

The Dominion Presbyterian

IS PUBLISHED AT

370 BANK STREET - OTTAWA

—AND AT—

Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg.

TERMS: One year (50 issues) in advance..... \$1.00
 Six months..... 75
 CLUBS OF FIVE, at same time..... 5.00

The date on the label shows to what time the paper is paid for. Notify the publisher at once of any mistake on label.
 Paper is continued until an order is sent for discontinuance, and with it, payment of arrearages.

When the address of your paper is to be changed send the old as well as new address.
 Sample copies sent upon application.

Send all remittances by check, money order or registered letter, made payable to THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN.

ADVERTISING RATES.—15 cents per agate line each insertion, 14 lines to the inch, 14 inches to the column. Letters should be addressed:

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,

P.O. Drawer 1070, Ottawa

J. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager and Editor

Ottawa, Wednesday, July 8 1903.

THE ITINERANT ASSEMBLY.

The Commissioners to the General Assembly are returning with true tales of their journeyings and their reception and experiences at the goodly far western city of Vancouver, B. C. The Assembly next year goes down to the other ocean, the invitation from St. John, N. B., having been accepted. Each extremity of the Dominion will thus have had the Assembly within two years. No one will begrudge either section or city its good fortune; but we find a growing feeling the time has come for a more central meeting place and more settled arrangements. An itinerant Assembly has its advantages, particularly at a certain stage of a country's growth; just as the itinerant Provincial Exhibition of olden time in Ontario had its useful side; but the advantages of a settled place of meeting seem to many thoughtful people to far outweigh any of the advantages of Assembly itinerancy.

An Assembly meeting at a settled, central place year by year, presupposes the discontinuance of the billeting system, a system which, like the peripatetic Assembly, has had its day. One or two of the Ontario Methodist annual conferences have abolished the billeting system in toto, and we are informed the change, while not interfering with any desired or legitimate hospitality, has contributed to the freedom and self respect of delegates.

Montreal, Toronto, and the Dominion Capital, each put forward their claims to become, like Edinburgh, the annual meeting place of representative Presbyterianism. Perhaps, billeting being abolished, the Assembly might confine its meetings to these three places in rotation—or perhaps, to the two places last mentioned, namely, Toronto and the Dominion Capital—until experience has had time to suggest the next step.

CANADA'S COMING DEVELOPMENT.

Some little time since the DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN alluded to the project of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway,—intended, as its name implied, to extend the great system of the Grand Trunk Railway out to the Pacific coast, thus giving Canada a second line across the continent—"from ocean to ocean." At that time, the understanding seemed to be that the new Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Co. would construct the line as a private project, the Dominion Government guaranteeing the bonds. A very important, even momentous change of policy has been made, namely, that the portion of the new transcontinental line lying between Quebec City and Winnipeg will be constructed as a Government property, by a Government Commission. This long stretch, which will connect with the Intercolonial Railway (a Dominion Government Railway) is to be leased to the Grand Trunk for 50 years. Into the details we need not enter, as the daily papers are full of them; though the general idea seems to be business like and patriotic.

The point made in our previous article, the religious importance of the expanding work which all this development throws on the shoulders of the Church—is in no way weakened by the change of programme above mentioned. Within the next ten years there will be thousands of new calls for religious help in the long line between the Atlantic Ocean and the tossing waters of the Pacific main. The railway man, the manufacturer, the public school teacher, the merchant, will be alert to enter into the vast field of new opportunity opened up by the projected railway; they must not be less alert, who recognize the importance of spiritual merchandize beyond price.

To all appearance, Canada is about to enter on a period of development analogous to that, which, during the 19th century marked the United States. Some time after the union of these British North-American provinces, the late Hon. Joseph Howe described the Confederation as a series of fishing rods tied together by the ends. There was, and is, force in the description. The population of Canada, from ocean to ocean has been, comparatively, but a long fringe. The affect of the second transcontinental line, with the numerous connecting lines running northward and southward, will be to give Canada depth as well as length. Within ten years, Ontario's available area of population, production, and opportunity will be enormously advanced; and what is true of Ontario will not be the less true of other sections of the vast Dominion, the moral and material future of which Providence has given us to direct.

Let the Church's statesmen—and by statesmen we mean men of true, prophetic imagination, who look ahead—let the Church's statesmen not be found napping!

SUMMER TIME.

We have just had our great national holiday—it should indeed be our greatest as it celebrates, in one sense, the beginning of the Canadian nation. Dominion Day has a good name, and gives us a festival that all classes and conditions of people can enjoy. At the same time the holiday season begins for a large section of our people. The schools close, the children cease for a little while their steady toil. People betake themselves to the sea, the lakes or the mountains. Those of greatest wealth and leisure remove their homes from the city to places where the air is fresher and life freer. Many to whom this is impossible snatch a week or two from the shop or office. Others indulge in an occasional day off, or a week end trip. The farmer must stick close to business until the harvest is gathered, but he has the advantage of fresh air all the time and he can take a few days recreation at the "fall fair." So altogether we are inclined to think that the Canadian people are not badly off in the matter of holidays. This is well, as to play is just as much a sacred duty as to work. Or to put it in a slightly different form, a man is likely to work longer and do his work better who takes a reasonable amount of recreation at the right time and in the right spirit. One can appreciate the fiery zeal of a man who wishes to work hard all the time because he feels that life is short, and so few are in earnest. But the Sabbath law is inexorable. There must be times of relaxation if the energy is to be renewed and the vision kept clear. In Canada, where the winter is severe, it is necessary to spend much time in the open air. The summer jaunt by the lakes and into the woods may be a real blessing to the man who is kept steadily at work during the winter, and especially for the man whose work is necessarily indoors. If the worker needs a summer rest, the pleasure seeker needs it even more, and yet there are people foolish enough to try to take all the noisy revelry that has spoiled their life in the city into the quiet country places. Surely there ought to be sufficient recreation in walking, rowing, swimming and other natural summer pursuits without bringing "social activity" of the poorest kind into our holiday resorts. A holiday means change and rest, putting off the harness for a little while, and learning to look calmly upon the face of nature. In order to have this there must be simplicity, moderation and reverence.

A simple life has its claims; we lay aside useless etiquette and cumbersome dress, and enjoy a freedom from restraint that may be healthful, without being vulgar. Moderation there must be, or the man comes back worse than he started. We have heard of people coming back utterly tired from a holiday and we were forced to believe that it was a poor kind of holiday.

Reverence there should always be; the spirit of worship should go with us that we may find God everywhere. The

A kingdom built on ignorance is a house built on sand.

A child deprived of learning is handicapped in the race of life.