

LABRADOR.

The Country and the People.

Labrador is, relatively speaking, an unknown land. Its great natural resources, the wonderful awe-inspiring grandeur of its rugged scenery with mountains of fantastic architecture and the delicate and fascinating colors of Arctic auroras playing over all—these are things of which the vast majority of readers know nothing. The general impression is that the country is a barren waste, and that there is no probability of its ever being anything else.

Dr. Grenfell, so well-known for his philanthropic medical missionary work in this region, in his admirably full and adequate account corrects these mistaken impressions. He gives entertaining and valuable discussions of the possibilities of the land, of its present occupation, of the people, their habits and customs. He has supplemented his own work on the subject by chapters on geology, the birds, the fishes, the flora, the insects and the mammals, each written by a scientific writer of standing, including such men as Dr. Reginald A. Daly, Professor of Geology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Dr. E. B. Delamarre, Professor of Psychology at Brown University; Dr. C. W. Townsend, of Boston; Mr. Charles W. Johnson, Curator of the Boston Society of Natural History; Dr. A. P. Low, Deputy Minister of Mines in Canada, and Mr. William B. Cabot, of Boston.

Over fifty of the author's photographs have been reproduced, adding to the beauty of the volume and assisting materially to a clear understanding of the life of the people and the scenery of the country. MacMillan and Company (Toronto and London) are the publishers; and it goes without saying that the book is handsomely printed on good paper and well bound. Price \$2.25 net; by mail, \$2.44.

The British Weekly of a recent date gives the following interesting item from a correspondent:—It seems particularly interesting just now to recall a striking passage on the Old Testament from Principal George Adam Smith's inaugural address, when he came as professor to the Free Church College, Glasgow. He then said:—"For us preachers of Christ the supreme sanction of the Old Testament is that which is received from Himself. The Old Testament was the Bible of Jesus Christ—the Bible of His education and His ministry. He grew out of the Old Testament and He taught His disciples to recognize Him in it. . . . He took for granted all its fundamental doctrines. . . . He accepted its history as a preparation for Himself. He drew from it most of the categories of His Gospel. He enforced its righteousness, and vindicated its spirituality. . . . But above all He fed His own soul upon it, and expressly set Himself to the fulfilment of its calls and ideals." These great words are ever timely, and of peculiar force from such a teacher.

Brazil and Sweden have signed a convention to submit to arbitration any disputes that may arise between them. The Swedish foreign minister is endeavoring to make treaties along this line with all nations.

DEATH OF DONALD GUNN.

The sudden death from an automobile accident of Mr. Donald Gunn, president of Gunn's Limited, came as a great shock to his relatives, friends and business associates. On Saturday afternoon when accompanying his daughter-in-law and her child to the Union Station, he alighted from a street car at the corner of Yonge and Wilton Avenue. Mrs. Gunn and child crossed the street to the sidewalk, but they had hardly reached there when Mr. Gunn, who was following them, was struck by an automobile with sufficient force to throw him on the ground and fracture the base of his skull. He was immediately conveyed to St. Michael's Hospital. The physicians in attendance found it necessary to operate in order to remove the pressure from the brain; but the injury was so serious that on hope of recovery was entertained, and he died on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. The large and representative attendance at the funeral on Tuesday bore eloquent testimony to the high regard entertained for Mr. Gunn by all classes. The stream of sympathizing friends and messages of condolence by wire, cable and in the form of floral tributes—that was poured into his Rosedale Road home had been so steady and so strong as to forcibly reveal to the family as never before the worthy place this quiet, retiring man held in the life and affections of the community. In consonance with the known wishes of the deceased, the funeral service—conducted by Rev. Dr. Neil, assisted by Dr. McTavish, Prof. McFadyen and Rev. Alex. McMillan—was of the most simple nature. The chief mourners were the sons—John A., of Montreal; R. Ernest, of "Dunrobin", Beaverton—the son-in-law, Rev. E. W. Mackay, of Smith's Falls; the brothers—Dr. John, of Altona; Craig; Alexander, of Janesville, Minn.; Dr. William, of Clinton; and Hector and Andrew, of Toronto.

Mr. Gunn never took a prominent part in political or municipal affairs; but his interest in public matters was intelligent and real. In the Presbyterian church, of which he was a member, (and for many years an elder in Westminster congregation) he always took a lively interest, contributing liberally to its various schemes, and in a quiet, unostentatious manner, promoting its interests as opportunity offered. Mr. Gunn will be greatly missed by his business associates, and by his fellow church members, but most of all will he be missed in the home circle, where he was ever the generous friend, the kind husband and affectionate father. To the sorrowing widow and family we tender our heart-felt sympathy in their sore bereavement.

The church-goer has rights, says the Presbyterian Standard. Of course he has. They are many. We want to speak of one. It is to expect a benefit. And the benefit is a religious benefit. The gospel is the only thing that can give it. Therefore he goes to hear the gospel expounded and applied to his case. It is giving stones to starving people crying for bread to talk about politics, agriculture, literature, the example, the teachings, the purity of Christ. The life-blood of Christ shed for the dying is the fundamental thing.

The members of the Presbytery of London generally are of opinion that Conveners of Assembly's Committees on Church Life and Work, Systematic Benevolence, Social and Moral Reform, and any others whose reports do not involve congregational statistics, might have their schedules of questions in the hands of Sessions early in the fall enough to allow of these matters receiving due attention and thorough discussion in Presbyteries at some meeting held before their January or March meetings, which are usually too full of other business.

Rev. Murray Tait, B.D., of Wallaceburg, Presbytery of Chatham, is spending the Christmas and New Year holidays at his father's home in St. Thomas.

DR. CHAPMAN'S CHANGE OF METHOD.

We are glad to see the statement that Dr. Chapman has decided on a change of plan for his evangelistic campaigns. He says that his experience in Australia has convinced him that he has made a mistake in asking the pastors of the churches to suspend their regular church services during the evangelistic meetings. He proposes to arrange his programme so as not to interfere with the regular prayer meeting and church services. He is reported as saying that much of the value of his work has been lost by the churches being thrown out of their regular order of worship and work. We hope Dr. Chapman may follow out this purpose rigidly, and that he will also not have a press agent to report all meetings and praise all doings.

Many pastors shrink from having the assistance of a regular evangelist because of the subsequent effect on the congregation. The regular order of worship is broken up, the members and the people are drawn to crowded houses and sensational methods, and are slow to return to the stated meetings of the congregation.

Evangelistic "campaigns" are meetings at some central place for a short time, whatever may be the apparent effect at the time, the meetings are followed, ordinarily, by a period of restlessness under what is felt by many to be the monotony of the stated services.

The average evangelist comes to a place much heralded. Elaborate preparations are made for him and those who come with him, pastors and sessions are set aside, or are commanded into obedience to the master of ceremonies, and are for a time virtually deposed. We confess our sympathy with many pastors who feel that the generally accepted methods for evangelistic services are unhappy and injurious to permanent results. A better day is coming if all evangelists will join with Dr. Chapman in his reported purpose "to make more of conferences with church officers, and of heart to heart talks with ministers on topics of personal and spiritual life."

We are in sympathy with the general evangelistic movement, although we cannot support the methods commonly adopted. We feel assured that much better and more abiding fruits follow from co-operative evangelistic pastoral evangelism. The pastor himself should be a stated evangelist, and when he is imbued with the spirit of the work and unites with his neighbor pastors the results will be seen in a steady growth in the church and an accumulation of spiritual power by which the kingdom will be hastened. Each congregation thus becomes a centre of power.—United Presbyterian.

According to The Standard of Empire, after many delays the report of the consulting engineer to the Commonwealth Government on the proposed Australian Transcontinental Railway linking up the Eastern State with the West has been laid on the table of the House of Representatives. The report shows the line would open up a vast area of fine pastoral country. By providing a means of transport it would shorten by several days the time occupied by mails between Western Australia and the Mother Country, and, at the same time, strengthen the defence of the Western State by making available the military forces of the more densely populated States in case of need. The Transcontinental line would link up Port Augusta, in South Australia, with Kalgoorlie, which is railroad in Western Australia. It would thus complete the girdle of steel round Australia through all the mainland capitals from Perth to Brisbane. The length of this link would be 1,063 miles. The estimated cost is under \$20,000,000.

Mrs. John Burnett, of the Manse, Dorchester, is very seriously ill, which prevented Mr. Burnett from attending the meeting of the London Presbytery for the induction of Rev. J. H. Woods in Alma Street Church, St. Thomas, on the evening of the 23rd inst. Rev. J. G. Inkster, of London, preached the induction service in his stead.