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Notes of the Week.

It is estimated by Sir Jacobus Wet, representative of Britain at Pretoria, that the British capital of all kinds in the Transvaal amounts to £80,000,000, of which £20,000,000 is in mining properties, whilst the Boer capital amounts to £20,000,000 of which £7,000,000 is mortgaged.

Letters from the United Presbyterian missionaries in Manchuria, dated Moukden, 4th and 6th September, show that, whilst the chapels had to be kept closed on account of the soldiers passing through the city, there had not occurred anything to compel them to accept our Government's advice to remove to the coast.

The question of Madagascar, says Lord Rosebery, lies in a nutshell. By a treaty concluded under a previous government (Lord Salisbury's) Madagascar was recognized to be under the protectorate of France, and, as long as France did not exceed her rights, under it we could not interfere, notwithstanding all our interest in the island, missionary and commercial.

The years of compulsory attendance at New York schools are from 8 to 14 years. The arrests for truancy now amount to less than 500 in a year, against 1,000, the average of ten years ago. The number of untaught children in New York between the ages of 8 and 14 is less in proportion to the population each year. The average attendance in the schools of New York is 170,000.

The Italian Government is keeping a sharp lookout on all ancient pictures, bronzes, missals, priests' robes, &c., which are in the churches, as these, as well as the buildings themselves, are now national property. Don Massimino Nesi, a priest in the church of Ognisani, has just been condemned to two years' imprisonment for having sold out of his church articles of the above class.

The steamship *John Williams* made a round of the chief Australian ports, visiting Freemantle, Adelaide, Melbourne, Hobart and Sydney. She met with an enthusiastic reception everywhere. In Victoria, special excursion trains were run from distant country places, which were taken advantage of by about 4,000 people. In addition to ordinary mission stores, she carries from Sydney to Niue a consignment of forty two cases of Bibles, copies of a new translation by the Rev. F. E. Lawes, printed by the Bible Society while he was in England recently.

At a Conference of Women Workers, held at Glasgow, Dr. Sophia Jex Blake declared that, while very few women injured their constitutions by drinking too much alcohol, a great many came into the doctor's hands by drinking too much tea. Some of them make tea in the morning; leave it simmering on the hob for the greater part of the day; and they take a cup from time to time whenever they feel the need of its exalting influence. As a matter of fact, too much tea—especially too much tea that has spent many weary hours of waiting in the tea-pot—is hardly less injurious than too much absinthe.

We shall not say that the prospects for the Higher Education of Women are brighter in Montreal than in any city of the Dominion. Comparisons "are odious." But in Montreal they are exceedingly good now, with a prospect of being greatly better in the future, if the scheme hinted at by Sir Donald Smith be carried out, of a new building on an eligible site being erected for this purpose, to be called the

"Royal Victoria College." If Sir Donald is spared and this undertaking be entered upon and completed on a scale corresponding with his large ideas, and under his inspiring influence, it will undoubtedly surpass anything of the kind now existing in the Dominion.

The prospects for Madagascar and her unfortunate people, apparently, for the present, grow darker and darker. The ambassador whom France sent to lay her demands before the Hovas has, of course, succeeded, as it almost appears he was expected to do, in not obtaining satisfactory terms. The war spirit is now up and will naturally become fiercer as it is fanned. All acquainted with the history of Protestant Christianity in the island, will watch with deepest interest the result of France's policy in this matter, as it will certainly be unfavourable to it, and all those bright prospects for the country which are inseparably bound up with the principles and practice of the Protestant religion.

From the *Montreal Witness* it appears that Sir Donald Smith, when in Europe lately, was charged with the important task of making such inquiries as might lead to the obtaining of a successor to Sir William Dawson, as Principal of McGill College, Montreal. Probably no one could be found better fitted for such a mission. It appears that, while Dr. Petersen, of Dundee College, has been spoken of in this connection, and has qualifications which would eminently fit him for so high and responsible a position, it has not as yet been offered to him or any one else. The view of Sir Donald and the other governors of McGill, is undoubtedly the sound one, that the very best man possible must be sought out for it, and the position offered to him, Canadian or not. It will be wise, and ultimately, pay well in such a matter to "hasten slowly."

Lord Rosebery justifies the Government's communication to the Powers of China's willingness to make peace with Japan thus: "A headless China, a China without a government of any kind, means such a scene of chaos and horror as the world perhaps has never contemplated. The population of China, barbarous and cruel with its races, whose numbers are counted, not by millions, but by hundreds of millions, all suddenly let loose without the control—none too strong it is—of the dynasty and the Government at Peking, means, apart from measures that the Powers may take to protect themselves, such an appalling danger to every Christian within its limits, such an overflow of dangerous elements into every part of the world that adjoins it, that I for one consider that that might be the gravest catastrophe that could happen to Asiatic civilization."

The Labour problem is already beginning to attract attention in our great west. On a recent Sabbath to an unusually large congregation, composed mostly of working men, Rev. John Hogg, of the North Presbyterian Church, Winnipeg, preached on this subject from the text, "Bear ye one another's burdens, etc." The application of this law of Christ to the relation of the working man to his employer, and to his employee, and other points were discussed. Whatever may be the precise place and work of the church in this problem, and that question is not yet settled, it cannot ignore it. Upon its wise and righteous settlement will very largely depend in coming years, the church retaining its hold on the common people, and consequently the power which Christianity will exercise over their lives and conduct in all their relations in life.

Congregationalist ministers in the Province of Quebec have been discussing the question of how to get the non-church going to attend the Sabbath services. The opinion was expressed that about one-third, on an average, do not attend church. One strange cause assigned for this state of things, was the "undue multiplicity of churches." Another, and more likely one given, was lack of training at home. Many and various were the remedies proposed. Here are some of them: Ministers to give real spiritual food; when the minister has done his part, for the people to do theirs by inviting and bringing absentees; make work for all; advertise well; give plenty of music, have plenty of responsive reading and congregational singing; a stereopticon exhibition now and then in special circumstances. One or all of these may perhaps help in some places to counteract the evil, but we suspect the real cause of it lies deeper down than any of these will reach.

The absorbing interest which was felt first in the mortal illness, then in the death of the late Czar, is now turned upon the barbaric gorgeousness and splendor of the funeral arrangements. Magnificent as is the scale in which all these are, how much greater is the grim and silent monarch, who holds fast in his icy and relentless grip him who but a short time ago, was so powerful. How vain, idle and incongruous all this vast parade. Soon it will be all past, and the mighty sweep of time and events will flow on, as though he had never been. What now will be the course pursued by his successor is the question? Here all is conjecture. Every lover of his kind will hope that the reign now begun may bring with it a policy which shall promote civil and religious liberty, throughout the whole extent of that vast empire, to an extent which none of us have as yet witnessed. It is assuredly coming—towards it all things are moving, slowly it may be, but yet moving with such steady and certain march as all the power of all the Czars cannot stay.

Presbyterians in Ottawa, and very specially of Knox Church, have been in a state of happy, yet serious and sacred, jubilation. The Jubilee of Knox Church has come and gone, and it is now on its way toward another such milestone in its history. The event has been looked forward to and preparations have been making for it for weeks. Wisely it was decided that the first jubilee should mark the wiping out of its debt of \$15,000, and this has been done. Then the first Jubilee Sabbath was to be marked by special services, conducted by the present and former ministers of the church. The church is fortunate in having its first pastor, Rev. Dr. Wardrope, still active and gathering honour and love to himself as the years go by. To him was assigned the first place on the first Sabbath. Rev. Professor McLaren, its second pastor, preached in the evening, and in the afternoon special services were held for the Sunday-school and young people, at which several addresses were given, led off by the present pastor, the Rev. Mr. Ballantyne. Meetings of an appropriate character were held on the Monday and Tuesday evening following, at which addresses were given by representative Presbyterian ministers and laymen and others. The musical portion of the services, as was right, received full and careful attention. The whole celebration closed with a special communion service on the second Sabbath, a very beautiful and appropriate way, surely, to which all who at any time had been members of the congregation were invited. The whole services were most happy, successful, and very largely attended. THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN cordially joins all the friends of Knox Church, Ottawa, in congratulations and good wishes on this auspicious occasion.