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Note and Comment.

In the London Temperance hospital, during twenty-five years, alcohol has only been used in thirty-one cases out of a total of more than 31,000.

A congress of French priests, with an attendance of four hundred priests who are in sympathy with what is known in the Catholic church as 'Americanism,' met, Sept. 11, at Bourges, France.

Rev. Dr. McLeod, the Conservative candidate in York, N. B., is a cousin of the Hon. George E. Foster, and a Baptist minister. He is a newspaper man also. He will wage a campaign for prohibition, purity and patriotism.

Fears have been entertained that the Queen was likely to suffer another personal loss by the death of her eldest daughter, the dowager Empress of Germany; but it is now reported officially that the Empress is out of danger.

As was expected the Kingston by-law to grant Queen's University \$50,000, carried by 802 for, to 258 against. The money will be spent in a new arts and science building, in order that over 1,000 students can be accommodated.

There is a dead-lock in the Presbytery of New York on the question of the revision of the Westminster Confession. There was a majority against leaving the Confession as it is, and there is also a majority against any of the forms of revising it which have been proposed.

The famous bacteriologist, Prof. Robert Koch, announces his discovery not only of a cure for malaria that is positive and permanent, and a certain preventive of the scourge, but also that he has found a way of ridding countries of those malaria-transmitters, the mosquitoes.

We see in a British Guiana paper that the new electric railway system in Demerara is complete, and in good running order. It is satisfactory to learn that so much of the machinery is of Canadian manufacture, and that a large proportion of the employees will be Canadians.

Modern civilization shows itself most conspicuously, perhaps, in its utilization of what other ages have thrown away. For example, in London an inventor has patented a new fuel made from Thames mud, street-sweepings, and London sewage. Such fuel costs only \$2 a ton, and burns well.

The last circular from the Banking House of Henry Clews & Co., says: Whatever may be balance of opinion in the country at large, there can be no question that, in Wall Street circles, the election of a Republican President is regarded as being as sure as any unaccomplished event can be.

The representatives of sixteen different nations at the Hague have organized a permanent board of arbitration, following the plan adopted at the Peace Conference. This board is to keep the records and maintain a central bureau which has charge of matters with reference to the arbitration of cases arising between different nations.

Some remarkable statistics are given by the London "Daily Express" quite recently as to the commercial value of a license. There are about 150,000 licenses in the country, and the value of these is nearly equal to the National Debt, being over \$700,000,000! Each year, therefore, by granting licenses the State prints the trade with an unmeasured increment of countless wealth. The value of the licenses granted every year in London is close on five times as great as the total expenditure of the four hundred bodies which share the government of London.

The Bell organ factory of Guelph never was so busy in all its history. The orders from the Old Country are pouring in as a result of the British preference, but also on account of the high grade of instruments manufactured by the company. It is said the whole establishment, from the management down, will vote to sustain the Government.

One of the most pathetic of the many pathetic Galtston stories is hinted at in the discovery of the bodies of two boys. One was that of a lad twelve years old, clasping in his right arm his little brother four years old. The elder boy's left arm was shattered, and many signs showed that he had been severely injured before death, doubtless trying to shield his little brother.

Russian women have been employed for some years as apothecaries' clerks, and it is said that the public as well as the apothecaries themselves manifest a preference for them over men. In Germany a movement in this direction has been started, the Wurtemberg Minister of Education having resolved to give women a chance to secure the necessary instruction and pass examinations.

In a recent address to a Grand Jury, referring to burglarly cases, Judge McMahon said, he was pleased to see that the government had taken an important step toward the lessening of robberies in the Dominion, by the passage of an act rendering any burglar caught in the act with murderous weapons in his possession, liable to whipping, in addition to imprisonment. This act, which comes into force on January 1st, 1901, his lordship thought would greatly lessen burglarly and even murder.

The statistics of the Southern Presbyterian Church have just been published. These show the total membership to be 225,869, being a gain of 4,786 over the previous year. There were received into membership of the church 18,156, of those 7,995 were received on profession, and 8,450 by certificates. There appears that there were lost by death, removal and other causes, 13,369. The contributions for this year were:—For Home Missions \$160,000; Foreign Missions, \$14,000; Education and Publication \$110,000; Colored Evangelization \$12,000; and for congregational and other objects \$1,612,570, making a grand total of \$2,034,570.

Lord Strathcona, who reached Montreal the other day from London, was asked his opinion upon the prospects of favorable consideration being given in England to any proposal to grant a preference to colonial imports along the line so persistently harped upon by Sir Charles Tupper. The High Commissioner replied that he did not see the smallest probability of such a proposal making headway in England at the present time. To give a preference to colonial food products, Great Britain would have to place a tax upon foreign wheat, and any politician venturing such a suggestion would be instantly met by the cry of "ear bread," a cry with such disastrous possibilities attending it that no British statesman would venture to risk it.

Referring to the appointment of Col. McMillan, as Lieutenant-Governor of the Prairie Province, The Tribune says: "It will be received with very cordial approval, both by those who have been his political supporters and by those who have been his political opponents. He is exceedingly popular in Winnipeg and in the province at large; and he possesses in an eminent degree the personal and social qualities appropriate to the representative of the crown. To these he adds the experience gained from many years in public life." And of his partner in life it is said: "The lady who will reign in government house will bring to her duties the unaffected dignity and charm that have won the respectful esteem of all who have been so fortunate as to be included among her acquaintances." The new occupants of Government House, Winnipeg, are Presbyterians, being, if we mistake not, members of Knox Church, of which Dr. DuVal is pastor.

Dr. Robertson, Superintendent of Missions, appeals to the churches in Scotland for young men for the 74 fields to be vacant this Autumn. We hope, says the Presbyterian Witness, our Scottish friends will come—strong, courageous, earnest, scholarly young men.

Lady Henry Somerset explains in a Chicago temperance journal why she is unable to extinguish licenses on her estate. Her attempt to do so led to litigation, and it was held that being tenant for life she could not extinguish licenses, which would be to the detriment of the heirs. Lady Henry adds that she spends very much more than the rent of the public houses in work to counteract their influence, as that is her only means of maintaining her principles.

What shall we do with our boys? Send some of them to South Africa and let them enter the telegraph service, says the "Electrician." To fairly educated young men the opportunities offered in this respect seem to be considerable. When it is remembered that the railway system throughout Africa is greatly extending, and that the opening up of our newly-conquered territories and beyond is one of the first questions to be considered when peace is restored, it follows that the railway telegraph service alone must afford skilled and well-paid employment to large numbers of young men. The time for a large exodus of budding operators from the mother country may not have quite arrived, but persons interested might do worse than keep their eye on the telegraph service of the Far South.

The interest far distant sections of the country have in one another, receives a fresh illustration in a marriage we published in our last issue, remarks the Presbyterian Witness. Mr. Charles Reid sent all the way from the Klondike for a daughter of one of our ministers—Miss Sutherland, daughter of Rev. J. M. Sutherland,—to be his wife. It is in this way our remotest bounds are brought more and more within the circle of our care and affection. Follow the young people—our brave pioneers—with your prayers and best wishes. Our fathers and mothers crossed the ocean to try life in America, and our children cross the wide continent to the borders of the arctic circle. The earth is the Lord's and in His name we take possession of a bit of it here and there.

The Rev. R. E. Knowles, after a three months' absence in Britain, has returned to his work in Knox church, Galt. Asked by a reporter of the Reformer as to whether there was a growing interest being manifested by England as regards Canada, Mr. Knowles replied that there was a most noticeable interest taken in everything Canadian. The English people generally are becoming familiarized with Canada's geographical situation, and no longer refer to it in terms of supreme indifference. There are three reasons why this warm feeling for Canada exists at the present time. First, an appreciation of Canada's action in sending out her soldiers to South Africa. This has done a very great deal towards cementing the mother country and her magnificent colony, and it is manifested by the English in their lavish treatment of our soldiers on their way home. While in London, these boys of ours, who have been upholding the honor of the Empire, were fairly honored. Homes were provided for them, and everything done to make them comfortable. But the climax was reached in the send-off given the Canadian troops when they left London for Liverpool on their way home. A magnificent demonstration was given them, and as they marched through the streets, the vast throngs gave cheer after cheer, which left no doubt in the minds and hearts of any that Canada had surely won a warm place in the heart of the Englishman. Another reason for this growing interest in things Canadian was undoubtedly the very favorable impression made by Sir Wilfrid Laurier during his visit to England in 1896; and, thirdly, Lord Chamberlain was also, in a large measure, responsible for strengthening the ties between the old land and the colonies because of his aggressive and far-sighted policy as Colonial Secretary.