

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

Vol. 24.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27th, 1895.

No. 13.

## Notes of the Week.

Those who take note of affairs in Britain will remember the agitation against opium being imported into China under the sanction of the English Government, and the commission appointed by it to examine into the whole subject. This commission, it is now stated, cost £16,000, exceeding the original estimate by £9,500, and the whole amount is to be charged to the British Exchequer.

The care of the British Government for the protection of her subjects in every part of the world, and her anxiety and determination to further the ends of justice at home and abroad are well known, and are a source of confidence and strength to every Briton to what ever part of the earth he may wander. An interesting illustration of this is found in the Supplementary Estimates for the closing financial year, which were recently issued in the House of Commons. A vote of \$35,000 is required for "expenses incurred in the proceedings taken to obtain the extradition of Jabez Ballour and Cornelius Herz."

Provision is made very properly for teachers in their old age, after having served so many years in what is not only a most useful but an increasingly laborious profession. The Education Department's Committee, of Britain, on teacher's pension has just presented its report. It favors the compulsory retirement and pensioning of teachers at sixty-five. Male teachers would pay £3, and female teachers £2, a year, which at sixty-five would afford in standard cases annuities of £40 and £20 respectively. To these the State would add 10s. for each complete year of service, thereby bringing the pensions up respectively to a trifle over £61 and £41. There are 56,000 teachers, and it is calculated that the cost to the State would be about £100,000 in the fifth year after the scheme was established, about £300,000 in the fifteenth year, and about £560,000 twenty years later, ultimately reaching high-water mark at £600,000.

The land of Egypt possesses a perennial interest, more, perhaps, than does any other land; if we except Palestine, the Holy Land. It would appear as if its interest were inexhaustible, and it is more so now than ever since the English occupation of it. A man whose name many will remember in connection with its history passed away lately at Constantinople Ismail Pasha, the ex-Khedive of Egypt, son of Ibrahim Pasha, a former Viceroy of Egypt, and a grandson of the celebrated Mehemet Ali. He was born in 1830, and became Viceroy in 1863. He introduced a number of reforms in Egypt, devised great public works, interested himself greatly in M. de Lesseps's Suez Canal scheme (the canal was opened during his reign—in 1869), acquired the title of Khedive from the Sultan, extended the Egyptian dominions to Dar-Fur and the Soudan, and then collapsed financially, being removed from the Khedivate in 1879.

The Hendershott-Welter trial, upon which the interest of the country has for some time been fixed with such painful interest, has at last ended, as everyone who watched the facts as they were brought out must have expected it would, in the conviction of the accused men by a jury of their fellow-citizens after a full and fair trial. As an example of what the desire for money indulged in will lead men to do, of deliberately planned and premeditated crime, carried out with cold-blooded heartlessness, and how surely patient, intelligent skill in ferreting out and piecing together the apparently most trifling incidents and clues of evidence will bring it remorselessly home, and secure

conviction, the annals of crime in this country supply few cases to equal it. The way of the transgressor is a hard one indeed, and in one of this kind, which, if it could escape, would lead to perpetration of still worse crimes and general insecurity of life and property, it is well that the guilt was so brought home that there could be but one conclusion, that murder was committed upon an innocent, unsuspecting man, and that the convicted men were the murderers.

The new departure which has been taken by the *Daily Globe* of this city, in handing over the entire make up and management of the issue of April 18th to a body of Canadian ladies is exciting a wide interest, which will doubtless increase until the paper is issued on the eventful day. The effect of it, we venture to say, will not end there and then. The regular editorial and reportorial staffs, certainly all the male members thereof, will be displaced for that issue by a staff of ladies who will cover every department of the paper—business, editorial, local and general. The issue will be a very large one, both as to the number of pages and as to circulation and will also be non-political and non-sectarian. In addition to this undertaking giving an opportunity for the women of the country to show what they can do as journalists and publishers, it is mentioned that the profits will be applied to philanthropic purposes, which ought to enhance the interest and increase the demand for this edition.

What world-wide benefits and what financial success may be attained without the assistance of government monopolies, subsidies or guarantees is strikingly illustrated by some facts which appear in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Eastern Telegraph Company, which occurred lately. Twenty-five years ago the nucleus of the present system of Eastern telegraphs consisted of about 900 miles cable, with a capital of £260,000. "To-day we own," says Sir John Pender, "52,325 miles of cable, and have a joint nominal capital of over £9,000,000, sterling, but which, at the present market quotations, actually represent market quotations, actually represents nearly £15,000,000, sterling. The present mileage of submarine cable, either provided by private enterprise in Great Britain, or by government, he states at 152,000 miles, only ten per cent. of which is due to government provision. The total length of land wires throughout the world is 2,000,000 miles, estimated to have cost about £65,000,000. Wherever the British flag flies, and commerce warrants a fair prospect of remuneration, cables have been laid, and that policy will be continued in the future."

In the twenty-seventh annual report upon the Asylums for Insane and Idiotic, which has just been issued, it is stated that the admissions for the past year have decreased when compared with the year ending 30th Sept., 1893. During the latter year there were 820 admitted, while in the year under report there were only 781 or a decrease of 39. This number fairly represents the average decrease for the past three years. But as the admissions have been practically limited to the accommodation at disposal, it is necessary to take into account the number of applications outstanding at the close of the year. These, known to this department, numbered 104, and if they had been admitted there would have been no decrease to note. The number of lunatics and idiots remaining in residence at the close of the year shows an increase of 166, when compared with the previous year; and, during the past five years, 916, or at the rate of 183 1-5, patients have been added to the asylum population per annum. The average daily number of insane patients in residence has

also increased from 3,674 in 1893 to 3,809 during 1894, or an increase of 135 patients for the past year. "Each institution," the report says, "has accomplished satisfactory results. The numbers of deaths is comparatively fewer. The percentage of recoveries is increased, and this can be regarded as evidence of the sanitary condition of the institutions and the good measures and judgment used in caring for the patients under charge."

The Red Cross Society, whose humane objects are so well known, established a branch at Tien tsin for the purpose more especially of caring for wounded Chinese soldiers left in the enemy's hands. After the fall of Port Arthur a Chinese vessel with eight members of the society, wearing the Red Cross badge, went with a request to the Japanese commander to allow any wounded Chinese soldiers to be taken to Tien-tsin to be cared for there. To this request the Japanese Commander made the following reply: "Gentlemen, I appreciate the humane object of your voyage to carry the wounded soldiers to Tien-tsin in order to be cared for by your society. At the same time I have to call your attention to the plain fact that the enemy's wounded soldiers, however humanely treated they may be by the army in whose hands they are, are after all prisoners of war; so that carrying them from a land occupied by one of the belligerent armies to the country of the other cannot be called a neutral act. For this reason I am very sorry to have to reject your offer. Let this denial however be joined with the assurance that it is the rule of our army to care for the wounded soldiers without distinction of enemy or not enemy, so that the wounded Chinese soldiers are being actually taken care of in our field hospitals. I ask the gentlemen to have no anxiety about the matter. Please to understand that communications have been made to the Commander of our fleet that the steamer *Donan*, in which you are now, shall be made to leave the waters about the Peninsula before 6 p. m." Courteous, but sharp, is it not?

If the unmentionably fiendish atrocities reported in the British press as perpetrated against the Armenians, not only by the Kurds, but surpassed by the soldiers of the Turkish regular army are verified by the commission now investigating the matter, they will certainly, in the name of humanity, call for such action on the part of European nations, as will effectually forever deprive Turkey of all power of ever again treating not the Armenians only, but any people or race subject to it, with barbarities such as it is chargeable with, and which are sufficient to put it beyond the pale of civilized nations. *The Daily News* says the Sultan has lost all confidence in his officers and ministers, almost without exception, while the Turkish students are irritated against the Sultan. The Armenian Patriarch has sent to the Sultan a report on the grievances of the Armenians, boldly telling the full truth, and demanding complete religious tolerance and the safety of property, honour and life. The leaders of the Macedonian Committee in Bulgaria and elsewhere are taking advantage of the crisis to collect evidence of Turkish misgovernment, which, in the event of a conference of the Powers to settle the affairs of Armenia, they will present, with a demand for the execution of 23rd Clause of the Berlin Treaty, which provided for the establishment of autonomous institutions in the European provinces of Turkey, but has been evaded. Dr. Hamlin the chief founder of Robert College, at Constantinople, has just moved, at an Evangelical Union meeting at Boston, a resolution condemning the most "atrocious and bloody cruelties and massacres."