

# The Dominion Presbyterian

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OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, MAR. 6, 1907.

Southern Presbyterian: God made mothers before he made ministers. The progress of Christ's kingdom depends more upon the influence of faithful, wise and pious mothers than upon any other human agency.

The *Kew Mercury* has again taken up the publication in its columns of "The Story of Renfrew," after an intermission of four years. Rev. Dr. Campbell, formerly minister of St. Andrew's church, is the historian. In his capable hands the work will be well done.

A handsome booklet has reached our table, entitled "The Heavens Declare the Glory of God," by Rev. D. B. Marsh, Sc. D. F.R.A.S., of Springfield, Ont., who is himself an astronomer of no mean attainments, and writes most interestingly on this fascinating subject. The booklet is illustrated by several views of the sun, moon, etc., from photographs taken by the author.

It is announced that Sunday school institutes are to be held at Port Hope, Peterboro' and Campbellford, on the 13th, 14th, and 15th instant, respectively, conducted by Rev. Alex. Macgillivray, S. S. Convener for the Presbyterian Synod of Toronto and Kingston; Rev. A. E. Camp, S. S. Convener for the Presbytery of Peterboro', and Rev. J. C. Robertson, General Secretary for Sabbath schools.

We are indebted to the courtesy of Rev. W. J. McKay, B.D., editor of the Canadian Baptist, for a copy of the Baptist Year Book, (fifty-fourth years of publication), for 1906. It is a complete digest of the religious activities of our Baptist brethren, as carried on in Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba the new provinces and British Columbia, as well as a report of the annual convention held at Peterboro; and while giving much interesting reading to an outsider, must be invaluable to members of the Baptist church.

## SUNDAY OBSERVANCE.

Rev. J. G. Shearer and his associates have done a good thing in ridding Canada of the sale on Sundays of the U. S. Sunday newspapers. There appears to be a world-wide significant movement in favor of better observance of the Sabbath. In England a parliamentary committee has brought in a recommendation to the effect that the general principles of past Sunday legislation in England need to be not annulled but enforced. But the committee says that the penalties imposed by the law of Charles II's time are seriously inadequate to secure present observance of its requirements. They believe that a new bill should be framed, recognizing that modern conditions of city life, among greatly congested populations, require some modification of the restrictions which were placed upon trade in 1677, but what those modifications should be ought to be left to the proper authorities of each municipality affected. Every shop assistant, however, should be guaranteed one whole day of rest in each a seven, and no person should be subjected by his employer to any penalty for declining Sunday labor on conscientious grounds. Any employer who requires of any assistant any Sunday labor without providing for such helper rest upon some other day, should be subject to severe penalties. The proposed bill would, if so framed, follow closely upon the lines of recent French legislation, legislation secured by the determined action of the laboring classes themselves.

## LAYMEN'S MISSIONARY MOVEMENT.

In the United States, the Laymen's Missionary Movement, the newest development of joint church action in these aggressive and fraternal missionary times, has already presented several unusual propositions for advancing missionary work. One of the most striking was that which was offered at a dinner of prominent laymen in New York. Ex-Mayor Seth Low, who presided, explained the plan—the organization of one hundred American business men who at their own expense will travel around the world in a body, visiting the missionary lands of Asia and inspecting in every country the chief missionary stations. They will inquire into the effectiveness of the work,—especially into the visible moral results in the transformed lives of converts and in the bettered social tone of communities which the gospel has strongly affected. Matters of administration will also be inquired into. Laymen whom might contemplate joining such a party are invited to forward their names to the executive committee of this movement through their own denominational mission boards. After return the party will issue a report outlining its experiences and emphasizing its conclusions as to the usefulness of the mission enterprise. The Laymen's Movement is to employ a secretary. The position has been offered to Mr. J. Campbell White, who organized the men for missions in the United Presbyterian Church, and his acceptance is anticipated.

## RECEIPTS FOR SCHEMES.

The appended statement shows the amount received for the year ending February 28th. There has not been time to adjust the amounts received for interest on the reserve funds of the several Schemes but without doubt there will be a considerable deficit in Home and Foreign Missions. The Augmentation Fund is very far behind. This may result in very serious hardship to many of the ministers in struggling congregations. It will effect ministers in the West very seriously, for in many of the congregations the farmers have not been able to market their grain and so contribution to congregational funds will be lacking in many places. Surely men of wealth and strong congregations in the Presbyterian Church will see to it that the whole deficit is met and that promptly.

	R'ts. to Estm- Feb 28 ated Re- 1907. quire'ts.
Knox College .. .. .	5,769 \$ 13,000
Queen's College .. .. .	2,604 8,000
Montreal College .. .. .	1,841 5,000
Manitoba College .. .. .	4,097 11,700
Home Mission .. .. .	137,969 150,000
Augmentation .. .. .	31,974 45,000
Foreign Mission .. .. .	95,111 112,000
Widow's & Orphan's .. .. .	19,448 16,000
Aged & Infirm Min. ....	14,015 20,000
Assembly .. .. .	5,174 8,000
French Evangelisation .. ..	18,725 20,000
Point-aux-Trembles .. ..	19,948 16,500

JOHN SOMERVILLE,  
Interim Treasurer.

## THE INSURANCE INVESTIGATION.

The report of the Commission on the subject of abuses and dangers in connection with life insurance companies, has been laid before the Dominion Parliament. The chief abuse seems to be that too many of the insurance companies have regarded the policyholder as a being to be plucked and exploited for the benefit of managers, officers and stockholders. The huge sums of money handled and in many cases exploited by insurance company managements are in reality the trust funds of policyholders. They represent a great deal of self-sacrifice on the part of the persons who pay the premiums; and it is too bad if they are made to pay too much, or if the accumulating profits to which they are entitled are eaten up or whittled down to a vanishing point by extravagant management. The first duty of the Dominion Parliament and the Provincial Legislatures is to protect the policyholders.

## SINGING WITH UNDERSTANDING.

The great triumph achieved in New York by Mr. Vogt, conductor of the Mendelssohn choir, of Toronto, is gratifying to Canadian feelings, and indicative of the fact that the Dominion is taking hold not only of things material, but of the higher things—the things of the spirit. His successful rendering of great choruses, after all, consists mainly in getting his carefully-picked and carefully-trained singers to sing with the understanding, manifested by careful shading according to the sentiment. That is the great need of many of our church choirs.

Between a noisy bellowing and singing with the understanding, there is a great gulf. To get the choir first, and then the congregation, to sing with the understanding, would help much to spiritualize the people.