

# Dominion Presbyterian

1.50 PER ANNUM.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, TORONTO AND WINNIPEG

SINGLE COPIES, 5 CENTS

## Note and Comment.

A telephone service between France and a number of provincial towns in England, including Liverpool, Manchester, and Leeds, has just been inaugurated. Another chain binding the nations together in the fellowship of good-will.

The annual estimate of The American Grocer of the drink bill of the United States shows a large increase. It is \$1,451,633,379 of which more than half, that is \$727,042,245 was for beer.

The coming Presbyterian General Assembly at Buffalo, N. Y., will be the most interesting and important held for thirty years, as the great subject of union with other Presbyterian bodies will be debated by the ablest orators of the church.

What China may do seems to be a cause of growing anxiety in St. Petersburg. If it can do anything, and Japanese successes give it the opportunity, what China will do will likely be bothersome to Russia. China once forced the Czar to release his hold of an Asiatic province, and might easily desire to repeat the trick.

In Manitoba, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan and Alberta there are 171,000,000 acres on which wheat may be grown.

Were one-fourth of this land under crop with wheat annually, the total crop would be 812,000,000 bushels, or four times the annual requirements of Great Britain for wheat and flour, or 140 millions more wheat than was produced in the United States in 1902.

The church of Scotland committee on Statistics reports that during 1903 the contributions for church purposes amounted to £444,702, as against £445,583 in 1902. Legacies showed a decrease of over £17,000 but donations for church extension increased £15,000.

The French Government is now engaged in the restoration of what has been called "the greatest temple ever built on the face of the earth." This is the temple of Karnak, in Egypt, which for over 3,000 years has been falling into ruins. Originally the temple was 370 feet wide and 1,200 feet long, or twice as large as St. Peter's in Rome. It was begun 2,700 years before Christ, and was more than a thousand years in building.

The New York Independent states that the death of the famous Russian artist, Vassili Verestchagin, is the greatest loss yet from the war. It is strange and sad that the painter whose genius had been directed to depicting the horrors of war, should be a victim of that which he hated and was engaged by his brush in showing up in its most awful colors. General Sherman said, "War is hell," and Vassili Verestchagin showed that the words were true.

A very important and significant item of news as respects ocean steam traffic is that the Cunard Line have determined to equip

with turbine engines the two great passenger steamships they are about to build, with the assistance of the British Government, for the Atlantic service. These boats are each to be 800 feet long, with a beam of 85 feet, a minimum draught of between 33 and 34 feet, and a displacement of 40,000 tons. Probably the contract will call for a trial speed of 25 knots, and a sustained ocean speed of 24½ knots an hour. The engine will be 75,000 horse power, and the coal consumption 1,000 tons a day.

Mr. J. W. Tyrrell, the Canadian explorer, in a talk before the Canadian Club, Toronto a few days ago, told his opinion of the Hudson Bay route from the Canadian west to Europe. He says the route is navigable for about half the year, at least, and he believes a large traffic will go that way some day—perhaps much sooner than many expect. Shortening the distance to Liverpool about 800 miles is an important thing in transportation.

The Canadian Lord's Day Alliance is making most encouraging progress. Three years ago there were 210 branches, now there are 510, as follows: Ontario 300, Quebec 31, Nova Scotia 42, New Brunswick 17, Prince Edward Island 7, Manitoba 47, North West Territories 35, British Columbia 21. The membership then was about 8,000, now it is about 25,000. And the influence of the organization is being felt. Rev. J. G. Shearer and Rev. Albert Moore, the Associate Secretaries, are carrying on a vigorous campaign with wise tact and good judgment.

Referring to the great growth of population in the Canadian west, and the obligation to provide the institutions of religion, the Halifax Wesleyan says the churches cannot keep pace with this march of events, and meet the demands upon them, except by "greater liberality, the union of forces and heroism."

John Wesley's old motto, "All at it, and always at it!" has again led to victory. It was announced last week that the "Methodist Million" was complete, the Twentieth Century Fund having reached the splendid amount £1,000,110. Appeal has been made for large sums to the wealthier members of the Connexion, and it has been well responded to. But from the first the strength of the movement has been among the middle and the humbler classes, and the generosity called forth in many cases has been as noble as anything in the history of the Moravians, or in Scotland at the Disruption. The moral and spiritual effect upon any church of devotion like this cannot but be great, adds London Presbyterian.

"Romanism seems to be making alarming headway in the Church of England. A recent communication of an official of the Church Association, an organization for resisting the encroachments of ritualism, says that in many churches in England Protestantism has been practically abolished and the mass set up. In many schools under the care of the church, altars and crucifixes are part of the furniture. The pupils are taught

to cross themselves, and to bow to images, those refusing being punished. The statement is made by an Anglican clergyman who lately went over to the church of Rome, that he knows of six hundred clergyman whose sympathies and beliefs are Romish, and who are likely to go over sooner or later.

Mr. Carnegie's donations to philanthropic purposes have now reached the enormous sum of \$101,000,000. It is not easy to select ways of giving this amount of money so as to confer the greatest benefit to the public. Mr. Carnegie's favorite gift of libraries seems to be accidental. He says he remembers the advantage he received from a book loaned him when a boy; but the result was due to Mr. Carnegie's character rather than to the loan of this book. The benefit of libraries depends largely on how they are used. They may be made educational institutions, so far as they merely provide amusement in the way of fiction, the benefit is problematical.

The Government at Washington is greatly concerned just now over the emigration which is taking place from the United States to the Canadian North-West, and which it is said is draining the best blood from this country. It has sent agents to Canada to study the question, to mingle with the incoming settlers from the Western States, to talk with them, to find out why they are deserting their country, and to ascertain what steps may be taken to keep Americans on American land. It is said that land companies here are making frantic efforts to stem the tide.

Next year being the fourth centenary of the birth of John Knox, proposals have been made that a memorial should be erected to the memory of one to whom Scotland owes so much. Dr. Haddon, Hawick, suggests that, as the New Education Bill will come into force next year, no more fitting memorial of John Knox could be erected than the foundation of secondary schools through the liberality of some of our millionaires. Secondary schools were a part of Knox's educational ladder, and though his idea has been long in being carried out, such schools, bearing his name would perpetuate his memory in a way of which he himself would have approved.

Christ's church, Bermuda, is the oldest Presbyterian church in any British colony, and its earlier history is identified with Forfarshire. The first minister of whom there is any record was George Keith of Montrose, who settled there as far back as 1612. George Whitfield, the famous evangelist, who operated along with the Wesleys in Britain and America, for some time occupied the pulpit now to be filled by Dr. Cameron. At the Disruption the church came into the dominion of the Free Church, now United Free. The memory of Dr. Thorburn, who was minister for the long space of thirty years, from 1851 to 1881, is perpetuated in the large hall beside the church which bears his name. Christ church, which is the only Scottish church in Bermuda, is a beautiful structure, charmingly situated in one of the most luxuriant situations of the island.