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NOTE AND COMMENT

King Edward has issued a royal order forbidding the opening of theatres, music halls and opera houses on Sunday.

A strong movement is on foot in England to compel parents to keep boys in school until they are seventeen.

At the World's Y. M. C. A. Conference in session in Barmen, Germany, last week, the most notable address was given by a Chinaman. He said that China is awakening and sending her best men to seek the best ideas in every country.

The production of pig iron in Canada in the calendar year 1908 was 563,672 gross tons, against 581,146 tons in 1907, a decrease of 17,474 tons, or about 3 per cent. In the first half of 1908 the pig iron production of Canada was 307,074 tons, and in the second half 253,598 tons, a decrease of 50,476 tons.

Why is it our town or our state is better than another? The answer is suggested by what a Cornish miner once said to a distinguished Englishman, Augustine Birrell. "You seem to have a very temperate people here. How did it happen?" The honest toiler replied, solemnly raising his cap, "There came a man among us once, and his name was John Wesley." The coming of a man into a community—how much it may mean!

Prime Minister Goltfit lately received a commission of leading Roman ladies advocating women's rights. He said the degree of female education in Italy was different in each province, a fact which made it impossible to grant women their rights immediately. They would be granted gradually and slowly, he said. The commission is studying the question of female votes in the elections of chambers of commerce. The members are hopeful, though others do not consider the promises of the Prime Minister as indicating anything immediate.

This year the Japanese Christian Church is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of Christianity into Japan. The Japanese Church began the celebration by the gathering of Japanese Christians in convocation, to pray and to plan for an evangelistic campaign whose object was that by March, 1910, the entire membership of the Japanese Church should be doubled. At the close a Japanese pastor arose and said: "What we must preach is Christ—the living Christ, Christ incarnate, Christ crucified, Christ dead and buried, Christ risen—the living Christ, the only hope of Japan."

The English Jewish Board of Guardians has been publishing some figures concerning the death rate of the Jews in the poorer districts of Manchester, England. The death rate is only .0598 per cent which is less than in the better districts. A medical officer makes the statement that they are a sober, home-loving people. This gives them a strong power in disease resistance. Out of one thousand one hundred and seventy patients taken from a population of six thousand "He did not come across a solitary person suffering, directly or indirectly, from the effects of drink." This is a convincing argument in favor of temperance when it is remembered that the people under consideration were in the very busiest manufacturing district.

The fire in Osaka, Japan, one of the three "Imperial" cities, on Saturday of last week, burned for twenty-five hours and destroyed 20,000 buildings, including factories, government buildings, Museum and Stock Exchange, and the largest Buddhist temple in the world. Thousands are facing hunger and ruin, and the casualties cannot yet be estimated.

At a meeting of Unitarians in Boston a few weeks ago a vote was passed that any Unitarian minister who had given ten years to the ministry should on retiring receive a pension for the remainder of his life if he needed and desired it. If a similar provision could be made for the superannuated ministers of all denominations it would be a good thing.

A proposal comes from Toronto to hold a national centennial celebration of the War of 1812. The meeting which originated the proposal represented the Daughters of the Empire, the Chiefs and Warriors of the Six Nations, the United Empire Loyalists, the Canadian Military Institute, Veterans of 1866, Veterans of South Africa, and York Pioneer and Historical Society.

In a Bible talk on Psalm 20, Rev. J. H. Jowett strikes a note which needs sounding in these days of national unrest and, oftentimes, domestic anxiety: The Hebrews sought the national strength in the mighty ministries of the sanctuary. They counted the place of worship as one of the units in the national life—and I would that in our time, when so much emphasis is placed upon armies and navies, we might remember the tremendous influence that radiates from the little sanctuaries on our national life. Let us always regard the little sanctuary on the moor as a vital factor in our national defence. Let us value the prayer-meeting as a power-house in the State. The famous physician, Sir James Simpson, was one of a family who had the privilege of a pious mother. She was early left a widow, and had many a perplexing thought and sore struggle in providing bread for the household. When she was hard pressed with thinking and tolling, and could not see her way through, she used to sit down and repeat the twentieth Psalm. She rose refreshed, and her children learned to call it "mother's psalm."

The immigration branch of the interior department has just published a very interesting pamphlet entitled "Immigration Facts and Figures." A perusal of its contents discredits, absolutely, the oft-repeated charge that the Dominion Government has not exercised due care in the exclusion of undesirable immigrants. Since the coming into force of the medical act in 1902, the total number of immigrants rejected at ocean ports was 3,803, while 19,897 were held for further examination. Inspection of immigrants seeking admission to Canada from the United States was begun in April of last year, and during the fiscal year, 1908-1909, 4,580 intending immigrants were debarred. A total of 3,149 immigrants have been deported since 1902. Of these 2,007 were English, 206 Scotch, 149 Americans and the balance natives of other than English-speaking countries. These figures, viewed in the light of the total number of immigrants admitted, emphatically refute the accusation that the Government has been lax in its enforcement of the medical act. Of the 999,994 immigrants admitted to Canada since 1902, 386,240 have been class general laborers, the next highest class general laborers, numbers 204,873. This state of affairs is gratifying, in that Canada is essentially an agricultural country.

According to the new city directory, the population of Ottawa is now 86,889, an increase of about 1,500 over last year. The city occupies an area of 5,119 acres of eight square miles, with 143.05 miles of streets, 88.61 miles of sewers, 135.30 miles of permanent sidewalks; an assessment of \$70,235,160; exemptions \$19,726,955. Ottawa is fast becoming the most beautiful city on the American continent.

There are 11,483,876 Jews in the world, 8,576,299 are in Europe, 1,880,579 in America. The Russian Empire leads by far all the nations with 5,215,800. The United States follows second, with 1,800,000. The distribution in the United States is very incomplete. While the city of Warsaw leads Russian cities with 220,000, New York city alone includes 965,000 Jews in its population. Philadelphia has only 100,000, and Chicago 95,000. New York is veritably the New Jerusalem. It embraces one-third of the entire Jewish race. It includes in its population more Hebrews than ever before in the history of the world or elsewhere at any point on the globe have been gathered together in one city. Every fourth person in New York is a Jew. Even London has only 140,000 Jews.

Rev. C. K. Watson, in The Missionary Review of the World, says: Missionary work in the Nile Valley has availed somewhat to usher in a new day for Egypt's womanhood. There are schools for girls which touch some 5,000 lives, while Bible women going into the harems carry the glad story of salvation to more than 5,000 others, both girls and women. Already there have been gathered into the Church a membership of 9,895, of whom 4,727 are women. And the signs of progress among the women of this Christian community are most encouraging. A missionary recently visited a native congregation at an out-station, and when asked to speak to the women's missionary society was surprised to find some 80 women present. Thinking it would be well to call on some one or two for prayer, the missionary asked the pastor if there was anyone who could be relied upon to render this service. "Oh," said the pastor, "just call on any of them."

The Interior prints the following concerning the progress of negotiations in South Africa to effect an organic union of the Baptist, Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian Churches: Of the sub-committees handling various phases of the union arrangements the committee on creed is first to report. The product of its work is very brief; the document consists of a preface and three articles. The preface provides that the united Church shall claim historic continuity with the Church of the New Testament and the Reformation, and that it shall reserve the right to amend and alter its creed as deemed from time to time expedient. The body of the creed then follows in these words: "I—This Church acknowledges and receives the word of God delivered in the Old and New Testaments as its standard of faith and life. "II—It accepts and holds as the central message of Scripture the evangel of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us; in whom God is revealed as the righteous and loving Father who is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance; through whom God has established His kingdom on earth, and by whom the Holy Spirit draws men to faith and penitence, inspires them to a life of service and brings them into ever deeper harmony with God's holy will. "III—This Church exists for the proclamation of Christ's gospel and the extension of His kingdom."