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## CURRENT TOPICS.

The sale of work in connection with the Gourcock Young Women's Guild realized about \$250.

The estimated surplus in the New Zealand budget is £413,000; £250,000 of which will be devoted to public works.

The latest appearance of Rev. Jacob Primmer was at a conventicle which he held at Peden's stone, Benhar Moor, Shotts, on the 2nd instant.

The Cheddar cheese industry around Kilmarnock is said to have been fostered by young Scottish farmers marrying neat dairy-maids from Somersetshire.

REV. JOHN WILSON, of Greenlaw, Scotland, has obtained leave of absence for next February, March and April to take charge of the Algiers mission.

The expenses of the Christian Endeavor Convention recently held in Montreal amounted to over one hundred thousand dollars.

ALEXIUS COLUMBUS, a descendant of the great admiral in the sixth generation, who is ninety-six years of age, has arrived in Chicago from Buffalo to see the World's Fair.

The condition of King Otto of Bavaria is daily becoming worse. The paralysis, with which he is afflicted, is increasing, and it is generally believed that his end is near.

The Grand Jury in Washington found a true bill against Col. Frederick C. Ainsworth, chief of the Record and Pension Division of the War Department, and other officers, holding them responsible for the Old Ford's theatre disaster, in which twenty-three persons lost their lives last June.

THE personality of the late Rev. John Barclay, of Greenock, who died intestate, amounted to \$11,780.

THE ruins of a prehistoric city have been discovered by a party of prospectors in the Colorado desert. The ruins exhibit architectural excellences of a very high order.

DR. GEORGE SMITH, C.I.E., of the Foreign Mission office, Scotland, leaves early in September for the United States to deliver the Greaves lectures of the Reformed (Dutch) Church.

REV. ALEXANDER ANDREW, M.A., of White Memorial church, Glasgow, has been chosen to succeed the late Mr. Carter as editor of the publication of the Stirling Tract Enterprise.

MISS NETTA TELFER, who has recently taken the degree of B.A., with honours, in Toronto University, is a granddaughter of the late Rev. John Dobie of the North church, Langholm.

JUSTICE PATTERSON, of the Supreme Court of Canada, died in Ottawa on Monday, seventy years of age. He was a Reformer in politics, and for years held a foremost place in the Ontario bar.

THE Russian Minister of the Interior has ordered that all factories employing three hundred hands or more must have attached to them a hospital with a resident physician and at least two nurses.

THE funeral of the Rev. Robert Laurie, of James church, Dundee, was of a public nature, the demonstrations testifying to the high respect in which he was held, and the occasion being solemnized by the fact of his widow having survived him only three days.

MR. KEIR HARDIE says that, besides keeping his family with his pen, he has addressed 260 meetings during twelve months; and he adds that he has kept the cause of the poor at West Ham to the front at every meeting.

It has transpired that whilst in London the Czarewitch received a Nihilist letter containing a rusty chain, emblematic of Russian tyranny, the writer warning him that, should Russian persecutions continue, Russian Guards would not save him from vengeance.

PROF. HENRY NETTLESHIP has not long survived his brother Richard, who perished so tragically on Mont Blanc last autumn. His death is now announced at Oxford from typhoid fever, from which he has been suffering for some months. Professor Nettleship was born at Kettering in 1839, and was one of the four brothers who all achieved distinction in various walks of life, one being an eminent oculist, another the well-known animal painter.

THE Sydney Morning Herald, the oldest "daily" in Australia, has lowered its price to a penny.

MR. WEIR, M.P., is in communication with the Secretary for Scotland with reference to a petition from a considerable number of Highland crofter emigrants at Saltcoats, Canada, complaining of their treatment since their arrival in the country by the Imperial Colonization Board.

SERIOUS charges of misappropriation of funds have been brought against some of the chief officers of the Order of Telegraph Operators. The accused have been suspended from office, and the trial will be held immediately at Vinton, Ia.

THE Canadian Dairy Commissioner at the World's Fair has announced that no more Canadian cheese or butter will be sent until the October competition, and says it will not be advantageous to send June or July cheese, as the August and September make is sure to score higher.

THE Campania, of the Cunard line, sailed from Queenstown on Sunday afternoon, was spoken by the Bothnia, which reports that the Campania covered the first one hundred and forty miles in six hours and twenty-eight minutes. It is expected that she will take a big slice off the record.

A CENTENARIAN by the name of James Anderson, who resided in the neighborhood of Middlemiss for several years, died the other morning at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. John Webb. He had reached the extreme age of 104 years. He was a native of Pennsylvania and came to Canada 82 years ago. He retained the use of his faculties but very slightly impaired till his last days.

REV. DR. BOYD, of St. Andrews, says he has worked in harmony with the best men of the Free and United Presbyterian communion, but if Disestablishment is to be carried there can be no more of that, for he will co-operate with no active enemy of the church, so help him God. A day of humiliation was unnecessary except for the Church's enemies.

THE award of the bursaries granted by the Highland Society of London to the Gaelic-speaking students has been announced for the current year as follows: University Bursaries, £25 for two years, J. A. McCormick, Pennyghael, Mull, and Glasgow University; J. M. Finlayson, Plockton, Ross-shire, and Aberdeen Grammar School; £10 10s. for one year—P. K. Stewart, Newtonmore, Inverness, and Aberdeen Grammar School; H. W. Mackay, Melness, Tongue, Sutherlandshire, and Edinburgh High School; C. A. Macdonald, Machir, Ions, and Glasgow University. School Bursary £20 for one year—John Macleod, Kishorn, Lochcarron, and Rainy's school, Inverness.