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NOTE AND COMMENT

A tornado in Winnipeg on Monday night picked up a building from its floors and carried it off. The family inside were left sitting in the rain, but quite unhurt.

It is gratifying to learn, says the "United Presbyterian," that, with the exception of the innermost Congo basin, cannibalism in Africa is now verging on extinction.

The King is said to have been much annoyed recently over the Stock Exchange rumors as to the alleged serious condition of his health. As a matter of fact, "His Majesty is in better health now than he has been for three years.

During the past year half a million Russians have gone to Siberia. It may be that Siberia, so long known only as a penal colony, may some day become a civilized and progressive nation and a great rival of our own Canadian West as a wheat producing country.

Isn't it time for sick people down South to begin to get worried? "There were 1,674 fewer graduates from medical schools in 1908 than in 1907, and 2,602 fewer than in 1906. The number of new doctors in the United States has been decreasing steadily since 1900." In Canada the supply of physicians keeps well up to the demand.

This summer, in a village where we were staying, a card party and ball were given for the benefit of a Protestant church. According to the placards, twenty-five cents admitted one to the card table, and the same amount additional to the floor. When a church becomes reduced to that extremity it had better call itself by some other name.

The annual report of the health officers of Montreal, just issued, shows that on estimated population for 1907 of 366,915, the death rate was 19.97 per 1,000, slightly more than in 1906. These figures eliminate the deaths of illegitimate children and those born prematurely; if they are included the death rate was 22.56 per 1,000, or slightly less than in the previous year.

Dr. James M. Gray, dean of the Moody Bible Institute, has just closed a series of meetings in the First Presbyterian Church of Freeport, Ill., for the deepening of the spiritual life. Two meetings a day were held for about ten days, with a steady growing attendance and increase of interest. The patrons and members of many of the other churches were also in daily attendance.

The Jungfrau railway in Switzerland has been utilized for the building of the new Concordia hut on that mountain. The material for it, weighing about fifteen tons, was carried up to the Eismeer station, whence eight Grindelwald guides conveyed it for \$800 across the steep Monchsjooh and then in sleighs across the snowfields and the Aletsch glacier, to its place.

A despatch from St. Petersburg makes announcement that the Ministry of Interior is preparing the draft of a new law on the matter of Jewish restrictions. This project enlarges the zone of Jewish settlement and removes the restrictions against Jews holding land. The Ministry of Commerce is engaged on a second project which will entitle Jewish commercial travellers to move freely throughout the Empire.

A special correspondent of one of the London dailies estimates that under the new government in Turkey the suppression of the ecet service should save over ten million dollars at a moderate computation, and the elimination of superfluous officials should bring in nearly five million dollars more. Such reductions in the expenses should soon make the Turkish government a "paying concern."

In his address to the Canadian Club, at Winnipeg, Lord Milner ventured the remark that there were things which Great Britain could learn from Canada, and things which Canada could learn from Great Britain; and he indicated that in the latter class was temperateness in political discussion. British public men do not rage and belabor on the platform and call their opponents "moral degenerates" and "skunks."

The Methodist Church in Canada and Newfoundland gave for the year 1907-08 \$421,308.46 to Christian missions. While this amount includes gifts from the congregations, the young people's societies and Sunday schools, it does not include the amount raised through the Woman's Missionary Societies, the amounts given through legacies and other sums donated for special purposes. Taking the membership of the church as reported at the last annual conferences, 339,157, they have an average contribution per member to the general missionary fund of the church of \$1.23.

The war against pulmonary consumption is becoming more and more general as the dread disease is being better understood. But no battle was ever won by the surgeons alone. The people must enlist if extermination is to be hoped for. Fortifications must be built and built early. The campaign should commence at home, and be extended to the schools. Sunlight, pure air and deep breathing cost nothing, and these are its most formidable enemies. The disease is a result, and to remove the result we must first remove the cause.

The county local option law in Ohio went into effect September 1, and the elections there have started off with a rush. To bring about an election requires the signatures of 35 per cent. of the voters of a county, yet this number was largely exceeded in each instance. Twelve counties voted last week and every one of them went dry. About 300 saloons will have to quit business as a result. The vote of these counties shows a splendid sentiment among the people; they are willing even to give up the \$1,000 license bribe money to be rid of the hated saloon.

An Elder of the English Presbyterian church—Mr. W. Jones of Bouremouth, has given notice in the London South Presbytery that, at a suitable time, he will move: "That it is desirable and practical to establish a system of regular interchange of pastorates. That they plan most likely to work smoothly, and to make for efficiency is that of having all calls terminable after five or seven years. In cases where an extension of the time is desired beyond seven years, the Presbytery shall have power to grant an additional three years only. All ministers shall be considered available for removal during the last two years of their fixed pastorate. The committee charged with the oversight of this scheme shall have at its disposal a fund from which to provide a stipend for those temporarily out of a charge, or other sphere of work."

Chinese in Victoria have received a cablegram telling of heavy loss of life and great desolation in Gunning, Hopping and other districts of China as a result of the breaking of dikes and overflow of the West River, inundating the district for hundreds of miles. The number of killed is not given, but the message stated that the loss has been immense and starvation is feared, and it appeals to the Chinese abroad to send aid. Subscriptions from Chinese in Victoria made within a short time of the receipt of the cable totalled \$7,000.

It is not true, remarks the Herald and Presbyter, that everybody gambles in stocks. The gambler thinks they do because his office is a rallying place for gamblers. This is the kind of people he meets. We meet a different class, ministers, elders, business and professional men and women, most of whom never gamble either in stocks, races, cards or craps. Some of these may be moved and shocked by the gambler's pessimistic picture of society, but when they realize that it is the spider's invitation to the unsuspecting fly they will decline to enter his precincts.

Encouraged by the success that has attended the establishment of his "hero fund" in America, Andrew Carnegie has decided to found a similar fund in his native land. He has selected as the administrators of his new benefaction the trustees of the Carnegie Dunfermline fund, to which he made over \$2,500,000 in 1903. The new fund is to be \$1,250,000. He recommends to the care of the trustees the widows and children of victims of heroism and of doctors and nurses who volunteered their services during epidemics. King Edward, with whom Mr. Carnegie consulted relative to the establishment of this fund, has given it his warm approval.

An English review of the just published biography of George Grenfell, African missionary and explorer for thirty years, makes the following quotation: "Grenfell records over and over again between 1844 and 1890 that the natives of the upper river would beg him to sell some of his Luango or Kru boys from off the steamer. Coming from the shore of the great salt sea, they must be very 'sweet,' very appetizing. When he protested, they would say, 'You eat fowls and goats, and we eat men; what is the difference?' The son of Mata Bwika, the celebrated Bangala chief of Liboko, when asked if he had ever eaten human flesh, said, 'Ah! I wish I could eat everybody on earth!'"

"The Times of India," the leading paper in the Western Presidency, discussing the "unrest" in India, says in a recent leading article:—"But, quite apart from the wild and mischievous propaganda of the extremists, there is widespread dissatisfaction with existing conditions in this country. It would scarcely be an exaggeration to say that it permeates all classes; that it is found amongst those firmly attached to British rule, conscious that there is no alternative to it, and who would view with horror the prospect of that rule being withdrawn or upset. It is an extraordinary phenomenon that this sentiment should be predominant now, for there never was a time when both in India and in England there was such a keen desire to do justice to Indians, and to meet all reasonable Indian aspirations. But this feeling exists: it is not made less apparent by shutting our eyes and pretending that it is not there. It is the path of statesmanship to take cognizance of these conditions and to find a remedy for them."