

# Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA

Single Copies 5 Cents

## NOTE AND COMMENT

It is now a year and a half since the sale of liquor was prohibited in Georgia. Liquor men prophesied financial injury. The report of the assessors for the year 1909 shows that the taxable property in the State is \$725,867,000. This is an increase over the previous year of \$3,242,000.

It is said that there are about 2,600 Jewish lawyers and 1,000 Jewish physicians in New York City. Jews own some of the greatest daily papers in the United States such as the Philadelphia Public Ledger, the New York Times, World, and Press, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and the Chattanooga Times.

Dr. Wilbur F. Chapman and Mr. Charles M. Alexander have closed their work in Australia, and are now in China. On their way thither they stopped at Manila for several days and conducted seven services. Beginning at Hong Kong, the evangelists propose to make stops at Shanghai, Canton, Nanking, Hankow, and Peking.

The Bishop of Worcester, speaking at Hammersmith, to a gathering of schoolgirls, remarked that the girl of old—sweet she may have been, who was well drilled in propriety and make an antimacassar, and, if she was to be accomplished, to play one of Strauss's waltzes—had disappeared, and on the scene had come a girl who swung her arms, played hockey, and called her male friends by their Christian names, and said they must run equal for the future.

Turkey has stepped into the world procession with a parliament and constitution of her own. The new parliament is proving that it means to be of some use to the people. It has appointed civil engineers to build dams in the ancient land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, which will make it possible to irrigate three million acres of land. This is Mesopotamia, a land that once was the seat of the great empire of Babylon, and that needs only water to make it once more a thriving, busy country.

A pathetic story that comes from China gives an illustration of how medical missions prepare the way for the advance of Christianity. A military graduate was successfully treated for a cataract at the mission hospital in Hankow. As he returned to his home forty-eight other blind men gathered about him, and begged him to lead them to the wonderful foreign doctor. So this strange procession of blind men, each holding on to the other's rope, walked for 250 miles to Hankow, and nearly all were cured. One, who could not be cured, received, while in the hospital, the better gift of spiritual healing.

The Protestant Christians in Japan now number seventy-five thousand, with many more allied to them by conviction if not by confession. The number of men ordained to the ministry is more than five hundred; the number of students preparing for the ministry more than two hundred. There are nearly two hundred congregations financially independent and paying the salaries of their pastors; more than five hundred that are not yet entirely independent; and nearly a thousand others not yet organized as churches. There are nearly twelve hundred Sunday schools, with nearly ninety thousand teachers and scholars. The contributions of the churches last year were 260,000 yen (about \$130,000).

"All the Christian churches in England have only been able to raise \$15,000,000 this year," said the Bishop of Durham in a sermon at Westminster Abbey, "while \$750,000,000 has been spent on drink."

We are glad to see the statement that the Y.M.C.A. all now shows a membership in North America of almost half a million members and owns \$2,800,000 in property. There are nearly 2,000 associations, and 200,000 of the members are still in their minority. Best of all, 92,000 are students in Bible classes and 47,000 enrolled in night schools or other educational work of the Association. All honor to the Y.M.C.A. and the strong, earnest and competent Christian men and women who have given to this splendid organization so much of their time, labor and wealth.

Very generous recognition of the eminent qualifications of Dr. George Adam Smith for the post of Principal of Aberdeen University is made in the current issue of "Life and Work," the official magazine of the Church of Scotland. The announcement of his appointment, it says, "has been received with great satisfaction in the Church of Scotland. Born and bred in the Free Church, Dr. Smith has never been a partisan. He has travelled widely and met too many men to cherish the mind of the sectary. His friends are wherever a generous and genial mind meets recognition."

"Beer. It appears, from the United States Consul Iff's, of Nuremberg, Bavaria, is responsible for the poverty of the average middle class German families," declares a special Associated Press despatch from Washington, October 23. According to Consul Iff's report, an investigation showed that almost ten per cent. of the average income of each family went for beer, while data from 852 families showed an average annual deficit of \$9.99 to each family, the average annual earnings per family being \$21.70, the average expense \$31.69. These facts which are detailed in the Daily Consular Reports for Saturday, October 23, also state that "practically the entire income of the better paid wage earner must be paid out for food and the actual necessities of life. Nothing is left either for savings or for purposes of culture, books, art, etc." Thus is personal liberty stabbed in the house of its friends and in the very citadel of its supposed strength!

The work of our women missionaries among the women of the countries where they are stationed is of greatest importance, says the Missionary, published in the interest of the women of the Presbyterian Church South. Among the women of the Orient no country is woman so much secluded as in Korea. At all the stations our women missionaries are actually engaged in work among the women, giving especial emphasis to the training of the few who can read, that they may teach other women who cannot. The women in all mission lands are best reached through women. In the Bible training classes for women, the instruction given to teachers in preparation for the Sunday school, the women's prayer meetings, the visitation from house to house, the Christian instruction given in the day schools and in the encouragement of the visits of the women to the homes of the missionaries, our faithful women are doing a quiet, but at the same time a large work. A Christian home in heathen lands is an abiding and powerful testimony for Christ and in the establishment of such homes the missionary women can do a work impossible to the missionary men.

During the last few weeks no less than twenty men have been convicted of improper marking and packing of apples in Ontario, and in one case the fine was \$325. We are sorry to know that the evil is so prevalent, but we are glad that the Dominion Fruit Inspectors are vigorously pushing the matter. Our apple trade could be damaged irrevocably by a few dishonest men, if they were allowed to proceed unchecked.

A case of some interest has been before the courts in England for some months, says the Presbyterian Witness. Canon Thompson, an English clergyman, refused to allow Mr. and Mrs. Bannister to partake of the Holy Communion, because they had married within the forbidden degrees. Mr. Bannister had married his deceased wife's sister. This marriage is now legal in England, and the Church of England must submit to the law. Mr. Bannister appealed to the Civil Court and the decision is in his favor.

A remarkable bit of evidence will be submitted in the trial of the assassin of Prince Ito. A Russian photographer had prepared his moving-picture machine to catch the meeting of Prince Ito and Minister Kokovostoff. As events transpired, the assassination took place directly in the line of the machine, and every detail of the tragedy is reproduced on a film five hundred feet long, which is now in possession of the Japanese government. Surely, that is almost the unbelievable attained—a moving-picture witness of an Oriental assassination by a Korean fanatic! We have read of battles being fought in the Boer war under the eye of the picture machine, and even of surgical operations being perpetuated for the study of students in the same way, but that the omnipresent pictureman would just happen to be at the right place to catch the whole of an international tragedy is one chance in ten million. But what it suggests of the all-seeing eye of God "beholding the evil and the good!"

The Hon. Wm. Fielding, Finance Minister, concluded his Budget speech in a peroration couched in optimistic and patriotic terms, as follows:—

"We have a country of magnificent resources. But two things we have needed—population and capital. Both of these are coming to us now. Population is coming from all quarters of the earth. It is coming in a very large degree from the neighboring Republic and we rejoice in the character of the immigrants that country is sending back to Canada. Population is coming also from the old world. We can well rejoice that this long desired growth of population is coming to us. There never was a time when there was more interest in Canadian affairs throughout the world than there is to-day or a greater willingness on the part of capitalists to invest in Canada. This is Canada's growing time. We have had growth in population, growth in wealth, growth in natural unity, growth in natural status in the eyes of the world, growth in our sense of responsibility as citizens of a great Empire. In all this growth we have reason to rejoice. But, what is better than all, we feel that this is but the beginning of better things to come. To us as trustees of the Canadian people has been given the duty of moulding the destinies of the Dominion at a time when it has a formative character. Let us see to it, in the midst of our party strife, that at all times there rises above us the dominant note of a firm desire to do what ever is possible to promote the progress, prosperity and happiness of the Canadian people."