

Dominion Presbyterian

1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA

Single Copies 5 Cents

NOTE AND COMMENT

After a retirement of seventy-six years Halley's comet is to put in another periodic appearance in the stellar world some time this month or next, and preparations are making to take its picture.

A movement is on foot to establish a chair of the Dutch language and literature in the University of Chicago. A petition for the establishment of such a chair has been presented. It is said to have the names of over 500 Dutch citizens.

London has a large number of unemployed than for many years and is threatened with the most distressful winter of modern times. Social agitators are stirring the passions of the unemployed and it is feared that riots as well as great suffering will result from the conditions.

A Paris newspaper has been asking its readers to name the twelve greatest inventions. Over 400,000 coupons were sent in and the votes were cast in the following order: The locomotive, the potato, vaccine, the cure of rabies, sugar, electric telegraph, matches, the boiler of a steam engine, the telephone, petrol, the sewing machine and soap.

President Francis E. Clark, D.D., has so far recovered from his illness as to be able to take up his campaign in Europe, which opened October 1, with meetings in thirty of the principal cities in England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. In November he will attend the National Convention in Barcelona, Spain, and conventions in other parts of Europe.

The Anglican General Synod, lately in session at Ottawa, gave some consideration to a proposal to provide annuities for their retired ministers under the government system passed at the last session of Parliament. The Synod seemed favorably impressed with the proposal, and while no definite action was taken the matter will doubtless come up again.

Gipsy Smith has begun another long campaign of evangelistic work in the United States and Canada. Following the work now in progress in Baltimore, his schedule is as follows: October 17 to November 2, Washington; November 7-23, Cleveland; November 23 to December 14, New York; January 218, Pittsburgh; January 23 to February 8, S. Louis; February 13 to March 1, Kansas City; March 6-22; Denver; March 27 to April 12, St. Paul; April 17 to May 3, Minneapolis; May 8-24, Toronto. It does not appear that Ottawa and Montreal are included in his itinerary.

Tea shops in England are increasingly formidable rivals of liquor saloons, and in some sections they seem to be quite as numerous. A good cup of tea and a bun or cake are served at tables for six cents, with daily papers at hand for customers. The Westminster Gazette says that in some instances holders of liquor licenses are surrendering them to owners of tea shops, and that the enormous increase of the latter in recent years indicates a change in the drinking habits of the people. These shops pay, too. Why do not temperance workers in this country turn their attention more earnestly to this method of rivaling the rum shop?

The problem of the unemployed in Great Britain is daily growing more serious. The Government has been urged to take steps to alleviate the situation, and the Admiralty has decided to give out contracts for a number of ships. This will help the shipbuilders, but it will be only a "drop in the bucket."

The Christian Endeavor societies have started on a fivefold campaign to cover Christian Endeavor extension; missionary activities in meetings, study classes and giving evangelistic endeavor for training personal workers; Christian citizenship and temperance; and a publicity campaign to increase the circulation of religious papers and missionary publications.

The five hundredth anniversary of the founding of the great University of Leipzig will be celebrated in the late autumn of this year. It is a strange fact that John Huss, the fervid reformer before the Reformation, was one of the leaders of the anti-German agitation at Prague, which resulted in the retiring of all the German professors and students from the city in a body and their final settling at Leipzig.

In Russia Leo Tolstoy and in this country Mrs. Russell Sage attained the age of eighty years during the month of September. Both are looked upon as benefactors of their race. Mrs. Sage spent the day quietly at her country home, where she received many remembrances from friends, but the eightieth birthday of Tolstoy was celebrated jubilantly except where public meetings for the purpose were forbidden by the authorities.

Irrigation, which has been successful in the reclamation of Arid America, is to be applied on a large scale to India in the hope of doing away with the constantly occurring famines which devastate that country. The plans, if carried out in full, will require for completion thirty years. In order to give the Punjab a water supply sufficient for all times it is proposed by the British Indian Government to link the five rivers—the Indus, Jelum, Chenab, Beas, Ravi and Sutlej—together in such a manner as to equalize the flow of water when one river or more is in flood, and thus supply the whole canal system connected with these rivers.

Country roads in Canada were cut through the bush, laid over swamps, bridged over ravines and rivers and trailed over hills and through valleys by the early settlers, and have been maintained, improved and extended by their descendants—the farmers of to-day; and now the wealthy pleasure seeker scores these roads with his automobile, and by the noise and high-speed of his machine renders them dangerous to the farmer, and at times impassable, by vehicle, to his wife or daughter; covers the pedestrian with clouds of dust and vitiates the pure country air with the fumes of his gasoline engine. Backed up by his wealth and influence and the aid of able counsel, astute lobbying and corporate union, so far the owner of the auto has had pretty much his own way, and one might almost say, the road to himself. But public opinion is being gradually formed in this matter and before many years we believe the dashing autoist will find himself restrained within reasonable bounds, and the farmer and the general public will come into their own again.

The Royal Mint of England has recently struck off nearly 32,000,000 coins of aluminum, for circulation in Uganda and the Nigerian Protectorates in Africa. Each coin bears the value of one cent or of two mills, and it is perforated in the center, like Chinese coins, in order to permit the natives to string them together. The advantage of aluminum as a coin is due to its light weight, and the fact that it is the best non-ferrous bearing metal known. It is primarily to replace the cowries that the new coins have been struck.

A writer in the "Guardian" (Anglican) praises the full-bodied Congregational singing in the Nonconformist Churches, and wishes that something could be done to bring up the Episcopal service to the same level of worship. It is to be feared, remarks the Belfast Witness, the matter, in at least the North of Ireland, stands the other way. There are happy exceptions no doubt, but in Ulster Episcopal and Methodist congregations join more generally in the praise service than do the Presbyterians. However, we are improving, and better things will come to pass.

The growth of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland is checked by the decrease in population of the country, and especially by the continued emigration of members to America. The fact was taken note of in the recent General Assembly that, according to government reports during the past forty years, there has been a decline of 80,000 in the population of the Presbyterian counties. Yet the Church prospers, and an increase of 108 per cent is noted in the contributions of the people. The Church now has 653 ministers, 567 congregations and 106,986 members; two ministers more and two congregations and 476 members less than a year ago. Additions on examination were 4,104 against 4,287 the year before. The number of Sunday school scholars has diminished slightly and the membership of Young People's Societies has increased considerably. Expenses and contributions were \$1,223,305, a decrease of about \$30,000.

From one of our western exchanges we glean the following facts: "A boy of sixteen, working for his living, was engaged in delivering milk and collecting from customers, his employer being a woman in a small way of business in whose house he lived. In some way, just how we are not informed, he found himself short \$1.85 in his accounts, and being afraid to face the consequences he foolishly ran away, leaving a note behind acknowledging that the money was due from him and undertaking to make it up. That he was not a criminal in the making was shown by the fact that he took only his own belongings with him. A charge of theft was laid, and he was arrested and sentenced to six months' imprisonment for this, so far as is known, the first offence against the criminal code of which he had been guilty." Of course, it is admittedly difficult, says the United Presbyterian, to dispense perfect justice in any case, and we always hesitate to criticize a case without possessing fullest particulars, but if the facts are as given by our contemporary, then surely it is time that a more equitable and wiser method of administering justice was adopted in the locality referred to. If all the facts are given above, then it seems little short of an outrage to send such a lad to jail for six months for such an offence. Surely humane methods ought to prevail in our courts today!