

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA

Single Copies 5 Cents

NOTE AND COMMENT

A riot in the city of Mexico, growing out of religious differences, resulted in the death of six police officers and three soldiers.

Probably the largest missionary Sabbath school in the world is conducted by Rev. George W. Fulton, a Presbyterian missionary in Japan. There are 2,200 members, both Christian and non-Christian.

Dr. Francis E. Clarke, national president of the Christian Endeavor Union, in a talk before the Nashville Christian Endeavor Union, last week, advocated the coalition of the Christian Endeavor Union with the Epworth League and the Baptist Young People's Union.

Minnesota now has an anti-cigarette law which becomes effective August 1. The bill makes it a misdemeanor to manufacture, sell, or give away cigarettes or cigarette papers within the state. A drastic measure of this kind is necessary in our own country.

The Ontario Provincial Government has just set apart in the Rainy River district a new forest and provincial game reserve of 1,000,000 acres. The reserve adjoins a similar allotment of land set apart by the State of Minnesota. The Rainy River forms the dividing line between the two Reserves.

Mr. Lloyd George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said in a recent speech, "I am for making as difficult as possible the access of the people to any commodity that injures them. You cannot have One Hundred and Fifty Million Pounds sterling spent on stuff that enfeebles the constitution, shatters the brain—you cannot have that without poverty."

Statistics have been published as to the number of Alpine fatalities during several years. In 1908 the Alpinists who met with sudden deaths numbered 85. The deaths in 1907 were 72; in 1906, 59; and in 1905, 64. In publishing these figures the journals suggest that the Government should take measures to hinder what is regarded as a form of suicide.

Sir Edward Grey described the enormous burden of armaments under which Europe is to-day suffering as "a satire and a reflection upon civilization." The words are not too strong. One of the great questions before the true statesman to-day is how to bring the nations together in an honest effort to check the ever-growing expenditure, and take something off the now intolerable burden. The way of this achievement is not yet made plain, but it is a way that must be found if modern civilization is to be saved.

That college professors who will consent to sit at banquets with their students and drink with them are degrading themselves and their colleges and disgracing the teaching profession was the declaration of Dean Gleason Archer of the Suffolk School of Law at the annual dinner of that institution in Boston last week. "Many of the largest and most representative schools and colleges of this country," said the dean, "seem to have lost complete sight of the great and inestimable wrong done the young men under their charge in allowing and encouraging this practice."

The Scottish Reformer for April gives a list of the parishes in Scotland which are free from liquor licenses. The information is taken from a statement made in the House of Commons by the Lord Advocate, in reply to the question of a member. These prohibition areas are scattered through 30 counties, and number in all 210. They have a population of 145,880.

There is just one conclusive proof that prohibition in Maine is the genuine article, namely, that every liquor dealer and every liquor dealer's advocate is engaged in a constant attempt to break it down. If Maine were buying and selling as much liquor as these curious philosophers affirm, would they not be unanimous for continuing so profitable a condition of things?

When Gladstone was once asked what he regarded as his master secret, he answered, "Concentration." "Slackness of mind, vacuity of mind, the wheels of the mind revolving without biting the rails of the subject," were, says his biographer, to him insupportable. The enemy of concentration is routine and routine produces the same disastrous results in the religious life as in the intellectual.

The poverty of India is almost beyond our realization, says the Christian Guardian. In the villages are thousands of native Christians, who, if they are unable to obtain their daily wage of from four to eight cents, will, with their families have to forego their evening meal. For many it is a steady fight against starvation nearly twelve months in the year. Who will say this is the will of God? Yet who can show the way out?

Mr. Winston Churchill tells us in his last book, "My African Journey," that Uganda is the only country he ever visited where every person of a suitable age went to church every Sunday morning. He estimates the number of native Christians in Uganda at 100,000. Mr. Churchill also says that he never saw better order or happier homes than in this central region of Africa, where a few years ago pioneer missionaries were mercilessly put to death by natives.

A far-sighted Presbyterian layman of Chicago has decided to invest \$7,500 a year in a campaign of missionary education among the Presbyterians of his own state, in the effort to lead them up to an average of \$5.00 per member for the work abroad, this being the amount to which the Presbyterian Church is officially committed. This would mean an increase of over \$400,000 per year from this constituency. It is doubtful whether money for missionary extension could multiply itself faster than in such an educational campaign.

The Presbyterian Witness sounds a much needed note of warning in the following:—Parents, Beware! One of the most fatal blunders a parent can commit is to lock little children in the house and leave them there with fire within their reach. In fact, little children ought not to be left alone on any account. In Quebec, in New Brunswick, now in Cape Breton, come a succession of accidents, heartrending and horrible, and most inexcusable—little children locked in the house while the parents are out, and perishing in the flames before help can be obtained.

Sir Edward Morris, the Premier of Newfoundland, is suing the "Telegram," the organ of the Bond party, for \$50,000 for libel in commenting upon the case of Walter Baine Grieve, a prominent merchant who was arrested a few days ago at the instance of Sir Edward, who charged that Grieve wrote a letter accusing Morris of being in the pay of the Canadian Government for the purpose of furthering a plan to have Newfoundland annexed to Canada. The campaign grows more bitter daily as election day (May 8) approaches.

It is a matter of shame and not of pride that the Toronto School Board by a vote of six to three adopted the following resolution at a recent meeting: "That this Board of Education place itself on record as being opposed to the engagement or employment in the future of teachers of the Roman Catholic faith in the Public school in the city of Toronto." In this land of liberty and religious equality, says the Canadian Baptist, we had thought that such injustice and intolerance had passed away long ago, but now we may expect almost anything.

In a sermon on Presbyterianism, Rev. I. J. Robertson, of Regent Square Church, London, said:—"A frequent election of office bearers in Presbyterianism is not a bad thing, because it ensures in some measure what is ensured in constitutional government like our own by the reelection, the forced and necessary reelection of representatives at least every seven years. It ensures that there shall always be brought into the governing court a fresh representation of the existing life of the congregation to day, so that the court shall not be representative merely of ten or twenty years ago or more, but of the living congregation as it now is."

Many difficulties face the movement to establish constitutional government in Persia, mainly due to the fact that the great body of the Shah's subjects have no idea of the meaning of a constitutional government; that the masses are illiterate, not one in a thousand being able to write the Persian language; that 3,000 persons, including the Shah, own three-quarters of all the land; that not a single instance was known of successful constitutional government in a country where Mohammedanism is the state religion. So, in the nature of things, improvement must be slow; indeed it can only be the result of an educative process extending over years.

From far Australia, in a letter from a Mission Board Secretary, comes this striking testimony:—"With regard to our Victorian Branch we are now organized within the Presbyterian church, and we have had our first meeting of business men representing other denominational movements. It was decided to form a brotherhood of prayer with a view to forming an interdenominational movement. We are having a united missionary conference in June, and we hope to make that the starting point of the wider movement. I feel sure that there is immense blessing in this Laymen's Missionary Movement. I thank God that it is now set going in Australia. . . . I feel that the Laymen's Missionary Movement has already given a great impetus to our missionary spirit in Victoria. I believe it is the most profound influence for good that has yet come to us."