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The Presbyterian Review

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Toronto, Oct. 1, 1896.

Sabbath Observance by our Great Railways.

Events in Montreal as well as in Toronto show that the friends of Sabbath observance need to be everywhere on the alert at the present time against systematic encroachments on the day of rest by the great carrying companies. Since the recent change in the management of the Grand Trunk Railway, it has been observed that the number of Sunday trains both for freight and passengers was being steadily increased. As the summer advanced too it was noticed that special Sunday excursion trains were being advertised for points within reach of the large cities, especially Montreal. Owing to this a much larger number than formerly of the employees of the railway have been deprived of the regular day of rest, and of the religious privileges associated with it. Now we have all sympathy with the management of the road and sincerely desire that they may be able to conduct it in such a way as to pay reasonable dividends to the shareholders. But it is a matter for the deepest regret that in seeking to do this they should break down one of the most valuable institutions of our country, and violate the spirit as well as the letter of our Sabbath laws. We are satisfied that such a policy will in the end only defeat itself and ultimately sink the company into deeper difficulties than now surround it. The laws of nature, which are the laws of God, are not to be violated with impunity, and the penalty will somehow have to be paid. Mr. Hayes is no doubt conforming to American practice in this new policy, but the experience of the American railways is not encouraging or we should not see so many of them in the hands of Receivers today. If he will frankly adopt a policy in harmony with the principles of the majority of the substantial people of the country and honorably carry it out he will find that they will stand by him as they are not prepared to do now. He professes to be solicitous about the moral and spiritual welfare of the employees of the road and desirous of encouraging Christian work among them. It will avail but little that Christian Associations be formed among them if their church privileges are taken away from them, and they are systematically robbed of their Sunday rest. As is mentioned in our Montreal notes special attention has been called to the matter by the action of the session of St. Mathew's

Church in sending a protest to General Manager Hayes on behalf of their members in the employ of the railway. It is to be hoped that this will not fail of its effect, but that a wiser and more considerate policy will be hereafter adopted. All the legitimate business of the country can be done in six days of the week. There is no need to encroach on the Sabbath. Due respect for it will be better for the railway as well as for the country.

Knox College.

The regular opening of this College which takes place on the first Wednesday of October, the 7th at 3 p. m. promises to be of unusual interest.

In order to meet the possibly large number attending, it has been resolved to hold the services in Bloor Street Presbyterian Church. This will render the exercises more enjoyable than usually experienced from the defective acoustic properties of Knox College Convocation Hall.

First there will be the Presbyterial Induction of the new professors Rev. Dr. J. L. Robinson and Rev. Jas. Ballantyne, M. A. It is now some years since Knox had a new professor, the last induction was that of the late Prof. R. Y. Thomson whose removal was so much regretted.

The introduction of two new professors at this time should give, and we have no doubt will give a fresh impetus to Old Knox College which will be felt by the whole Church, and be productive of a very marked increase in the income of the College. The church should give Knox a liberal support, and we believe will give it, now that the Board has faced the question of an increased staff. Then the inaugural address of Dr. Robinson will be an attractive feature in the opening exercise. We all like to hear what a new man has to say, and from the genial character of Dr. Robinson, apart from his educational and theological record we believe what he says, will be well said.

Rev. Mr. Ballentyne will also speak at the opening, but his formal inaugural will be reserved for a future occasion. We bespeak for the College opening a full house, and the beginning of a *New Era*. We could almost wish they had enough of the Methodist spirit to *take up a collection*.

It is also intended to inaugurate the new movement for an Endowment and Sustentation Association on the evening of the same day, Wednesday 7th of October, at 8 p. m. in the College Hall. Let every one send in his dollar to the Sec-Treasurer and become a member. Further notice will be given of this meeting.

The American Board.

The fear expressed some weeks ago as to the financial outlook of the American Board of Foreign Missions has happily not been realized. The books were closed on the 1st September with a balance in hand of \$205. Considering that this is one of the dullest years commercially which the United States has experienced in the last decade and that the Board began