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## IMPROVED CLASS ROLL

For the use of Sabbath School Teachers.

## IMPROVED SCHOOL REGISTER

For the use of Superintendents and Secretaries.

Both the above have been carefully prepared, in response to request made for something more complete than could heretofore be obtained, by the Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, M.A., Convener of the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee. These books will be found to make easy the work of reporting all necessary statistics of our Sabbath Schools, as well as preparing the reports asked for by the General Assembly. Price of Class Roll, 60 cents per copy. Price of School Registers 20 cents each. Address—

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## Notes of the Week.

THE Prohibition Commission has been appointed by the Dominion Government. Its members are Judge Macdougall, ex-Mayor E. F. Clarke, Toronto, Sir Joseph Hickson, Montreal; George A. Gigault, St. Cyprien, Que.; Rev. Dr. McLeod, Fredericton, N.B. The secretary is Patrick A. Monaghan, Halifax. Sir Joseph Hickson will likely be elected chairman.

It is said that the New Zealand Government has offered to grant to General Booth ten thousand acres of land, with help to till it; and that the Government of Canada has been even more generous—proposing to place at his disposal a large sum of money at three per cent. From South America also free offers of land in any quantity have been received; so that the Salvation Army has scope enough to carry out its reformatory designs.

ACCORDING to the *Rappel*, the Catholic clergy of France now numbers 55,540 men. There are eighteen archbishops, sixty-nine bishops, 3,420 pastors of various ranks, 182 general vicars, 31,255 assistants, 7,109 vicars, and 700 other ecclesiastics. At present there are 136 pastors deprived of their incomes on account of some conflict with the State authorities. The Reformed and other Protestant clergy number 720, while in France and Algiers there are sixty rabbis.

THE New York *Independent* says: There is an Anglican fraternity called the Order of the Holy Redeemer, which some people are trying to introduce into this country, whose published purposes are, among other things, "to labour for the increase of the practice of Reservation" of the Host and to oppose fellowship with other Christians. Full members must be unmarried, the grade of associate member being allowed to those who marry. And it imagines itself to be a Christian order.

NEW statistics of Austria, exclusive of Hungary, have been collected. The total population is 23,895,424. Of these 18,814,012 are Roman Catholics; 2,814,012 Greek Catholics (*ic*, Ruthenians in Eastern Galicia); 544,786 Oriental Greeks (in Dalmatia and Bukowina); 315,528 Lutheran Protestants; 120,524 Reformed Protestants; 1,148,506 Jews. Among the religious communions the Jews have had the largest proportional increase, owing in part to natural increase and in part to immigration especially from Russia.

THE ministers of the Established, Free and United Presbyterian Churches in Galashiels and representatives from the Sessions met recently and agreed to a scheme of co-operation in four forms, viz., stated prayer-meetings, frequent pulpit interchange, united evangelistic effort and Home Mission work. A committee of the Moderator and three elders of each Session was appointed to make and carry out arrangements. The scheme is to be inaugurated by an interchange at the May commu-

nion, all the ministers by preconcerted plan dispensing the sacrament in each other's churches.

THE agitation against the opium traffic, says a Scottish contemporary, is being carried on with a keenness which shows how much the hearts of those who know about it are engaged in its overthrow. Last month three whole days were spent in London in prayer for the arresting of the evil, and literature of an exciting kind is being scattered broadcast. It is evident that the Government is beginning to feel the pressure that is being put upon it, and are not indisposed to compromise. To politicians the financial difficulty is the most serious one, but this difficulty appears to be exaggerated. It is calculated that a subsidy of ten millions, spread over seven years, would settle the business. That seems a wonderfully small sum to secure our deliverance from complicity in a wrong which is ruining such multitudes of people.

A MEMORIAL service in connection with the funeral of Rev. Dr. Donald Fraser took place in Marylebone Church, Rev. Dr. Monro Gibson officiating. The coffin was draped in black and banked with flowers, and during the afternoon many persons had passed through the church to view it. Rev. Dr. Edmond, Rev. Dr. Booth, representing the Baptist Union, and Rev. Dr. Parker, representing the Congregationalists, all testified to the deceased's worth. The Hon. Canon Leigh, vicar of St. Marys, represented the Church of England, but took no part in the service. The remains were afterward conveyed to Inverness, and were placed in the Free High Church till next day, when they were interred in the Chapel Yard burying-ground amid general mourning, the shops being closed, and the magistrates and council attending in their official capacity.

EDINBURGH Free Church Presbytery rejected by twenty-nine to thirteen Rev. John McEwan's overture asking the Assembly to send the proposed Declaratory Act to the Presbyteries (but not in the form of an overture) for their consideration. Principal Rainy, while agreeing with the mover that the fact of an overture meeting with the approbation of a majority of Presbyteries did not oblige the Assembly to pass it into law, characterized the overture as an afterthought. He concluded by stating that the Church must retain the power to make up her own mind, to declare it, and to give effect to it—that was to say, her prevailing mind, the mind that was ascertained by considerable majorities of her members, with reference to the way in which she was to discharge her duty to truth and to her conscience. Rev. J. M. Sloan supported the overture although he lately approved of the proposed act, but Rev. William Balfour thought it too late, although in itself reasonable.

PROFESSOR SAYCE has made discoveries which throw much light on some of the stories in the book of Genesis. For example, he writes: "The second half of the fourteenth chapter of Genesis, that which recounts the meeting between Abram and Melchizedek, has received a remarkable confirmation from the clay records of the past. It is from the tablets of Tel-el-Amarna that the light in this instance has been derived. Ebed-Tob, the priest-king of Jerusalem, represents himself as appointed to his office by the 'oracle' of a god. He did not inherit his royal dignity from his father or his mother, or even from his lord and master, the king of Egypt, whose 'friend' and ally he was. The name of the god is given as Salim or Salem, the god of 'Peace,' and is identified with one of the forms of the sun-god worshipped in Babylonia. Like Melchizedek, therefore, Ebed-Tob was king in virtue of his priesthood, and might consequently be described as priest-king of Salem, rather than as king of Uru Salim, 'the city of Salem.' Moreover, the god whose temple stood on Mount Moriah was the god of 'Peace,' to whom accordingly it was fitting that those who had restored peace to Canaan by driving the enemy from its soil should pay their offerings.

It is needless to point out what a commentary this is on the narrative which tells us how Abram, after the defeat of the Babylonian invader, paid tithes to Melchizedek, 'the priest of the most high God.'

Or Dr. Donald Fraser, Dr. Joseph Parker says: Dr. Donald Fraser has been long in London. He has been one of the most conspicuous ornaments of the Presbyterian Church in England. He was passionately devoted to the holy ministry. If now and again he came into other fields they were collateral and not alien grounds to which he came, that he might find some battle for righteousness and liberty. In theology he was intensely orthodox, in preaching he was vigorous, varied, eloquent, practical and most useful. As a leader of his Church he was always to the front, wise, progressive without being rash, and strong in his very cautiousness. We cannot allow such a man to disappear in silence. We owe something to holy memories. Our recollections of this kind should be amongst our chief treasures. What a call we have had this year of desolation to the younger ministers to prepare themselves for filling great vacancies, to be baptized for the dead, to be ready to take the place of the standard-bearers. Yet of the future I have no fear. The Church is God's, not ours; He will find the leaders, the men of valour, the men needful for the present occasion and opportunity. Not one of us is indispensable to God. Yet, looking within narrow and social and fraternal lines, how poor we are made by some deaths! The air has changed its temperature, the earth has taken upon it the look of strangeness, the very ground once so familiar seems now not to care for our trespass. To outlive your generation, to become a stranger amongst the multiplied millions of earth—oh, this would be cruelty, this would be one of the cruel judgments of fate. I sympathize with our bereaved friends, men who gather around vacant pulpits, and wonder when the familiar figure will be there. God help us to work, to love, to suffer if need be. This is the day of splendid opportunity.

THE Annual Survey of the national expenditure on drink in Great Britain, prepared on behalf of the United Kingdom Alliance, has been published. It shows that the total amount spent in intoxicating drinks in the United Kingdom in 1891 was \$706,125,000. Reckoning women and children as well as men this means an expenditure of about \$18 per head, or \$93 for each family of five persons. Compared with a year ago this shows an increase of over \$8,000,000. The decline in foreign and colonial spirits has been largely overbalanced by the increase in home-made spirits and in beer. The inference from this is, unfortunately, that drinking among the working class has increased. In comparing England, Scotland and Ireland, England and Wales with a population of 39,000,000 consumes spirits to the value of \$137,000,000; in Scotland, with a population of 4,000,000, the amount reached was \$37,500,000, while Ireland, with a little more than the same number, namely 4,700,000, consumes \$28,000,000 worth of spirits. Scotland takes the lead in whiskey but England is far ahead in the amount of beer, which is estimated as 27,500,000 barrels costing the sum of nearly \$400,000,000. This makes the average expenditure of England about \$100 per family of five persons; of Scotland \$80 per family, and Ireland \$52 per family. Commenting upon these facts the *London Times* says: It must be confessed that those \$400,000,000 for beer is a figure that it is hard to be proud of. It means that down the national throat there flows enough to provide the country with two navies and two armies, with the Civil Service thrown in—or very nearly so. It means that the beer drunk in one year would pay the interest on the national debt for three; or that, if funded for nine years, it would pay the whole debt and leave us with no more interest or annuities to pay. Or, from another point of view, it amounts to a probable fifteenth part of the whole national income—that is, everybody in England may be considered to spend six or seven per cent. of his revenue on beer, and twelve per cent. of his revenue on beer, wine and spirits taken together.