

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT

The Russian Government proposes to reduce the number of national holidays from ninety-one to sixty-six. The great number of holidays in Russia has been one difficulty in the way of progress in manufacturing.

Two Chinese students sent out by their government to take their military training in West Point have not only gone through the ordinary four years' English education and military courses with credit, but have mastered also Spanish and French.

The position of editor in Turkey is not to be coveted. Murad Bey, editor and proprietor of "Mizan," of Constantinople, has been sentenced to life imprisonment at hard labor for participation in the revolutionary movement of April 13.

The problem looming before the island of Crete is to whom will she belong when she is evacuated by the powers on July 31. Greece wants her, but Germany objects, and Turkey has informed her that she belongs to Turkey, and that Turkey intends to have her.

At the United Methodist Conference held in London last month, Rev. G. Hooper stated that out of 8,000,000 of people in Greater London 5,000,000 are entirely outside of the churches. He attributes this very largely to the unrest in the pulpit, and makes an appeal that the pulpit should be free from useless questionings.

Many people have forgotten that Florence Nightingale still lives. It seems a very long time since she distinguished herself by her self denying work among the English soldiers in the hospitals during the Crimean War. The cable reports the celebration by her friends in London, of her ninetyeth birthday. She is very feeble and confined to her room.

At the Montreal Methodist Conference the following resolution was passed:—That this conference records its satisfaction with the progress of the negotiations for church union, and awaits with sympathy the action of the general conference thereon. On the other hand, at the London conference a similar resolution was withdrawn, so strong was the feeling against it.

Dr. Grenfell, the famous missionary, now at work in Labrador, has sent to the Congregational Library in Boston the Bible that was associated with his early Christian life. It lies by the side of Mr. Moody's Bible. It was Moody who led Grenfell into the light. In sending the Bible to Boston Dr. Grenfell said: "I love the very copy. It has meant so very, very much to me. God give me the same zeal I had at first to see men decide."

Patten, the Chicago wheat king, thinks that wheat, which has reached an unusually high price, will remain high throughout 1909. The agricultural authorities at Washington incline to the opposite view. Patten also says there will be a smaller crop for the world over. There is one consolation for us in Canada, namely, that if the Eastern part of the Dominion has to pay more for their wheat the Western part reaps the benefit, and that means prosperity for the country as a whole. But it looks as if—though the season is a little late—the crops would after all be bountiful. And that is a very important matter for us as a church. In the face of a large deficit in the Home Mission funds reported to the General Assembly.

In a recent raid at Cohalt the Ontario Government officials took action against forty persons who were selling liquor unlawfully. A number of the men who were found guilty were sentenced to terms of imprisonment, and the others were heavily fined. Such action, if followed up in New Ontario would be certain to speedily result in the total wiping out of the lawless traffic, which does so much mischief in the new country.

Speaking of the Gipsy Smith meetings in Denver, Colo., a correspondent to the *London Christian* says that over 14,000 people, heard him at a single service. At one meeting there were 3,000 college and normal school students. They came from Denver, Boulder, and Colorado Springs. It is stated that between Sunday morning and Friday night more than 100,000 people heard the Gospel. At a single service on Saturday there were 8,000 children.

The German forests furnish immense profit to the state and municipalities. Many small villages own small tracts of forest land which pay all the expenses of the municipality. A large part of the German forests, such as the well-known "Black Forest," cover hills and mountains not suited to agriculture. The value of lumber is greater than with us, but it is to be remembered that the cost of cutting and manufacturing lumber is no greater because of the high price on the stump.

We find the following paragraph in an American exchange:—An Irish politician returning to Boston last week from a visit to Ireland said that at King Edward's death war between England and Germany is inevitable, "and in that case every able-bodied Irishman in Ireland and America will join forces with Germany against England, on condition that Ireland is given her freedom." How would the United States feel if England was harboring and honoring people who were talking treason against this country?

Mr. Wm. T. Stead, the London editor, noted for his numerous fads, now comes out with a scheme to establish a central telegraph station in London as a medium for communication with spirits in the other world. His business manager on the other side is Miss Julia A. Ames, a former editor of the *Union Signal*, who died seventeen years ago in Chicago, and with whom he says he has frequently conferred over the matter. He says the spirits of the dead fill the space all about us. Perhaps it is they who convey the wireless telegrams from place to place.

The able and suggestive report of the Scottish Commission on Agriculture to Canada, which, it may be remembered, visited our country last year, is well worth reading. The members of the Commission were shrewd and observant men, prepared by a thorough training in the agricultural methods of their home land, to form sound opinions on the conditions obtaining in this country. What criticism they offer is tempered by kindly feeling. Amongst other things they say that "Canada is suffering from honest exaggeration. It is suffering too from a worse evil—from a superabundance of real estate agents and speculators in land. It is, however, so good a country that exaggeration can but harm it, and we who have no land to sell are doing it the best service we can when we tell the truth about it." There can be no doubt that we are under an obligation to our Scotch friends for their wise and timely words.

"It is often declared," says the Standard, "that the day of heroism on the foreign mission field has passed away, that conditions no longer call for exemption of heroism, and that that characteristic of the missionaries of other days does not now exist. But every great exigency brings to light the inspiring fact that whenever there is need of heroism the men behind the missions are ready for duty. Is there a famine in India? Our men and women are there to help. Is there need to fight within the walls of J King? The missionaries are on hand to protect the women and children, and the women are ready for patient endurance or for hospital service. Are shrieking Turks chasing Christian Armenians through the streets? The mission house becomes their shelter, and the missionary, at the risk of his life, their saviour."

Thirty years ago, when "Christ's Mission" was established in New York, there were no Italian Protestant Churches in the United States. Today there are one hundred and fifty Protestant churches and missions in the United States. Already this year six Italian priests have come personally to "Christ's Mission." The Rev. Dr. Charles Herr, of the First Presbyterian Church, Jersey City, who, with the Rev. Hermes Cavarocchi (an ex-priest), are working among the Italians in that city, are to be congratulated on the success of their mission. Since it was started two years ago, no fewer than sixty Italians have accepted Christ as their Saviour and joined the church. The Rev. Sisto Noce, who has been a parish priest in Rome, Italy, has been received at Christ's Mission, New York. He will shortly leave New York to attend the Moody School, Mount Hermon, where he will learn the English language and be instructed in the evangelical faith.

The Parliament of Great Britain recently appointed a commission to report upon the observance of the Lord's Day in European countries, with notes of all legislation pertaining to the same. The reports obtained from these countries on the subject have just been issued, of which *The Interior* gives a brief summary:—"In Austria only absolutely necessary labor, and persons on the first day of the week, and persons employed in such necessary labors must have their duties so arranged as to give them upon some other day a weekly rest. Sunday trading in perishable articles is permitted in Austria for four hours in the day only. In Belgium the law is practically the same as in Austria—if any difference, more strict. In Denmark factory work is forbidden, but not field work, and all shops except those we would call "drug stores," bakeries, and milk shops, are closed. Hairdressers close at noon. In France since 1906 the Sunday laws have been strictly enforced, and both labor and trade are forbidden on the first day of the week, with the exception of certain industries which must by their nature be continuous. It is now proposed greatly to reduce the operation of railroads on Sunday. Workmen in industrial occupations in Germany have by law twenty-four hours' rest for each Sunday, but certain specified trades may be kept in operation for five hours on that day. Under the Swiss federal law Sunday labor is strictly forbidden. Even in Sweden, where no special laws are in force, Sunday rest is protected by general legislation. The report is highly favorable to proposed stricter legislation in Great Britain, showing that both Protestant and Catholic countries are seriously seeking to give to all laborers one well-defended day of rest every week."