

## THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN,

— PUBLISHED BY THE —

Presbyterian Printing &amp; Publishing Co., Ltd.,

AT 5 JORDAN STREET, TORONTO.

Terms: \$2 Per Annum in Advance.

ADVERTISING RATES.—Under 3 months, 15 cents per line per insertion; 3 months, \$1 per line; 6 months, \$1.75 per line; 1 year, \$3. No advertisement charged at less than five lines. None other than unobjectionable advertisements taken.

## The Canada Presbyterian.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JULY 1st, 1891.

WONDERFUL how little a minister hears in a General Assembly in nine days that is in any way helpful to him in his pulpit or pastoral work. The elders have meetings at which they discuss questions of every day work, but the clergy never come near anything of that kind except when the report on the State of Religion is being discussed and not always then. And yet everything in the Church depends on the work done at home.

FOREIGN Mission night was the best in the Assembly. It nearly always is. The subject is in itself important, and it is one of those subjects on which it is always comparatively easy to arouse interest and awaken enthusiasm. The speeches were good and the hours slipped past so quickly that the time for adjournment came unexpectedly. The people always expect something good on Foreign Mission night and they are seldom disappointed.

THE reports laid before the Assembly were admirable. They contain all needed information about the work done by the Church and the expenditure of the Church funds. Every dollar of the two millions is accounted for. Now how are these reports in a condensed form to be laid before the people? None but elders and ministers get the blue book. All the members and adherents do not read the reports in the papers and even if they did a paper is soon thrown aside. No scheme can come to the high water mark unless it gives an account of itself to all its supporters. Just here our machinery breaks right down. We have no certain and systematic way of laying our work before every member of the Church. Pastors alone know just how much information is needed by many of our people.

MR. LAURIER'S speech on the death of Sir John Macdonald is greatly admired in England. The *Canadian Gazette* says:—

Rarely has any Parliament ever listened to a more eloquent oration. It is well worthy of comparison with Mr. Gladstone's finest utterances.

No statesman in Canada is rising faster than Mr. Laurier. His clean record, pure character, conciliatory manner, and lofty eloquence are giving him a strong hold on the esteem and confidence of the people without distinction of creed and party. He fights fairly and is always a gentleman. Canada needs first class-men on both sides and the people, as a rule, are beginning to see that patriotic, statesmanlike qualities should be appreciated wherever they appear.

IT is admitted on all hands as far as we know that the new Premier, Mr. Abbott, and the actual leader in the House of Commons, Sir John Thompson, are men of first-class ability and good character. In the making of the new arrangements the best elements of the party have undoubtedly come to the top. It ought to be assumed by everybody that the new Premier wishes to give the country clean, economical government. This should be assumed until the contrary is shown. Whether Mr. Abbott will be able to do so is a question that the future alone can decide. Years ago it passed into a proverb that "Mackenzie was too honest a man to govern this country." That was very complimentary to Mackenzie but not so complimentary to the country. Mr. Abbott no doubt intends to give Canada honest government. A little time will show how the country likes it.

WHETHER the World's Fair at Chicago will be open or closed on Sabbath has not yet been determined. The question is still eagerly debated. Its decision will not affect the coming exhibition alone. Its consequences will be far-reaching. Should it be decided to have the exhibition open on Sabbath, strong efforts will be made to secure a relaxation of the restrictions that guard the integrity of the divinely-appointed day of rest. If it be resolved that the doors be kept closed on that day the friends of the Sabbath will be encouraged in their endeavour to secure the boon of Sabbath rest for the many toilers who are compelled to forego one of the most important of their natural rights. The Massachusetts House of Representatives has unanimously passed a resolution declaring that "in the opinion of this House it is meet and proper that in the coming World's Columbian Exposition, in the city of Chicago, this State should make manifest to the world, in every possible manner, the prevailing sentiment of the people on the subject of the observance of the Lord's Day, as it is expressed by public Statute and the practice of the inhabitants of the Commonwealth." To the passage of this resolution not a single dissentient voice was raised. In the United States there is a growing sentiment in favour of the better observance of the Lord's Day, and this action on the part of the Massachusetts Legislature is one among many recent evidences of the fact.

THERE is nothing better managed in the Church than its Home Mission work. Though men have sometimes been scarce and money scarcer, the operations of Home Mission Committee, Western Section, have kept up with the settlement of the great North-West, and in the summer months our missionaries are found everywhere between Metis and the Pacific Ocean. In no boasting spirit do we say that taking possession of Manitoba and the North-West was as fine a bit of Church work as was ever done by any Church in Christendom. Getting in British Columbia was also a good stroke of ecclesiastical business. The weak point, as everybody knows, is want of supply in winter, and surely the Church has enough of grace and brains to arrange that matter. Much of the success of our Home Mission work, humanly speaking, is due to the Home Mission Committee. This Committee has for the most part been composed of specialists who understood their work and had the nerve and faith to do it. They went right in and followed up the settlers and the people gave them the money. The people always do when they are asked by men who have faith and pluck and are not afraid to face their duty. With a Committee such as we have, officered by such men as Cochrane and Warden, and men on the ground like Robertson and Findlay, the Home Mission work can never fail. The people know good work and good men when they see them and they will always send on the money. A few may scream about extravagance occasionally but the men who furnish the bulk of the funds know a great work is being done.

IT is now known that His Excellency the Governor-General sent first for Sir John Thompson and asked him to undertake the duty of carrying on the Queen's Government. Sir John declined and recommended Mr. Abbott. It would be interesting to know just how much Sir John's change of religion had to do with his declination. It is alleged, we know not with how much truth, that he feared the Protestant feeling of Ontario, and for this reason mainly refused the Premiership. So far as we have been able to gauge public opinion on the matter, the people of Ontario may be divided into three classes. One class avows, more or less frankly, that no Roman Catholic should be Prime Minister of this country. A second holds that a man's religion is a matter between his conscience and his God, and should never be made a bar to his political promotion provided he is a good man. A third contends that not being but becoming a Catholic is the front of Sir John's offending. They dislike him because he is a convert rather than because he is a Catholic. In this last class, we believe, a good many of our Methodist friends would be found. Sir John was once a Methodist, and the Methodists, or at least some of them, find it hard to forgive him for going over to the Church of Rome. We believe a large majority of Presbyterian laymen would never ask a question about a statesman's faith provided he were patriotic, honest and capable. This Thompson episode, however, is useful in one way. It leads us to stop and ask where Canada stands in the matter of toleration.

THE Home Mission work of the Church soon be where the Foreign work is in the parting of the ways. If Dr. Cochrane a Warden could live for ever and work for it of course Home Mission affairs could remain much as they are. The Church has been so fortunate in securing their services, and though seemed quite vigorous in the Assembly, it is probable that they can live and do Home Mission work until the millennial era dawns. Some day may feel that the Church is asking them to do more than is reasonable, and a man will have to be cured who will give his whole time and labors to Home Mission affairs. Sooner or later it will be to this, and the Church should be making mind to meet the emergency. There is no real change now, but rational men prepare changes before they come. The Church enjoys services of two men, each of whom would do five thousand a year on the Home Mission Board, the American Church. Than Dr. Warden there is no better business man in any Church. His clear, clean-cut, concise business statements in Assembly are an oasis in the desert of oratory. Dr. Cochrane the Church has a rare man, alike with tongue or pen, a man accurate in business powerful in the pulpit or on the platform. Macdonnell is good anywhere, and but for his the Augmentation Scheme would have died ago. Fine combination this, but it can't last ever, and when it breaks up the Church must find a suitable Home Mission secretary and pay him

THE Foreign Mission Committee have come to the parting of the ways. The work grows so much that no pastor or professor can as Conventer without imperilling his other duties and no business man can do the work of secretary without neglecting his business. The Church has no right to expect any two men to make sacrifices and take risks that are unreasonable and might easily be unjust. The time has fully come when labour and time of one man must be given to management of our Foreign Mission work. Two months hence the General Assembly will be asked to appoint a permanent secretary for the Foreign Mission Committee. What shall his duties be? The courses are open. The Church may appoint an official and tell him to sit in his office and do the office business of the Committee. Professor A. Laren, than whom there is no better authority on such matters, told the General Assembly that there is scarcely work enough of that kind to keep a man employed. Another course is open. Appoint a man who can do the business of the office and at the same time rouse the conscience of the Church from pulpit and platform. The Church is now asked to say which of these courses it should pursue. Without saying more at present we throw a ray of light on the question. The Methodist body has a Missions Secretary, Dr. Sutherland by name—one of the strongest men in Canadian Methodism—one of the best preachers and platform speakers in Canada. Is the corresponding place in Presbyterianism to be filled by an official who merely writes letters and keeps a set of books? Dr. Sutherland sets a Methodist congregation on fire by one visit, and gets him hundreds of dollars for missions. While he is doing this for Methodism, is the Presbyterian official to sit in his office and use his tongue for licking postage stamps?

## VACATION.

THE season has come again when the desire for rest and recreation becomes general and when all who can leave home and their accustomed pursuits behind them. It is the season of general dispersion and people betake themselves to every point of the compass. Those who pass the greater part of the year within hearing of the many-sounding sea make for inland regions while those who dwell in towns and cities far from the ocean hasten to the sea-shore where they luxuriate in the restful and invigorating influences that surround them there. Such changes are, in view of the conditions of modern life, virtually indispensable and if properly enjoyed highly beneficial. The children at school need the change and for this reason statutory holidays have been appointed. They are all the better for the brief intermission of regular study. In the country and at the seaside they lay in stores of health and strength and come back to school and books with renewed zest and zeal. The teachers need the respite. Their occupation, however congenial it may be to them, is irksome and exhausting. The well-earned rest does them good and the time devoted to it is time well spent.