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NOTE AND COMMENT

Despite the fact that Allen County, Ohio, voted "wet" last November there has been a steady decline in the number of saloons, and only two cities and two townships in the entire county are now wet, while ten saloons have quit business since last May.

An Italian contractor is seeking permission from the two governments concerned, to build a line of railway from the Suez Canal, along the coast, to connect at Jaffa with the Jerusalem-Jaffa railway. The harbor at Jaffa is said to be the meanest landing place in the world.

A beer bottle was placed in the corner stone of the new town hall at Gary, Ill., the other day by some enthusiastic prohibitionist, who placed upon it the following inscription: "The contents of this bottle were at one time used as a beverage by the people, but it was destined to become extinct."

A Russian named Nicolai Seiden has been sentenced to six months in prison for publishing Tolstoy's "Thou Shalt Not Kill" and other political pamphlets. Tolstoy wrote a letter to the court saying that Seiden was a passive offender and inviting the prosecution of himself, but no attention was paid to it.

In a recent issue of "The Interior," of Chicago, George W. Louttit, formerly first reader of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, at Fort Wayne, Ind., makes the specific charge that the Christian Science leaders in Boston purpose to keep secret the death of Mrs. Eddy, and to declare that she has been translated, like Christ and Elijah.

Laymen of Australia have extended an invitation to Rev. J. Campbell White and Mr. Silas McBee, editor of the Churchman, to visit the principal cities of that country in the interests of the Laymen's Missionary Movement; but large plans for furthering the work in this country—plans which include rallies in at least fifty cities—caused the officers of the movement to decline to grant the request.

The overthrow of Abdul Hamid has brought about the restoration of one of the most valuable libraries in the world; on his accession thirty-three years ago, he had the collection moved to Yildiz Kiosk, but this rich literary treasure is now being replaced in the old Seraglio. It is especially rich in manuscripts from the thirteenth, fourteenth, and sixteenth centuries, captured by the Turks in various cities and monasteries in southeastern Europe.

Andrew Carnegie appears to be well satisfied with the work which he has done in extending library facilities in America, thinking that they lead to self-help, and do not "pauperize" their recipients. According to Mr. Carnegie's own showing in Collier's he has founded 1890 public libraries, representing donations aggregating \$51,596,963, while the Library Journal (perhaps including libraries given to colleges) puts the number of buildings at 1872. In the United States 959 library buildings have been erected by Mr. Carnegie, with 208 branches. England and Wales come second in the list with 329 buildings and 59 branches. Mr. Carnegie thinks that, considering the population of the two countries, he has done almost as much for Canada as for the United States, having erected in Canada 86 buildings and established five branches.

For drastic automobile laws Florida can probably take the palm. The Legislature, according to the New York "Tribune," has passed Bills which, among other things, provide that when an automobile, driven along a public highway, meets another vehicle, the chauffeur shall stop his machine, and if there are women or children in the other carriage, he must get out and help to guide the animals drawing it, whether they are horses, mules or oxen, safely by his machine.

It has been given out that Mrs. Russell Sage, America's Lady Bountiful, is now contemplating the establishment of an insurance for workmen. To perfect plans for her scheme, agents have been sent to England, France, Germany and Belgium. Her princely fortune is said to have been accumulated at the rate of \$3,500 a day during fifty years; she is now giving it to her fellow-men at the rate of \$25,000 a day, having contributed \$5,000,000 to educational and \$2,500,000 to religious causes.

Turkey is represented as appealing to England, France, and Germany to continue their control of affairs in the island of Crete, which they have been exercising for some years, and which they propose to give up on July 1. It is a confession of incapacity which might well be made with respect to the entire empire. An abdication of governmental pretensions and a division of the provinces among Christian nations would be an unspeakable blessing to the world and especially to the subjects of the Turkish empire.

The recent death of DeMartens, Russia's greatest exponent of International Law, removes a conspicuous and valuable personage. He not only had served his own nation well by furthering the study of jurisprudence there, but he had become a world figure through his service as arbiter in international disputes and by his unusually influential part in establishing the international conferences at The Hague and the international judicial tribunal which they have created, of which he was a member when he died.

The latest statistics of the Sunday school show that there are 46,399 Sunday-schools in Great Britain and Ireland, with 8,134,716 members, while in the rest of Europe there are 27,293 schools with 1,997,900 members. In Asia and Africa 6,124 schools, 263,378 members. In the United States, 151,476 schools, 13,732,192 members. In Canada 3,703 schools, 791,023 members. In the remainder of North America, 1,856 schools, 165,110 members. In South America 350 schools 153,000 members. In Oceania, 3,372 schools, 723,363 members. Thus the grand totals for the world are 252,372 schools and 25,961,291 members.

Few persons are aware of the enormous compass of the British Empire. Great Britain is to-day sovereign over 11,908,378 square miles, or nearly one-fifth of the land surface of the globe, and her subjects are not far from 400,000,000, or more than one-fourth of the population of the entire world. The area of the British Dominion is approximately as follows: In Europe 125,095 square miles; America 4,000,000; Australia 5,000,000 Africa 2,500,000; Asia 2,000,000. The population of the Empire is distributed as follows: In Europe, 42,000,000; America 7,500,000; Australia 5,000,000; Africa 43,000,000; Asia 300,000,000. The white population is 56,000,000, and the coloured 344,000,000. The territory covered by the British Empire very nearly equals the combined possessions of the United States, France and China.

About the worst crime a man can possibly commit is the murder of his wife by which he stabs love as well as life. Nor is drunkenness any palliation. It is the reverse. Blythe, on conviction, ought to have gone straight to the gallows. His probably is one of those natures in which the finest sentiments have no place; otherwise he would have prayed for death rather than a life of confinement, solitary it is to be presumed, with such an adder as that memory at his heart. It is curious that there should be this outburst of feeling against taking the life of a wife-murderer while we are all being invited to preparations for taking innocent life on the most enormous scale.—Goldwin Smith.

The (London) Christian says that Sir Ian Hamilton who commands a division of the English army, believing that example is better than precept, has signed the Temperance pledge as an encouragement to his men of the southern command. Sir Ian underwent a careful process of self-examination, and he found that during his thirty-seven years' service he had partaken of 10,000 quarts of dutiable liquor! He thought appalled him, and he began to think of his men and their fiery temptations, and what could be done by their superiors to help them. Knowing that "come" is a more effective word than "go," he has decided to adhere to total abstinence for a year. May that one year run into many! Sir Ian's decision will do more for sobriety in the army than scores of eloquent orations. A tee-total general is much to be desired in any army.

The best patriots are they who serve their heart in most helpful ways, says the Philadelphia Westminister. There is no higher expression of citizenship than the inculcation, in the neighborhood or in a nation, of those great ideals of individual character and social service which we group under the name of religion. The Canadian churches have proved their loyalty to the flag as well as to the cross by their imperial conception of ministry to the newer portions of the country. They have set themselves, in noblest man-fashion, to the task of carrying the offices of the church to the very limits of pioneer settlement. Wherever runs the law of the land, there also goes the sweet and uplifting message of the Gospel. In so doing, the nation is helping to conserve the Canadian type, and to mould the expanding populations into the characteristics of reverence for law, for order, for thrift, for education and for religion.

There appears to be no doubt of a largely increased acreage sown to spring wheat in the North-West this year. With last season's yield selling in Canada at \$1.15 for July delivery, and supplies short the whole world over, this is a matter of immense importance. At a fair average yield, the 1,140,000 acres more than last year should give us 16,500,000 bushels more wheat, worth to the country at least \$12,000,000 to \$15,000,000. So far prospects for the year's crop are as nearly perfect as could be expected and a last year's yield was not up to expectations, the increase in value to the country may be double what is indicated above. A few weeks will give practical security to the crop, during which time we shall all be merely on-lookers without ability to help or hinder. Ontario shows, in spots, a decline in fall wheat acreage, and is to be regretted since the returns from that crop are excellent when not a failure.