

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA

Single Copies 5 Cents

NOTE AND COMMENT

The simple cost of setting up in type a new edition of the Bible amounted to \$5,000, yet you can buy a whole Bible for a few cents.

Mr. John R. Mott, general secretary of the World's Student Christian Federation, is delivering a series of lectures under the auspices of the federation in St. Petersburg, Moscow and Dorpat.

Russian officials have closed all Chinese stores and warehouses in the principal towns on the railway west of Harbin, owing to the refusal of the owners to pay taxes imposed by the railroad.

The golden jubilee of the ordination of Pius X. to the priesthood has come to an end, and the offerings in Peter's Pence alone amount to \$2,000,000, the far greater part of which has come from the United States and Canada.

Foreign.—The Austro-Hungarian Turkish protocol for settlement of differences arising out of annexation by Austria of Bosnia and Herzegovina, was signed at Constantinople, under which Turkey gets \$10,800,000 indemnity.

There are more than 18,000 people directly employed in the Nova Scotia coal mines, and the industry supports a population directly and indirectly of about 100,000 people, and contributed last year \$680,000 of the provincial revenue.

The Sultan of Morocco appointed as Governor of a province Rais Uli, the bandit who obtained a ransom for Sir Harry Maclean, the Sultan's English adviser, whom he had kidnapped. Rais Uli obtained the appointment upon promises of reform.

"The Swedish temperance organizations, eight in number, with a membership of nearly half a million, have united for political action, which means national prohibition within a few years," declares the latest news of the Scientific Temperance Federation.

Rev. George W. Fulton, for twenty years a Presbyterian missionary in Japan, has the distinction of having a remarkable Bible class with 2,200 members. All kinds of people are eligible to membership, not only Christians but the unconverted, especially students in the schools.

Dr. Chapman and Mr. Alexander sail on March 26th from Vancouver for an eight months' trip through the Far East. They will visit Honolulu, Fiji Islands, Australia, Manila, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Seoul, Yokohama and Tokio. They will, of course, hold meetings in each place.

The most important matter considered at the meeting of bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church in New York was a petition from 1,160 priests, asking them to rescind or interpret the amendment to canon 19, adopted by the Episcopal General Convention in 1907 allowing Christian men not members of the Episcopal Church to speak in its pulpits. After an all-day session, the participants having travelled from distant cities, the house of bishops agreed that "this house is not legally competent to take any action upon the memorial until the meeting of the next General Convention."

Referring to the union of churches in India the Memorial says: "Any outward organic union of churches that is achieved by the sacrifice of any fundamental gospel truths, will be found in the long run to have been purchased at too high a price, and probably, also, to be of only temporary duration."

Statistics covering grade-crossing accidents in Canada during the past five years, prepared in connection with the investigation now being made by the Railway Commission as to the best way to prevent loss of life at level railway crossings, show that during that period there have been altogether 270 fatalities at level crossings.

Danger of hostilities still lurks in the Balkan situation, it was reported in London, owing to the delay in negotiations to reconcile Serbia and Austria-Hungary. The Powers, it was said, consider addressing a joint note at Belgrade, asking for a list of claims, when Austria-Hungary will be indirectly approached in the hope of mutual concessions.

The movement for a more frequent change of pastorate is making itself felt in the Presbyterian Church of England, as well as the United Free Church of Scotland. The Presbytery of London (North) discussed the matter recently. The feeling in favor of an exchange of Pastorate was so decided that the resolution to postpone the matter for the present was carried by only one vote majority.

In view of the great loss of life through railroad accidents in Canada, it is almost incredible that on English railroad there has not been a life lost for over twelve months; yet this is the information brought by that reliable journal, The Scientific American. England boasted of a similar achievement in 1901, and now, after six years, we are told that not a single person was killed on English railroads in 1908. Certainly, we have something to learn from our British cousins.

The Prince and Princess of Wales recently granted an interview to General Booth that occupied an hour and twenty minutes. The warmth with which the General was received and the kindly manner in which his words were listened to were very marked. Their Royal Highnesses were much gratified by the reports which the General gave of the progress of Salvation Army work in the United Kingdom and many other parts of the world, questioning him in detail with regard to particular departments.

Scientific temperance instruction is getting a strong foothold in France. In the schools, there are now text-books covering the subject and the government offers prizes for the best essay on the question, not only by school children, but by mature scholars as well. Temperance restaurants are being promoted in Paris. La Croix Bleue, the gospel temperance propaganda, now has about 4,000 reclaimed drunkards in its ranks. Recently 68 leading physicians, including officers of the medical department of the army and navy, in the Department of Finistere, signed a manifesto to impress on the people the dangers of drink, saying that the ravages of alcohol threaten the very existence of the French nation. And this in the country innocent travellers declare there is no drink problem because the people drink "pure, harmless wine."

It seems to be the opinion of Colonel Denison, the well-known and usually level-headed Toronto magistrate, says the Sentinel-Review, that all habitual criminals are insane. It is a revolutionary doctrine, of course, to come from a police magistrate; but we are not sure that it will not find more acceptance half a century from now than it does today. It may be that there will come a time when the people will look back on our notions of crime and our methods of dealing with criminals with much the same feeling that we regard the days of witch hunting.

The party in the Anglican Church which is continually denying that their communion is a Protestant body, have had another official set-back in England, and have strengthened the position of their opponents by securing another legal decision, through their agitation, that is adverse to their contentions. The ritualists persist in crowding the Bishops' courts of the established church with petitions for changes in the rubrical service of their churches, and for the introduction of decorations abandoned since medieval times, almost invariably to have their petitions dismissed with severe rebukes by the chancellor for their Romanizing efforts. The most recent decision is in response to the request of the vicar of a parish in Bath and Wells that he be permitted to erect a beam across the chancel arch of his church, upon which were to be placed figures of the Virgin Mary and St. John, with a crucifix in the center. He also requested permission to ring a large "sanctus bell" at the elevation of the host. The chancellor of the diocese refused both requests as contrary to the spirit and letter of the law, which declares the Anglican Church to be a Protestant and not a Roman Church.

It is not often we find differences between the United States and ourselves as fairly stated as in the following from the Herald and Presbyter: The treaty defining the "liberties" of American fishermen in Newfoundland waters sends the entire question to the Hague tribunal for settlement. We may be prepared for an adverse decision. The truth is, our claims from the beginning have been unreasonable, and due to the natural desire of fishermen to demand what they want instead of what was agreed upon. These are British waters. We have no rights there except as may have been conceded by past agreements. American fishermen have attempted to stretch these beyond reason. A just claim of Canada is that American fishermen in Canadian waters must, at least, be subject to regulations which Canada makes for her own citizens. American fishermen demand the privilege of destroying the fishing business for present profit. The assumption of privileges by a foreigner denied to a resident of the country must everywhere provoke trouble. Another claim of Canada is that the three-mile limit does not apply to bays that are less than six miles across; that is, if there is no water three miles from shore at the entrance to a bay it becomes an inland sea. This seems the natural interpretation. The American fishermen claim that if a bay widens out a little they are privileged to enter it, and that any portion three miles from the shore is open sea. It is to be expected that an impartial tribunal will rule in favor of the Canadians on all such points as these.