

# Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, AND WINNIPEG.

Single Copies 5 Cents

## NOTE AND COMMENT

Roumania is the most illiterate country in Europe. The last census shows that in a population of about 6,000,000 nearly 4,000,000 neither write nor read.

The total membership of the Friends' church, according to statistics just recently completed, is 97,919, as against 94,225, a year ago. There are 1,352 ministers, a gain of seventy-two in the year.

United States Chief Forester Pinchot declares that of the estimated 400,000,000 feet of standing hardwood 25,000,000,000 is cut yearly, at which rate the supply will be exhausted in sixteen years.

The total number of dead, as a result of the burning of the Lakeview school, in Collinwood, Ohio, is now thought to be 174. Of this number the bodies of 167 have been found. The bodies of six are believed to have been burned to ashes.

The library at the British Museum, which now contains between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 volumes, is without exception the largest in the world. To hold this immense number of books upward of 45 miles of shelves are required.

Rev. F. E. Meyer goes to South Africa in April on an evangelistic tour. He will spend about six months in the work. His plan will be much the same as that followed in England last year. His meetings will be principally for men only. He goes under appointment of the English Free Church Council.

The official directory of the Roman Catholic Church for 1907 gives the number of Catholics in the United States, the Philippine Islands, Alaska, Porto Rico, the Sandwich Islands, altogether as 21,000,000, and 13,000,000 of these are in the states. This is an increase of 437,000 over last year. Canada is credited with a Catholic population of 2,447,000.

Four missionary bodies at work in North China, the Methodist Episcopal of the United States; the Methodist Church of Canada; the Baptist Missionary Union and the British Society of Friends, are planning to purchase forty acres of land outside the walled city of Chen Tu upon which to erect their own mission stations and apparently a union university.

A sore of guerrilla warfare is reported in Manchuria, between the native Chinese and the Japanese soldiers left as a force of occupation. China would not dare, at present to engage in an open conflict, and the Chinese Government has probably nothing to do with the present condition. But the native Chinese naturally hate the Japs, and kill a Japanese soldier wherever there is an opportunity.

After a parade of some 2,500 men in Detroit, demanding work, the city concluded to open a canal across Belle Isle, in the river near the city, and of the 2,500, only twenty-five applied for work on the job. There was a similar demonstration of 1,000 unemployed persons in Toronto last week, and if work had been offered them the result would probably have been the same. Many of these people wish to be fed, but have no desire to work. This is one of the very disappointing features of all philanthropic effort among the poor.

At a recent meeting of the Glasgow University Council, it was announced that Lord Rosebery had consented to accept nomination as Chancellor of the University, in the room of the late Lord Kelvin. Writing to the Principal, Lord Rosebery said: "Under present circumstances I am able to place myself gratefully and unreservedly at the disposal of the University."

"The Outlook is brighter than the retrospect, the uplook brighter still. Conviction is intensifying, vision is clarifying. The blessing of God is upon us. There is the militant spirit upon us, and the thrill of battle runs along the line. The same Spirit that throws wide the gates of heathendom calls and equips the Church to enter. 'Awake! Awake! Put on thy strength, O Zion.'"

The Congregationalist said editorially recently that it "would be willing to enter into covenant with Baptists to follow Jesus Christ so far as His will is or shall be hereafter made known to us, leaving them to decide the manner of their baptism and the interpretation for themselves of the meaning of it. The end for which the church exists is the same for Baptists and Congregationalists, and is of supreme importance to them both."

"If some of the Prophecies and the Gospels were lost and again brought to the knowledge of men," says the Christian Register, "they would charm the world by their elevated eloquence and, without regard to miracle, would quickly take a leading place in the minds of men. To imagine that these things grew out of popular rumors and delusions is to suggest a miracle of genius in the common mind which nothing that we know about authorship would justify."

Hon. Mr. Fielding, Finance Minister, in his budget speech last week, said: "On the part of the government, it is a time for caution and yet a time for courage. Large new enterprises, which would call for a great outlay, may be laid aside for a little while, but works which we already have in hand and perhaps other works not calling for heavy outlay, must not be neglected. Particularly must we not fail to push forward the great enterprise of the Transcontinental Railway, although we have reached a stage which calls for heavy expenditure." Caution and courage, are words that make a good motto for this young country in going forward to the great work that lies before her.

We have read somewhere a suggestive incident of a large and excited crowd of people who stood watching in breathless silence a fireman climbing up a ladder for the purpose of rescuing a child from a burning building. At the top of the ladder the fire and smoke were such that for a moment the man hesitated, and seemed on the point of turning back, when some one in the voices rent the air, and under its impulse of safety. Why cannot people now-  
inspiration the fireman rushed into the building and brought the child to a silent and watchful crowd cried, "Give him a cheer." In an instant a thousand adays give their pastors a word of cheer and a hand-shake over "that sermon" which touched their hearts and awakened new desires in their souls? How the pastor would be encouraged by the kind word so easily spoken and realize that his labor was not in vain. Christian men and women, don't forget to cheer your pastor when you have the opportunity.

The Rev. Ivor J. Robertson, M. A., of Regent-square church, London, is making a big innovation in the matter of his ministerial holiday. He is taking it this year partly in the latter half of April, and partly in September. The only reason he gives is this: "It is easier to get good supply then than in the height of the holiday season; and I am anxious to try, for one year at least, what Regent-square in August may be found and made." The experiment will be watched with interest by ministers of large city charges.

The second reading of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill, moved by Mr. Stanger in the House of Commons, was carried by a majority of 179 on Friday. The figures were: for the Bill, 271; against, 92. The announcement was received with tremendous cheering, and the Bill was referred to a committee of the whole House. There was a great deal of cross-voting on the Bill. Liberal, Tory, Labor and Nationalist members were divided in opinion, and members of the Cabinet went into opposite Lobbies.

Bills have been introduced in the English House of Commons to end the terrible waste of infant life from drunken parents rolling on their babies in bed. The returns show that 1,600 infants perish annually from this cause, and in the future parents will be punished for such deaths. Burnings are responsible for almost an equal number of infant deaths and penalties are provided for persons who leave children alone in rooms with unguarded fires. Also a bill has passed its first reading in the Commons to regulate cigarette smoking. The act is a government measure which amends the existing laws for the protection of children. It prohibits smoking under the age of 16, provides penalties for any one less than 16 years old caught smoking in the streets or any other public place and makes the sale of cigarettes to persons under 16 years a punishable offense.

According to the present style, says the British Weekly, Saturday last, (29th Feb.), was the 350th anniversary of the martyrdom of Patrick Hamilton, who was tried, condemned, and burned on the same day, that day being a Saturday also the 29th of February. In this year also the 29th of February has fallen upon a Saturday, but it will not do so again until 1936. St. Andrew is very different now from what it was then; the cathedral in which he was tried, and the castle in which he was confined, are in ruins, visible emblems of the broken power of that Church by which he was mercifully condemned. The chapel and tower of St. Salvador, however, in front of which he suffered, still stand, silent witnesses of the dread tragedy enacted so long ago, when one of the gentlest and best of men was roasted rather than burned to death. The faggots were slow to kindle, until "a blast of wind from the east furth of the sea," struck upon the dry straw which a baker had thrown on the smouldering pile. The wide streets of the old grey city are still frequently swept by "wind from the east, furth of the sea": but on Saturday last the wind, neither fierce nor from the east, was pitilessly cold from the north, the Forfarshire hills being white with snow.