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THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN

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OTAWA, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 1905.

The call for a National Prohibition Convention has been issued, owing to the rapid increase of drunkenness in Canada. John R. Dougall, of Montreal, President of the Dominion Alliance, will preside. The convention will be held in the Labor Temple, Toronto, on Thursday, June 22.

Through the courtesy of the Grand Trunk railway, Ottawa is to be visited on June 20th by the body of journalists known as the Washington correspondents. The majority of the party are members of the exclusive organization known as the Gridiron club of Washington and represent the leading journals of the United States. There will be about twenty-five in the party leaving Washington on June 21st. They will first visit Toronto then Montreal and Ottawa. A special train of Pullman sleeping and dining cars will be at their disposal. The parliamentary press gallery in Ottawa will entertain the visitors when here.

Not only is crime on the increase in Ontario, but some of the jails are in danger of becoming harbours of refuge for the idle and criminal classes. This latter evil is due chiefly to neglect on the part of the jail officials to provide work for those who fall into their custody. Dr. Bruce Smith, inspector of prisons and reformatories, whose annual report has just been published, is responsible for the above statements. During the past year 924 more males were committed to prison than in the previous year, although the number of female criminals was 30 less. The totals were 8,964 males and 1,182 females. The commitments for drunkenness were 3,500, an increase of 503. Would it be unfair to assume a close connection between the increase of crime and the increase of drunkenness?

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

As we go to press, The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada convenes in Grand Memorial Hall, Queen's University, Kingston, on June 7. The past year has been one of marked activity and of largely increased receipts for the missionary enterprises of the Church. The Foreign Mission Committee were able with the increased revenue of \$30,000 to carry on the work of the year and pay off nearly half of their deficit. The Home Mission Committee had their appeal for large receipts liberally responded to, and had a total income of \$138,000.

Two names are to the front for the position of Moderator of the General Assembly: Rev. Dr. W. D. Armstrong of Ottawa, and Rev. Alexander Falconer, D.D., of Pictou, N.S.

The two new appointments to the faculty of Knox College will come up for ratification, Rev. H. A. A. Kennedy and Prof. McPatrick. The appointment of Rev. E. A. McKenzie to the Montreal Presbyterian College will also come up. It is not expected that any nomination will be made from Algonquin College for a successor to Prof. McPatrick.

The fact that the General Assembly meets at Queen's University will give emphasis to the report of Queen's trustees on the relation of the Church to the university and the progress of the campaign for the successful enactment of such a union.

The report of the Committee on United Union will be presented, and the situation reviewed.

TYPE OF IMMIGRANT.

Special inducements are offered to English and Scotch immigrants, and during the last week of April 1,900 recruits for the Canadian Colonies of the Salvation Army sailed from Liverpool. One-half this number were from Old London. An affecting farewell service was held at the Euston Square station when the city contingent assembled for transportation to Liverpool. Only one-fifth of the number were Salvationists, but all were of approved standing and industrious habits. About one-third were married persons with their families. Sixty per cent. of the whole were young, unmarried men. The steamship Vancouver of the Dominion line, had been chartered to convey them. Each immigrant was presented with a Bible appropriately inscribed. Situations for 400 were offered by the commissioner of immigration who had recently arrived from Canada. The lord mayor of Liverpool, a good Presbyterian elder, delivered a farewell address, lamenting their loss to the home country but prophesying their prosperity in the New World. The ship sailed amid the singing of hymns and the whispered prayers of those left behind. It was a scene not likely to be soon forgotten, says The Interior, and was as distinctively religious as the sailing of the Pilgrim Fathers from Plymouth, September 6, 1620.

The census office estimates the present population of the United States at 82,518,000.

ALWAYS APPRECIATIVE.

While conducting anniversary services at Oakville recently the Rev. R. G. MacBeth, with approval of the session, spoke to the congregation in regard to a movement to place a memorial portrait of the Rev. James Nisbet in the Convocation Hall of Manitoba College, amongst the markers of the Canadian West. Oakville was Mr. Nisbet's first and only settled charge and he labored there with great success before going west to become the leader in the work of missions amongst the Indians of the Northwest, where he founded Prince Albert. Mr. MacBeth told the Oakville people that he desired to give them the honour of starting the fund to which many were ready to contribute. However, the congregation decided that they would provide the whole amount of \$200 for the oil portrait of their first minister, and present it to Manitoba College, to hang beside that of Dr. Black. In view of the fact that Oakville had already subscribed to memorials in Prince Albert and Winnipeg, this readiness to furnish the full amount for the portrait is highly creditable. Many who have heard of it say that some memorial erected in the Oakville church by friends throughout Canada would be a proper recognition of their devotion to their old minister as well as a constant incentive to missionary effort.

The Religious Intelligencer has the following trite and true remarks on the estate of the late George Gooderham, distiller, valued at \$9,000,000: "None of the ill-gotten money is given to charities, which is well. It is distributed among the members of the family. The thousands of families impoverished and cursed with a worse burden than poverty to make one family whisky-rich will go on bearing their crushing burdens. The will provides that the distillery be continued, which is equivalent to providing for the ruin of many more thousands of lives."

In the British Weekly, Rev. R. J. Campbell thus answers a correspondent who requested his personal view on the baptism question. Mr. Campbell says: "Stating my own views at your request, I wish to enter into no controversy on the subject. Baptism was in our Lord's day a disciple's method of making public profession of adherence to the teaching of some particular master: Thus we read of 'John's Baptism.' In the early Christian Church it represented the most uncompromising way of taking a stand for Jesus. It was the outward expression of an inner change, a new moral attitude. But provided that inner change is really made, what possible difference can be dipping on sprinkled make? How strange it seems that the beautiful spiritual revelation of Jesus should have been limited so much and so often during its nineteen centuries of existence by purely external forms and rites."

There is already a self-supporting Presbyterian church on the Island of Idoito in the Philippine Islands. For five years it was maintained as a mission.