

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA

Single Copies 5 Cents

NOTE AND COMMENT

In Denmark there has been formed a Danish Abstinence Teachers' Association with a membership of 250 teachers. Its object is to promote temperance training among school children.

The sum of 250,000 pounds, left by the late H. Barnato, of London, for charitable purposes, will be devoted by the trustees to the erection and endowment of a hospital for cancer research.

The population of Germany has increased from 45,222,113 in 1882 to 61,720,529 in 1907. The prosperity of that country has increased in greater proportion than its population.

Francis Laur, a French engineer and inventor, has announced the invention of a flying omnibus. He has applied for patents and for a franchise to put his machine to practical use in, or rather over, the city of Paris.

A dispatch from Portici, on the Bay of Naples, says the Vesuvius is active again. Guided report rumblings followed by slight seismic shocks. The small internal craters have been unusually active in the last few days.

Rev. Malcolm L. McPhail, pastor of the Scotch Presbyterian church, Boston, received the first prize of \$600 from the American Sunday School Union for the best manuscript dealing with the Bible as an attractive book.

The foreign mission board of the Southern Baptist Church has 231 missionaries at work in foreign fields, besides 375 native workers, and reports a membership of 16,596 natives. The receipts last year amounted to \$460,797.

The recent storm and tidal wave on the coast of Mexico is said to have entirely destroyed the town of Soto La Marina, in the State of Tamaulipas. The place has entirely disappeared with the exception of a few church towers which seem to project from the surface of the sea.

Reports from the French Congo, Africa, are to the effect that in certain sections, notably the Mataba and Sangha regions, the natives are in revolt and have descended to cannibalism. It is said that several factory hands and a telegraph operator have been killed and eaten.

Southern Methodists have a membership of 1,749,899, while southern Baptists number 2,139,080. Both denominations have, in addition, a large following among the southern negroes. Nineteenth of the professing Christians among the negroes belong to one or the other of these denominations.

Harry Whitney, upon whom Dr. Frederick Cook relied to bring home the latter's instruments and documents, to substantiate his claim of having discovered the north pole, arrived at Bartle Harbor, Labrador, and declared that Commander Peary refused to allow Dr. Cook's effects to be brought aboard the Roosevelt, upon which vessel Whitney returned.

A movement is on foot among the Southern Presbyterian Missions in Korea to put one of the four gospels with related tracts, setting forth the plan of salvation, into every house within the territory assigned to the Southern Presbyterian Church. It is estimated that this work can be done for the 500,000 homes within the territory at a cost of not more than \$8,500, for cost of gospels and tracts and pay of colporteurs.

The Ontario provincial executive of the Citizens' League have decided to make the abolition of race track gambling and abolition of liquor traffic in hotels and clubs an issue at the next provincial and Dominion elections. To this end the organization will proceed to ascertain how every member of every church in the province stands on these two questions.

Last week 374 foreigners applied for naturalization at the Toronto court. The following are a few of the names: Kuslak Wojciech, Karol Kumorkiewicz, Bernard Lipshitz, Fulabozzi Dominico, Szezykowski, and Kazimierz Teltebom Label, and Limonchik Morris. These men will soon have votes. Are they in sympathy with our laws and customs? Are they men who will help to make Canada a great nation, or will they be a stumbling block and a curse to us? Who can say? Has the church done its duty by these new-comers? Has Toronto Methodism done its duty in regard to them? Dare we answer "Yes," says the Christian Guardian.

One of the Home Mission superintendents of the Presbyterian Church declares that there is very little denominational overlapping in the Synod of British Columbia. Out of 117 mission preaching stations, there were 73 at which there was neither Methodist nor Congregational preaching. It will possibly strike some ardent Methodists, says the Christian Guardian, that it might not be a bad thing at all if the Methodists did overlap a little at some of these 73 places. Doubtless, however, there are just as many places where the Methodists are allowed to have it their own way, and where Presbyterian preaching is unknown.

"I've been in India for many a year, and I never saw a native Christian the whole time." So said an English colonel on board a steamer going to Bombay. Some days after the same colonel was telling of his hunting experiences, and said that thirty tigers had fallen to his rifle. "Did I understand you to say thirty, colonel?" asked a missionary at the table. "Yes, sir, thirty," replied the officer. "Well, now, that's strange," said the missionary; "I have been in India twenty-five years and I never saw a wild live tiger all the while." "Very likely not, sir," said the colonel; "but that's because you didn't know where to look for them." "Perhaps it was so," admitted the missionary, after a moment or two of apparent reflection; "but may not that be the reason you never saw a native convert, as you affirmed the other evening at this table?"

The statistics which the secretary of the Y.M.C.A.'s of the world has just issued are worthy of note. At the commencement of 1909 there were in active operation no less than 7,823 associations, with a membership of \$21,209. Of these, with a membership of 3,000 employed these associations about 1,161 owned the buildings in which they met. The real estate of the association is valued at \$50,100,000. The associations of the United States and Canada led in this magnificent enrollment with nearly 2,900 branches, 446,022 members, and buildings worth more than \$40,000,000. Germany has more associations than America, but they report only 117,882 members. The American branches, in buildings and endowments, own nearly \$63,000,000. The scope of the Y.M.C.A. is necessarily limited, but where it is needed, it is usually badly needed. It has done a noble work for the young men of many of our cities, and we rejoice in its continued prosperity.

There are in Paris forty-three French Protestant churches, and in the outskirts there are forty-seven more, making a total of ninety churches where French Protestants worship. There are in Paris and the immediate environs some fifty or sixty thousand Protestants. The total number of British and American residents, in the department of the Seine, does not number more than ten thousand. At present French Protestantism is but a small force numerically, but the development within the past few years has been surprising, and the future promises greater things.

The people of Paris are likely to go to extremes. For fifteen years capital punishment was virtually abolished. Because of public sentiment, the President commuted all sentences of death. On Aug. 5 the first execution for fifteen years occurred, and the crowds that flocked to witness it could, only with difficulty, be kept back by the police. Executions should be in secret. Public executions tend to brutalize the people; and the knowledge that one will be executed in secret has a stronger influence in preventing crime. There are some wretches who glory in the very publicity of an execution.

The Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America has placed itself squarely on record as opposing all suggestions as to the possibility of communicating with Mars and other planets. At a highly successful meeting of the society, held at the Yerkes Observatory of the University of Chicago, at Williams Bay, Wisconsin, from August 18 to 21, resolutions were adopted tending to discourage the public from giving credence to newspaper and other speculations on the subject. Over fifty members of the society were present, a larger number than at any previous meeting, and more than forty papers, most of them technical, were presented.

The latest United States census reports that the majority of the church members in every State in New England is Roman Catholic. In Massachusetts the Roman Catholics form 69 per cent. of the church members, and in Rhode Island they reach 74 per cent. Of course, this does not mean that the population is divided in this proportion, for the Roman Catholic membership is about equivalent to the Roman Catholic population, while the Protestant membership is sometimes only about one-third of the Protestant population. But even when we take this fact into consideration, the figures still show that a startling religious change has taken place in New England in recent years. The change, however, is not the result of a victory of local Roman Catholicism over local Protestantism, but has come about through the westward emigration of the New England Protestants, and the immigration into New England of European Roman Catholics. It is said that nearly all the priests and prelates in New England Roman Catholicism are of foreign birth and parentage. To offset this New England change, however, we have the fact that in the West and Southwest States, where the majority, Catholics were once in the majority, the change has gone the other way, and the only States west of the Mississippi which now claim a majority of Roman Catholic members are New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona, and Montana, all of which are thinly settled with a scanty population. But although New England is largely Roman and foreign, the Puritan element in these States is still a mighty one, and one which must be reckoned with. Numbers do not always carry supremacy with them, and New England Protestantism is neither dead nor dying.