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NOTE AND COMMENT

In connection with the inquiries into the claims for damages in connection with the recent riot in Vancouver, one young Japanese has naively explained to Mr. MacKenzie King that he charged double since he knew the government was going to pay.

Mr. Marconi, who was invited to visit Ottawa as the guest of the Canadian Club, has replied that he will be happy to do so on a future occasion. It is impossible, however, for him to visit the Capital at present, as he is returning to England direct.

A memorial to David Livingstone is to be erected by the United Free Presbytery of Hamilton, Scotland, within the bounds of which Livingstone was born, at Chitambo, Central Africa, as near as possible to the place where he died and where his heart is buried.

Few people ever stop to consider how much good ventilation in church is a means of grace. Because the people are forced sometimes to breathe impure air they readily become drowsy, and what they need is not to pray for better interest in divine things, but to open the windows. For this reason it is good to preach sometimes in God's out-of-doors.

The number of Jews in the United States, as given in the American Jewish Year Book, just issued, is 1,777,000. Only two countries in the world have more Jews than the United States—Russia and Austria-Hungary. From both these countries the Jews are coming to the United States in swarms. Special lines of steamers have been put on to bring them from Russia.

Church union in South Africa has been given another impetus. A conference of influential men of the Congregational and Presbyterian churches has recently been held in which it has been arranged that both parties will bring before their next general assemblies the definite question of union, and will propose the appointment of committees, with power to negotiate. Overtures will also be made to other Christian denominations at work in the country. In this instance the advance was made by the Presbyterians, who fifteen years ago rejected a similar proposition made by the Congregationalists, on the ground that their own work should be better organized before they considered union with another body.

In a recent newspaper interview, Archbishop Bruschi, of Montreal said:—"A year or two ago I forbade Sunday games where an entrance fee is charged, and I adhere to-day just as strongly to that principle. If a lacrosse game were played on Sunday and a fee charged at the gate it would be inconsistent on my part to forbid theatrical performances or other similar representations on the Lord's Day. I feel strongly on this question of the desecration of the Sabbath. Such observances should never be allowed in this country. For professional teams or clubs to make their game the feature of the Sabbath Day, charging entrance fees, and causing scandal by betting, and other acts, is quite unbecoming to our methods and morals in this Canada of ours. I certainly spoke against this and I still adhere to my former opinion." His Grace is a warm friend of the Lord's Day Alliance; and his outspoken words in favor of Sabbath observance will have a powerful effect.

Rev. R. J. Campbell, minister of the City Temple, London, is now a full-blown Socialist, and told a large crowd in Bradford lately that Socialism is the real, original Christian Church. He has also invited, or permitted, Mrs. Annie Besant, the Theosophist, to lecture at the Temple! Imagine a congregation organized and ministered to by Dr. Parker for many years, now content to "sit under" such proceedings and condone them. Spiritual toleration has surely some limits.

Britain's drink bill for 1906 was £166,425,911. A mathematically-inclined temperance man has calculated that the weight of this sum in gold would be 1,303 1/2 tons; that it would load six trains, with thirty-five cars to each engine and six and a quarter tons in each car, and that it would take a person six years to count it, counting a sovereign every second, and not working on Sunday, says the Christian Guardian. "Where is the man now who will calculate the heart-break and suffering growing out of the consumption of this immense quantity of liquid damnation!"

Lord Charles Beresford, the Commander of the Channel Fleet, is determined to make Sunday as much as possible a day of rest, and has issued orders for the work of preparing for sea, preparing for coaling, hoisting in boats, etc., being done whenever possible on Monday mornings. The times of coaling and sailing will also, when the service allows, be put off until Mondays. No work whatever, unless absolutely necessary to the service, will be allowed during the times of the religious services on board.

Another step in the direction of Presbyterian reunion in Scotland, says the Belfast Witness, is the appointment of committees of the Established and United Free Church Presbyteries of Aberdeen for combined action. They will arrange for co-operation as far as practicable at present in Church work, and fully in social work for the general good of the community. We cannot but hope that this example will be followed in other Presbyteries, and will ultimately lead to something more than mere co-operation. The Established Church has generally been very forward in this good effort.

In the Synod of New York, last week, says the Central Presbyterian, on motion of Dr. J. F. Carson, quite vigorous action was taken looking to the increase of ministers' salaries. With an average of \$700 for the Presbyterian ministers of the United States, it must be true that a large majority receive much less. The increased cost of living has brought many ministers and their families below the line of adequate support. Some leave the ministry and some young men are deterred from entering it by apprehension of a life of extreme narrowness and an old age of destitution.

The Herald and Presbytery pertinently remarks: "The case being altered alters the case." This wise statement of a witty writer is illustrated by recent events in France and Switzerland. In France the Roman Church regarded it as a great outrage when the State passed and carried out the separation law. But when the same proposition recently came up in Switzerland, where a Protestant Church was the established Church, and where the population is largely Protestants, the Romanists were the great helpers of the political party that secured separation.

From the Montreal Witness we learn that Dr. Percy Leslie and Mrs. Leslie, who is a daughter of Mr. James A. Ogilvy, are returning from Honan, China, with their family, by the Japanese mail boat, 'Iyo Maru,' and are expected to arrive at Seattle about Nov. 1, whence they will come on to Montreal.

A German Egyptologist claims that examination of the skull of the supposed Pharaoh, of the Exodus, shows that he must have suffered continually from the toothache, especially in his later years. Great is science! Still, we do not know as it affects the Biblical narrative to any extent. Perhaps this mummy is not that of Pharaoh, after all, and may be he didn't have the toothache.

There is danger of a revolution in China in consequence of the revival of the feeling against the Manchu dynasty. Some time ago it was announced that the Dowager Empress had determined to encourage the intermarriage of Manchu officials with the Chinese, and to bring Chinese into government positions, with a view of obliterating all distinctions. If this was the intention she appears to have changed her policy. The Manchus, who came from the north and conquered China, dispossessing the Ming dynasty, more than three centuries ago, are not disposed to surrender position and power. Yet the Chinese race is coming to a consciousness of power, and disposed to establish a Chinese dynasty ruler on the throne. A conflict can perhaps be avoided by the plan outlined. The best informed Chinese greatly fear a revolution, because of the opportunity it would give other powers to seize Chinese territory.

Though Mulai Hafid has failed to secure recognition as Sultan of Morocco from any of the powers, he is apparently growing stronger among the people of his own country. The caids of the Ishawia district refuse to obey the edicts of the present Sultan, but say that if Mulai Hafid asks it they will continue fighting the French. "There is no Abd-el-Aziz," they say, "but only Cad MacLean's sons," meaning the soldiers trained for Abd-el-Aziz by MacLean. Mulai Hafid is said to have put a stop to the ill treatment of the Jews in Morocco City, and has taken other steps that indicate that he is not merely attempting to win the support of the Moroccans by permitting them to do as they please. All the powerful caids of the Sus province have formally recognized him as the lawful Sultan, and there are many indications that fighting is expected. Although the rains are almost due the Moors have not begun their customary ploughing. At one stroke Mulai Hafid has expressed his defiance of his brother, Abd-el-Aziz, and has won a powerful tribe to his support. He achieved these two purposes by taking one more wife. She was intended for Sultan Abd-el-Aziz, and she is the daughter of an important caid who gave Mulai Hafid the support at the same time. Mulai Hafid's forces have taken possession of the custom house at Mazagan and seized 1,040 rifles that were there. If the new claimant succeeds in establishing himself on the throne he will have done so by the aid of all those in Morocco who are most opposed to the provisions of the Algeiras convention to which Abd-el-Aziz had agreed. It is not probable, therefore, that he could submit without resistance to its terms. In that case the whole Moroccan question will of necessity be reopened.