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The Canada Presbyterian.

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Presbyterian Lesson Scheme for 1890.

Copies of the Syllabus of the International Lesson Scheme, in convenient form, can be had at 50 cents a hundred, at the office of
THE PRESBYTERIAN PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO., (LTD).
5 JORDAN STREET, TORONTO.

WE often hear it said that the present commercial depression affects more or less all branches of business and extends to all classes. Just wait until a high-class ball is about to take place in any Ontario city or town and see how acutely the people suffer.

AN enterprising young man with a turn for statistics might do a nice stroke of business at the present time. He might buy himself a note-book and make a list of all the men in his town who stop smoking because business is dull. Along with them he might put those who stop using liquor in any form because money is scarce. The number who stopped dancing or playing cards because the times are hard might also be given. One page of a very small note-book will be quite large enough for all the names.

THOUGH the percentage of fatal cases has happily not been large during the influenza epidemic still the country has lost some valuable men. As a rule death was caused by the lack of vitality to grapple with pneumonia or some other disease which followed the attack of "la grippe." Medical men seem to have been the most frequent sufferers. They worked until too weak to resist disease successfully and fell. But though the number of fatal cases has not been large the depression caused by the Russian invader has been both widespread and intense. Depression of spirits is a part of the disease. Another of its effects is great weakness and this, too, causes depression. Altogether "la grippe" takes more of the snap out of a man in a shorter time than any epidemic that has visited Canada for many a day. The worst is now over and it remains for those who are suffering to bear their ills as bravely as possible and be thankful things are no worse.

REFERRING to our mission work in the North-West the *Interior* says:

Canadian Presbyterians are making a noble effort to maintain the preaching of God's Word, and to extend a knowledge of the truth, on their side of the North-western border, even as their brethren in the States are trying to effect the same results on this. Perhaps the most interesting part (to a reader in the United States) of the Canadian Presbyterian Year Book for 1890, just at hand, is that which sets forth the successful prosecution of north-western missions. In Manitoba, the Presbyterians are the strongest of all the denominational families, and their rate of increase is exceedingly rapid—104.4 per cent. in the past five years. Their growth in the North-west Territories has been about equally rapid as to numbers, but they are not quite so generally prepared to take care of themselves. When the right time for annexation comes, we will move to take in these promising Presbyterian districts first.

When that time comes, dear brother, you will be a member of the General Assembly into which all good Presbyterians are taken without any formal motion.

AS a lecturer, Mr. George Kennan, whose contributions to the *Century* have been read with so much interest, is remarkably attractive. He has the happy faculty of securing the interested attention of his audience at the outset and retaining it not only undiminished, but heightened till the close is reached. His descriptive powers are great, the language used having scientific precision and accuracy and at the same time a rich poetic glow that only a fine emotional nature can impart. The lectures were relieved by occasional touches of delicate and neatly expressed humorous sallies that added to

the charm which the listener felt. The descriptions of the rescue party and the awful splendours of the aurora borealis near the Arctic circle were masterpieces. It is not every brilliant writer who sustains an equally attractive appearance on the lecture platform; Mr. Kennan displays equal eminence in both capacities.

TIMID people sometimes say that the work of church extension has been pushed too vigorously by the Presbyterians of Toronto. The facts and figures tell a different story. In his inaugural address, his Worship Mayor Clarke stated that during the year 1880 the assessed property in Toronto had increased \$21,000,000, and that during the same year the population had increased 15,000. Three years ago—in 1886—the increase in property was \$10,000,000; last year it was \$21,000,000! The fact is that for years Toronto has been sucking the life blood out of many of the towns and rural districts around it. Whether this is a good thing for the Province and for the Church is another question. The people come here, and it is the Church's duty to provide places of worship for them. Three new churches a year would be only one church for every 5,000 of an increase in the population. There is scarcely a town in Ontario that has not a Presbyterian Church for every 5,000. If the city stops growing, then the Presbyterians can stop founding new congregations. It would indicate a sad lack of enterprise to stop while the population increases at the rate of 1,200 per month.

THE *Halifax Herald* says the year 1889 was the most prosperous in the history of Nova Scotia. All the interests, farming, fishing, lumbering, mining, manufacturing and shipping, according to our contemporary, were unusually prosperous. That excellent live journal, the *Vancouver World*, reports everything booming on the Pacific coast. Ask the first business man you meet on King street, Toronto, "How is business?" and he will very likely reply "Dull, very dull, nothing doing"; ask the second and he may say "Oh, fair to middling." The third may exclaim "Fearful depression, worst we have had for years, nothing like it since '78." All these witnesses from the Atlantic to the Pacific are right. How can that be? Because each one tells what he knows about his own business and his own locality. Canada is a large, peculiarly shaped country, with many diverse interests, and there may easily be depression in one place and a boom in another. It does seem not a little strange that the banner Province of Ontario should be complaining the most. Perhaps our people expected too much this winter and have not yet got over the disappointment. Anyway complaining will not mend matters. Are we really getting behind Nova Scotia?

THE first move in the direction of abolishing French as an official language in the North-West Territories, has been made in the House of Commons. It is not at all probable that this proposed change whether carried or defeated, or even an attack on the Separate School system of Manitoba will make anything like the same amount of excitement that was made last March by the discussion of the Jesuits' Estates Bill. Speaking roughly, the questions are considered parts of the same whole, and the great general public does not keep itself deeply interested in any one question for a great length of time. The body of the people are now struggling with the great problem of how to make both ends meet. Ontario men are fighting a hard battle to pay their debts and provide for their families, and are not in any humour to be worried over the question whether the French language shall be used in the little Provisional Parliament at Regina—a legislative body not one-third the size of some of our County Councils. Of course people who have no business to attend to or who make a business of agitation will endeavour to get up an excitement, but we don't think the people desire anything of the kind. The low prices for produce, the unreasonable weather, the depression in trade, and the influenza epidemic still raging in many places, have given thousands of our best people something more important to think about than the use of French in the Provisional Council at Regina. Let Parliament settle the matter as it pleases and if the settlement does not please the people then let them settle with Parliament at the polls. The next election is near. Meantime let all good citizens attend to their duties and try and make the best of a season that has been not a little trying in more ways than one. There are no difficulties in the national situation that an intelligent, loyal and patriotic people may not overcome. The less that bad blood is stirred the easier will the settlement be.

THE VATICAN AND THE QUIRINAL.

IT is not a little singular that the ruling powers of the Church of Rome are either by accident or design opposed to national unity. Rarely, if ever, are they found working on the side of the forces that tend to realize popular aspirations in that direction. That it should be so is by no means surprising. The language of syllabus and encyclical translated and condensed into plain English is that Rome should be supreme in the government of the nations. Rome papal has inherited the traditions of Rome pagan, and still clings to the long since shattered dream of being mistress of the world. Imperial Rome fell to pieces by its own weight, and the power that succeeded and that has for so long dominated the life of Europe is now following in the wake of vanished powers. Its impossible dream of establishing a spurious theocracy over modern civilization, like most ambitious dreams, is melting into thin air. With that judicial blindness that clings to the ideas and methods of a vanished past, the papacy holds fast to the untenable theory that it has a special authority from heaven for the direction of affairs, divine and human, on this earth. Its modes of operation for the attainment of its one unvarying object, to control peoples by exercising a dominant influence if possible in secular government, may change as occasion seems to demand, but always and everywhere it keeps constantly in view the realization of a temporal reign.

In every land, Papal as well as Protestant, the people are tired of Romish autocracy. This the history of the last quarter of a century makes abundantly plain. The struggles for civil liberty on the European Continent have rarely found the Papacy an encouraging influence. It has often been asserted that the Franco-Prussian war was precipitated by the occult agency of the Jesuits. Be that as it may, it is certain that German unity had no more determined opponent than the Papacy. No sooner had the unification of Germany become an accomplished fact than the struggle known as the Kulturkampf began in real earnest, resulting in the enactment of the Falk laws, by which Roman Catholic prelates and priests were placed at a decided disadvantage by the man of blood and iron. From that time to this the centre party, the upholders of Roman supremacy, in the Reichstag have maintained a hostile attitude to the will of the whole German people.

The same thing has been seen in Italy. Without intermission the Vatican has been uncompromising in its opposition to Italian unity, for the reason that its steadfast aim has been to relegate the Papacy to its own legitimate domain as a spiritual and not a temporal power. Though Signor Crispi may not have the determined will of the German Chancellor, he is nevertheless more consistent and less of an opportunist. He has never receded from the position of an uncompromising antagonist to the Papal pretensions, and the successive measures adopted, in which he has had a full and generous popular support, show that the Italian people are in no mood for compromise. This is somewhat remarkable, since persistent attempts repeatedly made to weaken his influence and, if possible, to work his overthrow, have entirely failed to lessen his hold on the confidence of the Italians.

It cannot, however, be denied that Italy is coming face to face with serious difficulties. Its place in the Triple Alliance is possibly as much a source of weakness as of strength. In the enormous increase of armaments, altogether disproportionate to its resources, there is great danger. Taxation has been piled up to an extent that is being felt as a grievous burden by the people, and there are mutterings of discontent. Preparation for possible war is coming to be considered almost as great a disaster as actual armed conflict could possibly be. Then the Irridentist party seems to be gaining in strength, and their demand for the annexation of Trentino is evoking considerable enthusiasm. In addition to this it is stated that republicanism is gaining a steadily increasing number of adherents, and there are those who declare that the subversion of the Italian monarchy is now within measurable distance. It is said, moreover, that the clerical party are eagerly taking part in this campaign, not that they have any special favour for republican institutions, but because they see in the movement a weapon that can be used against a particular monarchy which they regard as specially obnoxious to them and hostile to their pretensions. That the Italian throne may be overthrown is by no means improbable, but that its overthrow would bring any advantage to the Vatican could hardly be expected. Republics are by no means friendly to ecclesiastical pretensions, and were the establishment of an