

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA

Single Copies 5 Cents

NOTE AND COMMENT

The city of Portland, Maine, has put into operation a wireless telephone system. By this means it is now possible to talk with the many islands which are nearby the city of Portland. More than 400 messages were sent on the first day.

In an important decision last week, the United States Court upheld the law which limits the hours of labor of railroad employees. The Santa Fe road was convicted of having violated the law by keeping telegraph operators on duty for more than nine hours at a time.

The Quebec Legislature has passed unanimously the dual languages bill, which compels, after the first of July, next, the printing of public notices, regulations, contracts of transportation and public utilities companies in both languages, on the same contract forms. It may turn out that the act is ultra vires of the legislature and if so will be disallowed.

The Christian Guardian discusses the question, Does wealth increase pleasure? It concludes that wealth is not the only factor in pleasure; that it is not even the chief factor; in fact it plays but a comparatively small part in the production of the world's pleasures. We are all prepared to agree with the Guardian on Sunday, so long as we are left free the other six days of the week to devote our time and our energy to the pursuit of wealth as if it were the only thing worth pursuing in this world.

The 26th Annual Conference of the International Missionary Union will meet at Clifton Springs, N.Y., June 8 to 14, 1909. It is anticipated that there will be over one hundred missionaries present, representing all denominations and nearly every mission field, in conference with reference to the problems and progress of missionary enterprises. None but missionaries can become members of the Union, but the sessions, which are intensely interesting, are open to the public. Doubtless a number of Canadians will attend.

Referring to the rumor of a second term of office for Lord Grey, the 'Patriot' says: 'Few Governors-General have taken such deep interest as Lord Grey in the progress and prosperity of the country. He has been connected with all our work and all our festivities. The great success of the Quebec Tercentenary Celebration was due to him in a very large measure. In granting him a new term of office as Governor-General of Canada, the British Crown would be giving a reward to one of its best representatives, and to the people a new proof of sympathetic regard.' Meanwhile it is gratifying to know that Lord Grey will remain with us until December, 1910.

Religion interferes with business and encourages idleness and poverty when there are too many holidays. The business men of the state of Oaxaca, Mex., have begun a campaign against the observance of so many holidays, of which 168 are observed in that state. In the city of Mexico there are 125 feast days in the year, but, owing to the invasion of so many American, British, French and German merchants, this number has been cut down, so that now but few more than 100 feast days are observed. Russia was at one time obliged to reduce the number of religious feast days, as applied to its armies, because they left the soldiers too weak to endure the hardships of campaigning.

In less than six years, 388,000 American farmers have pulled up stakes in "the States" and moved to free homesteads in the Canadian Northwest. The story of this immense migration and its significance—"one of the most epic movements of the century"—has been written for the May Century by Agnes C. Laut, author of "The Conquest of the Great Northwest," who has recently traveled through this interesting region.

An English exchange says:—The Rev. J. Goforth, an influential figure in the revival in Manchuria has arrived in London from Peking, which he left on March 28, quitting a meeting of over 1,400 people in order to catch the Trans-Siberian express. Since he came to London he has been staying at the headquarters of the China Inland Mission and is busily employed speaking at meetings every day. He has been on furlough but once in all the intervening years, and it is seven and a half years since he had a rest. This is his first visit to England. He hopes to return for a series of missions on his own lines next year. Appeals have already reached him from several quarters." Mr. Goforth reached Ottawa on Wednesday and gave an inspiring address in Knox Church in the evening.

At the adjourned Kinrade murder inquest, Florence Kinrade, questioned about her life in the south, testified that she could not remember whether the church in which she sang was in Manchester or where it was; that she did not remember how long she sang; whether she had been paid in bills or by cheque; what the clergyman's name was; the name of the street she lived on; whether she lived in Manchester or Richmond, or whether she called for mails in Richmond, and that she could not remember who was present when a bracelet which she showed as coming from a Manchester church had been presented to her. Mr. Blackstock charged that the social reported as given in her honor in Norfolk on April 1 had been repudiated by the lady mentioned, and Miss Kinrade acknowledged that the reports of concerts at Kincardine, Goderich and Stratford were fictitious. The jury returned an open verdict, and so the mystery remains unsolved.

Our excellent contemporary, the Cumberland Presbyterian, is good enough to say:—The great Missionary Congress recently held in Toronto, Canada, and attended by representatives of all the Protestant churches of that country, is said to have been in every respect superior to any similar conference ever held in the United States. It was a layman's meeting, and had an attendance of about 4,000. Instead of confining attention to foreign missionary work, the importance of home missionary work was insisted upon and the congress planned for a forward movement in both home and foreign fields. The churches represented have an aggregate membership of about 900,000 communicants and they have set as their ideal \$1,300,000 annually for home mission work and \$3,200,000 annually for foreign work, which sum calls for more than twice as much as is now being contributed. Perhaps one of the reasons why Canada is accomplishing greater things than the United States in this forward missionary movement is that Canada has such a large proportion of church members who have adopted the tithing system, regularly setting aside one-tenth of their income for the furtherance of the Lord's work.

Dr. Chalmers beautifully said: "The little I have seen in the world and known of the history of mankind, teaches me to look at their errors in sorrow, and not in anger. When I take the history of one poor heart, that has sinned and suffered, and represent to myself the struggles and temptations it has passed through—the brief pulsations of joy; the tears of regret; the feebleness of purpose; the scorn of the world that has little charity; the desolation of the soul's sanctuary, and threatening voices within; health gone; happiness gone—I would fain leave the erring soul of my fellow-man with Him from whose hands it came."

Rev. Lord William Cecil, son of the late Marquis of Salisbury, is about to go to Peking to establish a Christian University, in which those who wish the highest education in Western branches of learning may be able to secure it at home. The reason given for the movement is that many of those who come to the English university towns have learned Western vices. The movement is said to be based on a very large experience, as very rarely have converts brought to England or America for education proved to be effective among their own countrymen. It is said they are educated away from the native life, and that native schools for natives is a good rule to follow.

The Turkish Chamber of Deputies has approved the agreement with Austria recognizing the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, under which the Turkish Government is to receive an indemnity of about \$10,000,000. Every international arrangement by which the territory of the Turk in Europe is limited is for the advantage of the world. The Turk ought to be confined to Asia, says the Herald and Presbyter. If there could be some deal by which France should take possession of Tripoli, in North Africa, thus destroying the power of the Turk west of Egypt, this also would give the people who live in Tripoli a far better government than they have.

The differing decisions of civil courts hamper and hinder church union. They do certainly cause a great deal of embarrassment and prevent a peaceable consummation of union where it is desired. The decision recently rendered by the Supreme Court of Tennessee awards the property, to the value of over \$2,000,000, which belonged to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (before its union with the Presbyterian Church North) to the anti-union faction in the Cumberland Church. On this decision a contemporary comments as follows: It recalls the "Wee Free" litigation in Scotland, and may have an important repressive bearing on similar attempts at union on the part of other Protestant bodies in America. Whatever may be thought of this decision on legal grounds—and decisions on similar union test cases in Georgia, Texas, Illinois, Kentucky and Missouri have been favorable to union—it is certain to place the objectors to consolidation of allied denominational interests in an unfavorable light before the public. The United States Supreme Court has held that a supreme ecclesiastical judiciary is the only competent authority to pass upon doctrinal points, from which the present decision somewhat differs, and seems to make impracticable union between the Northern and Cumberland Presbyterians, so long as any "loyalists" are left to oppose that action, chiefly on the ground of an objection to negroes in Northern Presbyteries.