

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

A new religious sect has appeared in Finland. One of its innovations is the use of bread and coffee in the Communion Service.

Nothing is more remarkable than the faith the Boers who are now in London have in the King's impartiality and the desire to act sympathetically towards his new subjects.

It is 46 years since Dr. George MacDonald's first poem was published, and 40 years since "David Elginbrod" led the way for the long series of his novels. The novelist is now in his 78th year.

The report on the census of Scotland shows that the population is 4,472,103—2,298,348 females to 2,173,755 males. Of the population 63 per cent. speak Gaelic, and 4.53 per cent. speak both Gaelic and English.

Owing to a mistake in Roman numerals, a brass tablet which has been affixed to the King Alfred Statue at Winchester represents Lord Rosebery as delivering his unveiling oration in 1541 instead of 1901.

Sir Richard Cartwright, Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce; Lord Revelstoke, chairman of the recent Commission of London Docks, and the retiring Lord Mayor of London, Sir Joseph C. Dimsdale, are among the new Privy Councillors appointed by King Edward.

It is reported that a church capable of seating 3000 persons was built between day-break and midnight on a recent Saturday in a suburb of Chicago. The contract for erecting the church was signed on Friday at midnight, and the building was dedicated on Sunday morning.

The other evening Hon. Clifford Sifton presided at the opening meeting of the prohibition campaign and announced himself a total abstainer and in full sympathy with prohibition. He declared his belief that the liquor traffic is the great evil of the country.

In England a new society is insuring people against surgical operations. The plan is that subscribers who pay an annual fee shall be entitled either to free admittance to a hospital or nursing at home and a free operation or to a fixed sum to defray the cost of an operation if one becomes necessary.

For the most part, in the towns and cities at least of Canada, the old-fashioned funeral sermon has gone, and gone perhaps none too soon: There are but few instances where, more than the reading of the Scriptures, prayer is required or appropriate. Where more enters into the funeral service, apart from some exceedingly exceptional cases, it is likely more harm than good is done. Ministers need to be very careful

under such circumstances, lest their hearts should run away with their judgment, and lest what they say in the conduct of funerals should make it largely impossible for them to be faithful and clear, in their ordinary pulpit utterances both to saints and sinners. So say properly says the Canadian Baptist.

Mr. Seddon and the New Zealand Contingent received an enthusiastic welcome on arrival at Auckland on Saturday. Mr. Seddon unveiled a statue erected in memory of troopers who died in South Africa, and later, before a large concourse, was presented with an address of appreciation from the citizens.

The daughter and son-in-law of General Booth, who, not long ago, joined the Dowiettes, have withdrawn from the Dowie concern. It is well that they came to themselves so soon. They have gone to Europe, where they were leading the Salvation Army work before going with Dowie. They will probably take up army work again.

An intimate friend of Tolstoi, who has visited him several times since his return to Zasnai Pobana, states that though apparently restored to normal health, the Count's constitution is enfeebled, and a physician is in permanent residence at Zasnai Pobana to be in attendance on the first symptoms of renewed trouble.

It is extremely pleasing to find from a British Board of Trade report that there has been during recent years an increasing tendency to arrange alterations in wages by conciliatory methods. In 1901 out of every 100 persons who had their wages altered only two were concerned in strikes and lockouts. This is the lowest percentage on record.

For some years there has been manufactured in Austria a product called coffee of figs, which is much appreciated in Germany and in Austria-Hungary. Its nutritive power is considerable. It is obtained by drying figs—especially figs—and mixing them with coffee. It acts as a coloring agent and diminishes the excitant quality of the coffee and corrects its bitter taste. Several establishments in Algeria now manufacture fig coffee, which is already much used in Europe.

Mr. George Ham, head of the C. P. R. publicity department, who has got back from a two-months' tour in the west in the interests of his department, describes the progress of the west as amazing. Lands are being taken up rapidly; settlers are flocking in; towns and cities are springing up; property values are rising; mining is picking up, and the output of ore is steadily increasing in British Columbia. A point of special interest, perhaps, is that the fruit growers of British Columbia are finding a profitable market in Manitoba and the Territories, which do not produce fruit. On the other hand, these portions of the Dominion produce beef, which the miners in British Columbia (and everybody else, for that matter, very much desire), and so there is growing up a profitable exchange of com-

modities. The fruit-growing industry in British Columbia is of recent date, but it promises well.

The Japanese have in numberless instances the disposition to travel very palpably uppermost, and that is why we find them in New Zealand, and why Japan is more or less represented in every habitable part of Oceania. Excellent colonisers, industrious and frugal, they betray but little of that overmastering desire of the Chinaman to return to the East the moment sufficient money has been made to be worth carrying away, and they deserve to rank as desirable settlers wherever they go.

The Senate of Knox College has chosen the Rev. John Kelman, of the United Free North Church, Edinburgh, as successor to the late Rev. Halliday Douglas, for the chair of apologetics. It is not yet known whether Mr. Kelman will accept. After the death of Prof. Henry Drummond, Mr. Kelman took up his work among university students in Edinburgh, and has carried it on successfully. During last summer, Mr. Kelman visited Northfield, Mass., and delivered a course of lectures at the Moody Institute.

At Dr. Parker's first service, noonday, in the City Temple, after his recent protracted illness, the spacious building was filled in every part. The Presbyterian says: "The Thursday noon service at the City Temple is one of the chief wonders of London; that one man's preaching should draw an audience averaging, say, 1000 people, on a week day at noon, in the heart of business London, for thirty-three years at a stretch is almost a miracle." It is a testimony to the influence of the great preacher and a striking illustration of the power of the gospel, simply and plainly preached, to draw men to the wells of salvation. Dr. Parker has been again compelled to leave his work; he is now taking a rest in the south of France.

British Columbia is not only great in area, but it is also immensely rich in the variety and extent of its natural productions. Fruit and vegetables are rapidly becoming sources of profit to many localities; but this is specially true of the Okanagan district. The Kootenay correspondent of the World, Vancouver, writes: "Produce men who make a study of the situation predict that within a comparatively short period the Okanagan products will crowd the Washington state products out of the Kootenay markets. It is asserted that the Canadian produce, particularly apples, is much superior to that of Washington state, that the latitude being farther north results in a firmer and better keeping product being grown. Good rates are being secured over the Canadian Pacific, and the Okanagan growers have the advantage of a protective duty of fifteen cents per box. Okanagan ranchers have done well this season. It is stated that their apples, for instance, have netted them a profit of a dollar per box in the orchards, and that vegetables also paid well, though prices were somewhat lower than usual in this line. One farm, the Coldstream ranch, owned by Lord Aberdeen, is claimed to have made profits aggregating \$70,000 this summer.