

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT

It is reported from Kiev that two well-known London missionaries have been prohibited from preaching to the Jews in that town. The police have further confiscated the various books published by the London Bible Society, which the missionaries had distributed among the Jews.

Physicians are studying the close relation between alcohol and tuberculosis, and are constantly finding pertinent facts to show that strong drink often induces consumption. They find that when one or both parents are addicted to the use of intoxicants, their children often become scrofulous.

There are about two hundred kinds of trees in New Zealand, but it is believed that within seventy years the native forests will have been replaced by European and American trees, which are more desirable because they grow faster. Over 11,000,000 of these have been planted in recent years.

Newfoundland is a pronounced temperance country. No intoxicants can be procured anywhere except within sixty miles of St. John's, the capital. There are no Sunday sales, no hotel licenses, no use of liquors on trains by passengers traveling less than fifty miles. A hundred police handle the population of over 200,000 and there has been but one murder in fifteen years.

In St. Petersburg cholera is raging in full fury. The morgues are overcrowded and many bodies are lying unburied. Public schools have been taken for hospitals and four thousand children sent home. Between Friday noon and Saturday noon there were officially reported 34 cases and 128 deaths, and from Saturday noon to yesterday 308 cases and 141 deaths. Other reports not official, but held to be reliable, give numbers much larger. One type of the disease is very virulent, the stricken ones dying within fifteen minutes of the first seizure.

Our law makers at Ottawa did well to forbid the use of tobacco to any person under 16 years of age. Still better is the law forbidding parents and others—mothers or nurses, to give drugs to little children. Medical men were emphatic in their testimony as to the mischief caused by patent medicines to children. The waste of money is serious, but the waste of life is far more terrible. Now as to the enforcing of these useful enactments, remarks the Presbyterian Witness, who is to see to that! The statute books may be rich in excellent laws, but if they are to remain a dead letter who will be the better?

A cultivated traveller in the North-West has been writing to a friend in the Mother Country. From part of the letter which has been published abroad we make the following extract: "The importance of everything done now is very great. One can see here before one's eyes the Canadian nation of the future being formed out of these various kinds of people. The people here firmly believe in the future of their country. Sometimes they even dream dreams and see visions. One of them was pointing out to me the other day how the great seat of power in the world has always moved Northward and Westward—from Babylon to Rome, from Rome to England. Then he added—'Another step in that way and it's Canada.'

Graduating exercises were held last week in the Moody Bible Institute when, at the close of the summer term, eighteen students, eleven men and seven women, were given their diplomas for the two years' work. This makes a total of forty graduates during the year. Some of these students were expecting to take special courses in theological seminaries, but most of them were soon to enter upon various activities on the home and foreign mission fields. The fall term of the Institute opens with a large roster of students from different parts of the United States and Canada, and the various countries of the world.

The New York Times, in an article on the total abstinence movement, among the railroads, notes the wide scope and force it has taken, and quotes the following from a New Central official: "We would sooner have a man in the road's employ take money than he should indulge in intoxicants. The damage that could result from stealing would be trifling compared with the trouble which might result from a conductor or an engineer, or even a brakeman, taking too freely of intoxicants. One or the other would be very apt to neglect orders, and, perhaps, the neglect might occur under conditions which would lead to disaster."

There are in the average church three classes of people, the Reliables, the Unreliables and the Liabiles. On those who make up the first class you can depend absolutely and always. May their tribe increase. On those of the second class you can never depend. They have attained a certain reliability in being always unreliable. They may be crossed entirely out of any book of expectation of service or use. It is, perhaps, those of the third class that most bring gray hairs and wrinkles of concern to the pastor and to those charged with the administration of affairs. You never know how to take them nor where to find them.

The most unpopular people in Scotland at present are motorists, says an old Country exchange. From North and South, and East and West, but especially from the Highlands, come the indignant protests of those who use the roads for other purposes. Nor are these the outcries of envious people who would fain ride in motor cars themselves. From people high in station come remonstrances as strongly worded as those which emanate from the poor pedestrian or cyclist. Motorists have also made themselves unpopular in Canada. Should rather drastic measures be adopted in the various provinces, to regulate their movements in streets and highways, they will only have themselves to blame.

The extent to which irrigation is being undertaken in Western Canada is stated in a recently issued blue book. In the last five years great progress has been made. Five years ago Alberta and Saskatchewan had 169 irrigation ditches, aggregating 469 miles, and capable of irrigating 3,033,006 acres. Alberta has the larger number of ditches, capable of irrigating over 600,000 acres. There are now 272 canals, having a total length of 922 miles and capable of irrigating 3,033,006 acres. Alberta has the larger number of ditches, capable of irrigating 2,998,321 acres. The C. P. R. irrigation system, east of Calgary, is said to be the largest undertaking of the kind on this continent. It provides for a length east and west, of 157 miles, and a width, north and south, of 40 miles. The waterways of the scheme will be 2,900 miles.

"The everlasting arms." I think of them whenever rest is sweet—how the whole earth and the strength of it, that is, almightiness, is beneath every tired creature, to give it rest, holding us always. No thought of God is closer than that.—Adeline D. T. Whitney.

The death of the Right Rev. James Carmichael, Lord Bishop of Montreal, suddenly, from heart failure, at the age of seventy-three, will come as a shock to the people of Canada and especially to the Anglican community. Says the Montreal Witness; Bishop Carmichael was an ideal preacher, persuasive and forceful, and during the nearly half a century he has been in the ministry he has been a devoted servant of the church, faithful in little as in great things. The deceased was held in high esteem by other denominations in Montreal. Dr. Barclay said of him: He was a most valuable man in Montreal—one whom he had greatly admired, and with whom he had always had the most pleasant relations. Dr. Fleck is quoted as saying: He was a brilliant preacher and lecturer, a man who was greatly beloved, and a man whose breadth and culture always commanded respect. I am sorry, indeed, to hear that he has gone.

The publication of General Kuropatkin's Memoirs, which is forbidden in Russia, makes clear that one cause of the war with Japan, and seemingly the chief cause, was the efforts of a syndicate of grafters to get possession of immense timber claims in Manchuria and Corea for their personal profit. The leader of this syndicate was Bezobrazoff, but grand dukes were largely interested, and there is reason to believe that the Czar himself was to profit by it. He seems to have been ready to imitate the King of Belgium in making some money "on the side," in addition to his duties as monarch. All this has been pretty well understood before, but the publication of the memoirs seems to show that the Czar was warned of the consequences of the war beforehand, and of the character of the timber syndicate, and that he knew so much about it that he could hardly have permitted the scheme unless personally interested.

Mr. Kier Hardie, says Professor Goldwin Smith, might do us a good service by giving a frank and clear explanation of the aims of the Socialist party, and of the means by which those aims are to be attained. At a municipal election in this city not long ago a Socialist manifesto was put forth. It glowed with class hatred. That to which evidently pointed was war of classes, with confiscation of the property of the rich. Taken seriously, it might have been a warning to all owners of property to arm in their own defence. We do not accuse Mr. Kier Hardie of sharing this spirit, but he evidently aims at great proprietary and political revolution. Let him tell us clearly how the revolution is to be brought about, and in what institutions—social and political—it is expected to result. Nothing could be more philanthropic than the language of the French Jacobins at the beginning of a career which ended in the Terror. Their example is a warning to those who hold the same language now that instead of accomplishing their ends by philanthropic oratory or election ballots, they may have to wade to it through blood.