

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, AND WINNIPEG.

Single Copies 5 Cents

NOTE AND COMMENT

Reports received at Shanghai, China, say that 3,000,000 persons in the famine district are starving, and that 10,000,000 in all are suffering from lack of food, 5,000 dying daily.

Mr. Evan Roberts, the Welsh evangelist, has been suffering from a severe nervous strain, verging on paralysis, but is now reported as improving; and his friends hope that in a few months he will be ready for evangelist work again.

The anarchists' road in Germany is a hard one to travel. A convention of German anarchists that recently attempted to meet were expelled from three towns, and finally only managed to assemble in an open field outside of Mannheim.

The engineers estimate is that a tunnel between Prince Edward Island and the main land can be made for \$13,147,200, plus the cost of approaches which would bring the total up to \$15,048,200. From eight to ten years would be required to complete the work.

The Australian States are getting a little bit jealous of the rush to Canada. First Queensland, and now it is New South Wales. The Victorian Government is arranging for the carriage of emigrants at cheaper fares than those which are paid for the much shorter voyage to Canada.

Russian repression is by no means limited to execution of political criminals. In the seven months ending June 1, 1906, the Russian police seized, and destroyed, ninety-seven editions of books, pamphlets, and magazines, comprising more than five hundred thousand copies.

A Young Men's Christian Association is about to be established at the great gold camp at Cripple Creek, Colo., to which many of the companies have contributed largely. The building will never be closed. It will be for the men who work constantly in eight-hour shifts seven days in the week.

According to the Transvaal Chamber of Mines the total gold output for March was 538,497 ozs., or a total of £2,287,391, being an increase of 44,955 ozs., in weight and £190,957 in value as compared with February. The production in March, 1906, was 433,723 ozs., value £1,884,815.

Esperanto, the new universal language, is having a great boom in Cambridge, England. In preparation for the Esperanto Congress, which is to be held there next August, waiters, barmaids, cab-men, and policemen are learning the new tongue. One of the attractions of the Congress will be Shakespeare plays in Esperanto.

The Rev. Dr. Oswald Dykes will retire from the presidency of Westminster College, Cambridge, which as the Divinity School of the Presbyterian Church in England, and will remove to Edinburgh. He was for nineteen years the minister of the Regent Square church, London, and then for nineteen years the principal of Westminster College. For this position thus vacant the Presbyteries of the English Presbyterian church unanimously nominate Rev. Dr. Watson, (Jan Maclaren), who is now in America.

It is easier to keep alive than it used to be. Fifty years ago more than twenty-three people, 23.38 to be exact, used to die each year in London out of every thousand. Now the death rate is 17.1 per thousand. In other words the average human life in London is more than a third longer than it was in the "good old times," half a century ago.

The new church to be made by the union of Congregationalists, Methodist Protestants and United Brethren, will have about 1,200,000 communicants, 11,000 preachers and 13,000 churches. Of these communicants, 700,000 will be contributed by the Congregationalists, 200,000 by the Methodist Protestants and 300,000 by the United Brethren.

Official sanction has been given by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the use of Esperanto in the conduct of Divine service in the Church of England by authorizing a "Form of Divine Service" drawn up in that language by the Rev. C. J. Rust for use in the religious services to be held in connection with the Congress of the International Esperanto Society at Cambridge.

In 1850, some distance southwest of Lake Nyassa, in Central Africa, Livingstone discovered Lake Shirwa, a body of water about thirty miles long and fifteen miles wide, which has now entirely disappeared, with the exception of a few ponds in its bed. Lake Nyami, discovered by Livingstone at the same time, has also disappeared. The cause of the change appears to be a gradual drying up of bodies of water in Central Africa.

Churches the wide world over will be asked to observe Sunday, May 19, as the World's Sunday School Day. On that Sabbath the World's Sunday School Convention will be in session at Rome. Pastors will be asked to preach on the Sunday school as a great mission force or some other phase of Sunday school work. Effort will be made to have every Protestant Sunday school use a uniform devotional service.

When Lord Cromer finally takes leave of the land of the Pharaohs and turns homeward in quest of health three of the greatest administrative brains of the British Empire will have been withdrawn from the public service. In 1905 Lord Curzon, after a brilliant career culminating in the filling for six years of the post of Viceroy of India, laid down the reins of office, and now occupies a comparatively insignificant place in the affairs of the State. In the same year Lord Milner relinquished the post of High Commissioner for South Africa, and is now only occasionally mentioned in the newspapers.

It is said to be reasonably certain that Prof. Marcus Dods will follow the late Dr. Rainey as principal of the United Free Church theological college in Edinburgh. Principal Iverach, in nominating Professor Dods in Aberdeen Presbytery, embraced the opportunity to emphasize the importance of having a New Testament scholar in the vacant chair during the epoch lying just ahead, and the advantage of having an incumbent who "did not make out Christianity to be a history of something which began after Christ had left the world." Religion was recently defined by Professor Dods, as neither morality nor worship, but "simply friendship with God."

London, (Eng.) Presbytery North Row consists of 160 members, of whom 73 are ministers, and 87 representative elders. Thirty-one meetings have been held during the year, eleven being ordinary and twenty special. Within the past ten years, fourteen congregations have been added to the Presbytery, and the communicants have increased by 3,817, and the Sunday scholars by 3,092. During the year the number of congregations has increased by two, making 61 regular charges, with two preaching stations. The communicants number 17,178, and the Sunday scholars 29,249. The income for all purposes during 1906 amounted to £77,395, as compared with £75,893 in 1905.

The British people, as a rule, do not know well what to make of Premier General Botha, of the Transvaal. They are evidently reluctant to take him at his face value. The change is so recent and so great that it looks as if he had been "flyper." In a speech at the Eighty Club in London recently he said:—"The manly, courageous confidence shown by the British in the people of the Transvaal is the best seed ever sown in South Africa. We will prove by our acts that we are worthy of this confidence. Our government is as jealous of the honor of the British flag as any other colony of the Empire. The message from the Transvaal is that she wants to strengthen the bonds of co-operation and love and unity of the Empire." In that case, asks the Scottish American, why is he so anxious to get the consent of the British Government to the formation of a Boer standing army?

It has been announced that the Italian Government has handed over to the Vatican \$600,000 in cash, and \$1,000,000 in Government "stock," in payment for the sequestration of certain religious houses in 1870. The Pope is reported to have warmly thanked the Government for the payment. This would seem to indicate the beginning of a new era in the relations between the Quirinal and the Vatican. The previous policy of the Vatican has been to refuse all payment for property that was seized, and to treat the Government as a usurper. The acceptance of payment is the official yielding of that contention, and so far as the church is concerned, the giving to the government unquestioned title to the property concerned. It is a stroke of policy on the part of the Vatican, not in accord with its blindness in the management of the French affairs.

The press declares that nothing since the early days of Moody and Sankey has so stirred Brooklyn as the Gipsy Smith mission, which "should have lasted forty-five days instead of fifteen." Weather and traffic were said to make no difference; the presence of a chorus choir, or not, became immaterial; people were in the church hours before the time of meeting. Every night the large auditorium was packed close with 2,300 people, and the chapel with an overflow meeting of 1,200, and hundreds and sometimes thousands were turned away. One day 1,000 people assembled on the church steps three hours before the time for service and sang hymns to fill in the time. The attendance of men on all the services was notable. On the last week night of the mission two hundred went into the inquiry rooms; some white heads and bent forms, others just entering manhood and womanhood.