German expedition under Von Drygalski, working 80 degrees of longitude farther west, also found a somewhat similar expanse of ice capped land, whose limits they were unable to trace, but which is apparently a part of the same Antarctic continent."

The German geographical paper known as Export says that there are 7,642,650 Chinese living out of China—or, in other words, "as many as the total population of Sweden and Norway." According to Export's figures, America has comparatively few Chinese, only 272,829, a few less than the British island of Hongkong alone boasts. Formosa has 2,600,000, but that used to be Chinese, and they simply haven't moved. Siam is the greatest goal of actual emigration, having 2,500,000 Chinese, who have absorbed pretty much all the active trade of the country. In the Malay peninsula, also, 895,000 Chinese have nearly monopolized trade under British rule. The Sunda isles have 600,000. The Philippines, where the Chinese are already a problem, have only 80,000 of them.

It seems that at the battle of Nanshan hill the Japanese scouts learned that there were mines somewhere along the base of the hill, although they could not tell their exact location. Volunteers were called for to discover the danger spots by marching over the vicinity until they should be blown up by the exploding mines, and hundreds at once volunteered. Greater heroism it is impossible to imagine—even though a rainstorm uncovered the mines and made the grim sacrifice unnecessary.

There are 190,227 professional beggars in Spain. In some of the cities beggars are licensed to carry on their trade. Seeking alms is recognized as legitimate business, and the municipality demands a percentage upon the collections. Seville is the only city in the kingdom which forbids begging in the streets.

Perhaps Mr. Bryan prefers the esteemed editor of the Commoner for president.

The Japs are capturing enough whiskers to start a mattress factory.

Nobody seems to object to Mr. Debs taking a long needed rest.

Mr. Smith of Utah don't believe in the race suicide idea.

In crossing the Yalu many crossed the Styx.

Tammany continues to run down Hill.

JUST FOR INSTANCE.

The Tale of the Athlete.

Once upon a Time there was a Youth who thought he was an Athlete. He had great Muscles and a Form like a Baby Elephant. He also had a great Voice and was able to Successfully Root for the Home Team. Because he Risked his Coin in Raah Bets the Home Team made him a Pitcher and when he Appeared in the Box he looked like a Young Hippo ready to take a Bath. When he Whirled the Sphere in the Vicinity of the Plate he had the Action of a Gazelle—nit! After struggling through an Inning he would Walk to the Mourner's Bench with the swagger of a Victorious Caesar Crossing the Rubicon and looking for a Dagger in the Back. Then he went to the Coaching Lines and Proceeded to act about as Funny as a Tombstone. His Reputation went afar and he was Invited by a League Team to try out. He Tried and was put Out in short order. "For," said the Captain, "You are so Swift that the Rest of the Team are put in the Gloomy Shade and Threaten to Resign if you are Retained!"

Portland is called the Rose city—probably because she rose to prominence through the settlement of Astoria!

But with all her roses, she can't get over the bitterness of having to return that stolen historical tombstone!

For Dugdale's Browns—"In some dark hiding-place thou'lt crouch among the outcast and vile, and die accursed!"

Attager taht tuoba woh? Huh?

For the small boy with the hidden bunch of crackers—Only a few more days to wait!

Bully Jones—No; if you are looking for a position as a street sprinkler, we cannot advise you to go to Venice!

To avoid nosebleed keep the lips tightly closed—then you will not tell the larger man what you think of him!

Many a tailor doesn't know how many suits there are in a deck of cards!

The man who buys a poor umbrella gets soaked twice!

Many a fellow who has never seen a man who offered to do so eat a hat has seen a collarette! (Police!)

Some women dress to kill when they are about to cut a fellow dead!

It is a pathetic thing to see a man drop a plugged penny in a ten-dollar collection plate!

When the milk trust combines with the water company it is time to take a trip to Mexico!

Music is sometimes called heavenly because it is unearthly!

That Frisco actress who refused to use burnt cork has certainly drawn the color line!

But hereafter she will draw no salary. McCULLLEY.

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via Chicago or New Orleans to St. Louis, is one that gives you the most for your money, and the fact that the ILLINOIS CENTRAL offers unsurpassed service via these points to the WORLD'S FAIR, and in this connection to all points beyond, makes it to your advantage, in case you contemplate a trip to any point east, to write us before making final arrangements. We can offer the choice of at least a dozen different routes.

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