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NOTE AND COMMENT

A sixpenny orange and vermillion Newfoundland stamp of 1860 has been sold in England for £13 5s., a record price.

It is reported that a library to perpetuate the memory of the late president of the Chicago University, Dr. Wm. Rainey Harper, is assured. The library will cost nearly \$1,000,000 and the money for the purpose has been provided.

Even in the "Lone Star" State the prohibition campaign is taking definite shape. The Democrats of Texas held a mass meeting at Fort Worth last week; and it is reported that those who will fight under banners other than the Democratic are also laying plans for active participation in the conflict.

The British Cabinet has introduced a new Education bill. It is expected that it will be rejected by the House of Lords, as last year. The Liberals will likely appeal to the country, by dissolving Parliament, within a few months, and in the meantime will make as good a case against the Lords as possible. The curtailment of the power of the Upper House will probably be the important issue of the next election.

A Roman Catholic paper having claimed that in a hundred years all America will be Catholic, the Christian Register responds that if so, we shall have "a Catholic Church which a Unitarian can join without recantation of his religious belief and without mental reservations." On this The Herald and Presbyter remarks: It is safe to say that the one Church in which all America is to unite will be neither Roman Catholic nor Unitarian.

An interesting experiment is making in New York city under the direction of the Industrial Christian Alliance, in providing for people who may be temporarily out of employment. It is proposed to erect a ten-story building at a cost of a quarter of a million dollars. There will be a chapel and a roof garden, the latter for the recreation of temporary inmates. It is hoped to make it an auxiliary of church work for all denominations.

It has been quite the fashion in some quarters to speak disparagingly of the influence of Christian homes, to say that ministers' and elders' sons are very commonly wild and wicked. But the claim is far from the truth. Statistics have always proved the converse to be true. This question was once tested in an Eastern town, where careful records had been kept. It was found that more than 80 per cent. of the children of Christian households had become religious men and women.

On a par with the plea that the adoption of Local Option will injure business is the following taken from a recent issue of The Herald and Presbyter: "Some of the distillers have been trying to frighten the farmers by claiming that prohibition would reduce the market for corn, and, consequently, its price. Inquiry of the Secretary of Agriculture shows that only about two per cent. of the corn crop is used in the manufacture of whiskey and other distilled spirits. Hence, if every distillery in the United States were shut down, it would not affect the price of corn in the slightest degree." Both contentions are equally far removed from the truth. On the contrary, we believe that total prohibition of the liquor traffic would be an immense saving to the country.

The announcement of Austria's intention to construct a railroad through Novopasar as a connecting link between Austria's line through Bosnia and Turkey's line to Salonika, together with Germany's announced financial support of the plan, is regarded by Russia as a violation of the Russo-Austrian Balkan agreement. Russia holds that it is an effort to extend Austria's sphere of influence, and that, consequently, the agreement is now abrogated, and Russia is left a free hand in dealing with Turkey.

The annual report of McGill University was issued last week. From the financial statement it appears that there was a deficit of \$33,000 in operating expenses last year, the total expenditure figuring up to \$534,000. The investment in the university is now \$8,477,000, \$2,377,000 having been added to the capital account during the year. The greatest proportion of this addition is accounted for by the endowment of the Macdonald Agricultural College at St. Anne's, which is under the control of McGill, amounting to \$2,002,000.

The Rev. R. J. Campbell, D.D., pastor of the City Temple, London, will pay his first visit to the United States next summer to lecture among the chautauquas of that country. He has been pastor of the City Temple since the death of Joseph Parker. He is in his forty-first year. A son and grandson of non-conformist ministers, Ulster Protestants of Scottish extraction, he was educated at University College, Nottingham, and Christ Church, Oxford, was graduated with honors from the School of Modern History and Political Science at Oxford, and entered the Congregational ministry in 1885.

The Montreal Witness very properly says that if the Italian murder mania is not soon ended or mended there will inevitably before long begin an agitation to exclude certain classes of that nationality from this continent. The matter grows worse instead of better. In Montreal, last week, there were two of such murders, one by a stiletto and the other by pistol shots, and in the big cities of the United States hardly a day passes without the commission of similar crimes. One thing is clear, whatever else is done or left undone, the Italian laborer should not be allowed to carry murderous weapons, as he almost invariably seems to do. There should be a thorough system of searching instituted, weapons when found should be confiscated and destroyed, and those found carrying them should be punished severely.

Australia has placed a heavy duty on all magazines containing advertising matter in a proportion of more than one-fifth of the general contents. Mutilated magazines are one of the first results of the new tariff. Subscribers to many popular monthlies are writing to the Melbourne papers, indignantly complaining of the condition in which the last numbers reached them. Nearly all the advertising pages were torn out by rude force. This was done by the agents with the permission of the Minister of Customs, who has granted the publishers four months' grace to make fresh arrangements. The Melbourne manager of one well-known magazine says that it has hitherto been sold in Australia at 12 cents, but if this provision in the new tariff is passed the price in future cannot be less than 30 cents.

It is but a little over thirty years since the telephone came into use, says the Cumberland Magazine, yet it is estimated that not less than 8,000,000 separate telephones are in actual service at this time. This estimate is based upon a careful inquiry made as of date of January 1, 1907, at which time it was found that there were 7,398,800 telephones in use throughout the world. The distribution of these was as follows: United States, 5,068,800, or 68.5 per cent.; Canada, 130,000, or 1.7 per cent.; Europe, 2,000,000, or 27.1 per cent.; other parts of the world, 200,000, or 2.7 per cent.—totals, 7,398,800, or 100 per cent.

The West Land refers to a proposed great public work in terms following: "The West is directly concerned in the proposition before the Dominion House for the construction of the Georgian Bay Canal. Nature seems to have marked out a course for this national water way, and there is practical unanimity among men of affairs that it must sooner or later, be built. It would mean a shortening by two days of the freight route from the head of the Lakes to Montreal and a saving in freight rates of three millions a year. Western grain would share very largely in these benefits and the transportation problem would very nearly be solved."

The late Mayor of Montreal is quoted as saying that "Montreal is proud of her factories and her business blocks, but she is more proud of her churches, and she always means to keep her steeples higher than her smoke-stacks." A good sentiment. The glory of any city is in the loyalty of its citizens to things for which the Church stands. At the same time we could wish that the present mayor could induce the City Council to take such steps as would prevent Montreal being truthfully stigmatized as "the dirtiest city in America." For picturesqueness of situation, beauty of surroundings, business enterprise, solidity of public and private buildings, Montreal can not be excelled; but when one comes to speak of the effectiveness of its municipal government it has to be acknowledged that there is much lacking to place the city in a first-class position. Not fewer churches—but more of that "cleanliness" that is akin to "godliness," should be the aim of our neighbors in the commercial capital of Canada.

The Catholic Record, of London, Ont., discussing the type of man sometimes alluded to as the "good fellow," makes some shrewd observations, as follows:—

"All the world's a stage. And the good fellow has his exits and entrances, and in his time plays many parts. At first the infant, mewling in the nurse's arms. And then the whining school-boy. And then the young man fresh from college with the world before him. Then the Galahad who means to do things. Then the familiar figure in the saloon—the babbler who amuses the light witted and is so dead to honor as to forget the sacrifices that were made to give him an education. And thus ignobly he struts the stage. But he plays among the dead and the phantoms of the squandered years and the wraiths of what might have been. Living men heed him not. He is merely a member of the down and out club. Men pity him as a stricken animal, and so the "good fellow" becomes in time the "poor fellow."