

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT

One of the anti-liquor laws recently passed by the South Australian legislature provides for the closing of bars on state and federal election days, Christmas and Good Friday.

All the great literature owes a debt to the Bible. Dr. Henry Van Dyke says that he has found more than four hundred references to the Bible in Tennyson.

The Baptist church in Russia has proved her vitality. Not only has she survived the long-continued persecution of both church and State, but she has grown strong, and diffused herself throughout the vast Russian empire.

Says the Michigan Presbyterian:—Rev. Dr. Orta y Gonzales, whose remarkable book on Roman Catholicism has awakened great interest throughout the country, has joined the Southern Presbyterian Church and is now at Union Theological Seminary at Richmond, Va.

Licensed bars in England and Wales have decreased 3,919 in the last two years. There are, however, still 120,441 or thirty-four to every ten thousand of the population. British temperance workers have decreed that the bar must go and are relentless in their efforts to rid the kingdom of the licensed saloon.

The Montreal grafters who have been trying to escape the penalty of their acts by raising the religious and race cry, says the Catholic Register, have been promptly taught a much-needed lesson. Both the Catholic Church and her dutiful children the country over will unite in demanding that not a single thief be permitted to escape.

The Transvaal Liquor Commission, appointed for the purpose of ascertaining what changes should be made in the license laws of that province, struck a real argument a short time ago in the testimony of mine workers. The compound manager of the Premier Mine collected the workers and had them express their opinions. Of the 3,000 workers, all except 171 voted for prohibition.

We are told by the Michigan Presbyterian that the Hungarian Protestant church of Detroit, has decided to affiliate with the Presbyterians and is to be known as the Magyar Evangelical and Reformed Presbyterian church. Rev. Geza Kaczany, a highly educated Hungarian, who has been laboring among foreigners in Eastern cities and has organized five churches is to be the new pastor here.

There is now no great English poet, remarks the N. Y. Christian Advocate. Those who have died since Tennyson would not rank with Wordsworth or Tennyson. Several now living have written poems which have gained public acceptance, and two, perhaps three, have written what would bear a comparison with much of Tennyson's poetry, but none would class them with the greatest of the Victorian Poets.

Motor racing continues to take toll of lives. The first week of racing on a great new speedway at Indianapolis, says the Cumberland Presbyterian, resulted in seven deaths. There will always be men willing to take foolhardy and useless risks for a little money and a little notoriety; but the public conscience ought to forbid making such performances a spectacle.

He who lives in a chronic state of mortal sin, pertinently says the Catholic Register, whilst cherishing the hope of a death-bed conversion, is like the captain who keeps sailing away from a port in order to reach it in the end.

Zion's Herald commenting on the progress of the church says: "The renaissance of the gospel will surely come in our midst, but not by contemplating with serenity our spiritual and religious barrenness, and so teaching minister and people; but by painful humiliation, by prayer and earnest co-working with God, seeking in every possible way to usher in a better day. The chief fault lies in cherishing wrong standards and aspirations, in focusing thought too exclusively upon philosophic and negative distinctions, as if a new and different gospel were needed for this age."

According to the handbook of the Presbyterian Church, there are now in connection with that denomination in England 364 churches and preaching stations, providing just over 178,000 sittings. On Church property, which is estimated at £2,632,354, there is a debt of £121,237. During the past year congregational contributions produced £174,764, and subscriptions and donations for temporary purposes came to £39,317, thus giving an average of £588 per congregation, throughout the world there are included in the Alliance of Reformed Presbyterian Churches 32,934 congregations, the number of communicants being nearly six million.

The annual death toll of the Alps, this year 151 killed and 217 injured, has aroused widespread public opinion throughout Switzerland, and the strongest pressure possible is being brought to bear in favor of the enactment of strict government regulations to control mountain climbing. As is the case every year, the majority of the victims of the high peaks were either inexperienced people climbing for pleasure or were trying to make the heights without guides. Hundreds make foolhardy attempts at climbing high mountains every year, and the Swiss officials are much aroused over the making of the Swiss Alps what they call "the graveyard of the continent."

Of the recent Chapman-Alexander mission in Australia, the Southern Cross says that nothing yet in Australian history has kindled an interest so strong or drawn audiences so vast. Wherever the missionaries went they attracted enormous crowds. In fact, the numbers were limited only by the size of the buildings. The ministers everywhere have given their hearty cooperation, and eminent men, who were disappointed by previous revivals have weighty testimony to the effect of the mission. Considerable accessions have been made to the membership of the churches, and a new strength and inspiration communicated to workers. Dr. Chapman's parting message to the Christian community of South Australia is as follows:—

"I believe Australia is ripe for a revival. The fields are white unto harvest. I believe this for many reasons:

"1. Because of the experiences and words of the ministers.

"2. Because of the interest of the leading laymen whom I have had the pleasure of meeting.

"3. Because of the hearty response by men and women not before identified with the Church.

"But I am persuaded that if the best spiritual results are to be preserved there must be no uncertain statement concerning the Dicty of Jesus or the interpretation of the Bible, and also there must be the plainest, most direct, and personal presentation of Christ as Saviour and Lord."

Prohibition laws in Alabama having been evaded, the State Legislature has passed a series of measures designed to crush the liquor traffic. It is forbidden to store or transport liquor as well as to sell it, to drink it except at home or in a friend's house, to advertise it in the newspapers, or to use the word "saloon." If a citizen gives to a person liquor whereby he becomes intoxicated, and the intoxicated man injures another, the injured person may recover damages from the man who supplied the drink.

On September 9th the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture issued its harvest bulletin, which indicates a total yield of wheat for the province of 86,668,692 bushels, an increase over last year of 36,014,063 bushels. The estimated oat crop is placed at 100,521,250 bushels, an increase of 52,141,412 bushels; barley is estimated at 7,945,494 bushels; an increase of 3,979,770 bushels; flaxseed 4,155,540 bushels, an increase of 1,566,188 bushels. The total for the four grains amounts to 199,290,956 bushels, which exceeds last year's crop by 39,701,453 bushels. This year the average yield is considerably higher than it was last year. Wheat is estimated at 22 bushels to the acre; oats, 47; barley, 24; flax, 15. Last year it stood:—Wheat, 14; oats, 27; barley, 17; flax, 10. Of course, these figures are but estimates, and yet the figures are but estimates, and should err, if at all, upon the conservative side. It seems to be the case that, regardless of any increase in acreage, Saskatchewan's grain crop is over fifty per cent. ahead of last year. Doubtless Manitoba and Alberta will be able to report an equally prosperous condition of affairs.

The Parliament of Great Britain recently appointed a commission to secure all obtainable information concerning the observance of the Lord's Day in the various countries of Europe, and notes of all legislation affecting that day. A most instructive report has recently been issued by this commission, and the Chicago Interior has given its readers the following resume of these European laws: In Austria only absolutely necessary labor is permitted on the first day of the week, and persons employed in such necessary labor must have their duties so arranged as to give them on some other day a weekly rest. Sunday trading in perishable articles is permitted in Austria for only four hours in the day. In Belgium the law is practically the same as in Austria—if any difference, more strict. In Denmark, factory work is forbidden, but not field work, and all shops except those we would call drug stores, bakeries and milk shops are closed. Hair dressers close at noon. In France, since 1906 the Sunday laws have been strictly enforced, and both labor and trade are forbidden on that day, with the exception of certain industries, where, by the nature of their products, continuous labor is absolutely necessary. It is now proposed to greatly reduce the operation of railways on the first day of the week. All workmen in industrial occupations in Germany have, by law, twenty-four hours' rest for each Sunday on which they labor, but certain specified trades may be kept in operation for five hours on that day. Under the Swiss federal law Sunday labor is strictly forbidden. In Sweden Sunday rest is protected by general legislation. In every European country there is some law limiting labor and business on the Lord's Day. The report is highly favorable to proposed stricter Lord's Day legislation, and emphasizes the fact that both Protestant and Roman Catholic countries are seriously endeavoring to give to all laborers one well-defined day of rest every week.