

Dominion Presbyterian

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NOTE AND COMMENT

The liquor traffic presents a striking case of a huge industry inducing people to buy what harms them. It is militant capitalism rotting human lives and characters to distil dividends.

Arrangements are already being made for the Pan-Presbyterian Alliance meeting, which is to be held in New York next October. This will bring delegates from all lands having Presbyterian or Reformed churches.

As a useful New Year's gift to an absent member of the family we can commend a subscription to *The Dominion Presbyterian*. Send us One Dollar and we will mail a copy of the paper to any address in Canada or Great Britain for one year.

The Sikhs in British Columbia have emphatically refused to go to Honduras. They are content where they are, and in Vancouver a couple of weeks ago, refused even to listen to the government report describing the charms of Central America.

Austria, according to the latest reports, is, in spite of the well known wishes of the Emperor and the people, said to be drifting aimlessly, but steadily, towards war. The brunt of the blame is being laid on Baron von Aehrenthal, the Minister for War, and his withdrawal is said to be contemplated.

Higher education of girls in Prussia with a view of preparing for university courses is not open for every and any one. Experience at home and abroad has taught the High School Board to admit only such girls as pass a physical examination successfully. The examination is performed by lady physicians.

Trade between Canada and Newfoundland last year shows an increase over the previous year. The exports to Canada were \$1,863,784, the imports from Canada were \$4,257,648, making an aggregate of \$6,121,432, or rather over one-quarter of the total. Canadian exports increased by \$217,304, and Canadian imports by \$589,549, making \$840,853.

A bill for granting the suffrage to women at State elections has been passed in Victoria, which is now brought into line on this question with the other States of the Commonwealth and New Zealand. The local option poll in New Zealand has shown an enormous increase in the prohibition vote. It is estimated that about 148 public houses will be closed in consequence.

The Methodist Episcopal Church began its foreign mission work in Africa in 1833; South America, 1836; China, 1847; Germany, 1849; Norway, 1853; Sweden, 1854; Switzerland, 1856; India, 1858; Denmark, 1857; Bulgaria, 1857; Italy, 1871; Japan, 1872; Mexico, 1873; Finland, 1884; Malaysia, 1885; Korea, 1885. They are in Protestant, Roman Catholic, Greek Church and non-Christian countries. The missions that have been established in Protestant lands are in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Germany and Switzerland. The missions in Roman Catholic lands are those in South America, Italy, Mexico and the Philippine Islands. The missions in Greek Church lands are those in Bulgaria and Russia. The missions in non-Christian lands are those in Africa, China, Japan, Korea, India and Malaysia.

The Immanuel Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles, Cal., celebrated recently the 20th anniversary of its founding, the celebration taking the form of a series of events running through an entire week. One feature was a reception to the old-time members by Mrs. W. J. Clibchester, the widow of the first pastor and founder of the church. In the twenty years 4,142 members were enrolled.

There are fourteen Wilsons in the ministry of the Canadian Presbyterian Church, and all doing well in their respective fields of labor. Rev. R. J. Wilson, of St. Andrew's Church, Vancouver, appears to be a favorite with the young people, as in one issue of the Vancouver World he is credited with four marriages. Rev. J. W. Woodside, another Eastern man, had tied the knot for two couples, as announced in same paper.

The Church of Scotland Foreign Mission Committee have appointed the Rev. William Borland, of Dunbar, to visit their mission stations in India. The appointment is due to the gift of an anonymous donor who intends the visit of a deputy to be an annual one. The Presbyterian churches of the Mother Land have always recognized the importance of frequent visits to their Foreign Mission Fields; and our own church, none too soon, last year took a step in the same direction. We feel certain that Dr. MacKay's visit will be found so fruitful in rich results that every two or three years will see himself or some other member of the F. M. Committee re-visiting our widely scattered fields in China, India and elsewhere.

In our experience it oft-times happens that readers complain that they see nothing in the Dominion Presbyterian from their own congregation. But did they ever send us a news item? Certainly not. If they had written an account of the social, presentation to the minister, etc., it would have found a welcome place in our columns. The Confederate of Mount Forest, neatly makes a suggestion in the following terms:—Straw was used in the sun-dried bricks of ancient Egypt, to hold the clay together. It was a great hardship when the Israelitish slaves had to make bricks without straw. Editorial slaves are pleased when they get good items ready made, but that does not occur often. They are quite content to supply the straw if they can get the clay of facts. Send them the facts.

The Church of Scotland has a communicant membership of 702,783. These are gathered into 1,412 parishes, giving an average of about 500 to a parish. This suggests that in this State Establishment, they know little or nothing about the problem of keeping alive weak churches. Not only are the churches strong numerically, but they all have permanent incomes adequate for their support. The older churches are supported by tithes from property held since pre-reformation days, and the churches of more recent establishment by endowments gathered by private subscriptions. There are only 235,000 scholars in the Sabbath Schools; and only "123 Theological students in all their faculties." This is an amazing statement in view of the fact that this church has four schools of theology—thus giving an average of only 32 to each college. The proportion of students to the membership is about 1 to 5,500.

The breweries of Chicago are making a decided decrease in their production of beer. During the first eight months of 1907 the output of Chicago breweries amounted to 3,292,678 barrels; during the same eight months of 1908 the output of the same breweries amounted to 3,144,496 barrels showing a decrease for Chicago alone of 148,182 barrels in eight months. During the month of August 1908, only 480,335 barrels were produced, showing a decrease of 47,797 barrels as compared with the month of August, 1907. These figures from an exchange make suggestive reading. It would be interesting to know to what extent the local option victories in so many localities in our own country have affected the production and sale of beer. Perhaps the Pioneer can tell us?

The death is announced of Mrs. (Rev.) A. McKay, at Kingussie, Scotland. Some three years ago Mr. McKay and family went from Lucknow to take charge of the Free Church congregation at Kingussie, Scotland. Mrs. McKay had been in poor health for some time and had undergone two operations in Edinburgh hospitals, but she kept gradually getting weaker until she passed away. Hers was a beautiful Christian character. She was the daughter of Mr. Mark, of Strichen, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and was married to Mr. McKay 26 years ago at the home of her sister, Mrs. George Gall, Toronto. Mr. McKay was then in charge of the Presbyterian church at Eramosa, Ont., and later was called from there to Lucknow, where he labored until he left for Scotland. A sorrowing husband and three sons and four daughters mourn the loss of a loving wife and mother. The eldest son is a civil engineer in Jersey City, but reached home about three weeks before she died. The second son is in the Northwest. All the others are at home at Kingussie.

Though in recent years the number of religious papers has decreased, there has been a notable advance in their quality and circulation. The decrease in number has been occasioned more by consolidation than by elimination; this has improved the quality and secured a larger circulation. Says The National Printer Journalist:—We can not argue that the religious paper is declining when we acknowledge its constantly growing circulation. Let us see. In 1900 the aggregate circulation of the 803 religious periodicals was 11,717,887; in 1907, 15,269,067—a gain since 1900 of 3,551,180, or an increase of over 30 per cent., which is greater than the rate of increase in population for the same length of time. In 1898 the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in North Carolina had one newspaper with a circulation of 6,500. Now it has two papers with a circulation of over 16,000, a gain of 150 per cent. No class of secular papers in the State can report such a gain. The religious population of the United States offers an inviting field for religious journalism. It is estimated that there are about 35,000,000 church communicants. The religious reading constituency is much larger. Besides, the field of religious journalism takes in more than the church-member and the members of the church-member's family. This makes encouraging reading in view of the oft-repeated statements that religious journalism is on the wane—its influence declining. We fancy the report of increasing circulation in the United States can be duplicated in Canada.