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Manager and Editor

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15, 1900

Subscribers in arrears will confer a favor by remitting. Enclose at the same time, your subscription for 1910. Friends who have already made payment for the ensuing year will please accept thanks for their promptitude in this connection.

We can suggest no better present for this holiday season than a year's subscription to the Dominion Presbyterian. It is offered for a trial trip at \$1.00 till 1st January, 1911. Subscribers in the United States and foreign countries outside the postal union, 50 cents extra.

Sir Andrew Fraser's article on "The Situation in India," which The Living Age for December 11 reprints from The Contemporary Review, throws a good deal of light upon conditions which can only be fully appreciated by those who, like the writer, have obtained their impression at first hand.

The Women's Auxiliary of the United States Rivers and Harbors' Congress is to try to make unsightly river and canal banks gardens of beauty. What can be done in that way has been demonstrated in Canada by the Ottawa Improvement Commission. But there is a large field open yet. Why should not the Women's Council take it up?

A son of the late Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, of Toronto, is likely to occupy an important post on the frontier of our new country. Rev. Logie Macdonnell, who was for a short time after completing his studies assistant to the present moderator of the General Assembly, Rev. Dr. Lyle, and since then settled in a charge in British Columbia, has been invited to Prince Rupert, the Pacific terminus of the Grand Trunk Pacific, and one of the large cities of Canada in the not distant future. Mr. Macdonnell has many of his father's characteristics, and would be, in our opinion, the right man in the right place.

### THE WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC.

The United States Congress met last week, and among the first bills introduced was one for the regulation of the white slave trade. (If the title of the bill is correctly given in the despatches regulation should be changed to suppression. There should be no regulation of such a traffic short of absolute suppression.) The bill makes it a crime for any person to aid, entice or force any female to go from one state to another for immoral purposes, whether with or without her consent, with a penalty of five years' imprisonment, or a fine of \$5,000. If the girl is under the age of 18 the penalty is ten years' imprisonment and a fine of \$10,000.

The bill also provides for carrying out an arrangement with foreign nations, known as "the white slave traffic arrangement," under which keepers of immoral resorts are required to make complete reports to the Commissioner-General of Immigration.

We hope Congress will not dally with this matter, but will pass such effective legislation as to stamp out this blot on our civilization. Perhaps similar legislation is required nearer home.

The Jews of Toronto are somewhat perturbed over the coming municipal elections, as they will take place on Saturday, Jan. 1, which is the Jewish Sabbath. As, however, the Sabbath is over at sundown, which occurs early at this season, many of them may be able to get in their votes between that hour and the closing of the polls at 5 o'clock. We all remember how scrupulous the Jews were on a certain occasion when they took Christ and his disciples to task for plucking the ears of corn to satisfy their hunger on the Sabbath day. We fancy many of them would cast their scruples to the winds if it involved losing their votes in what promises to be a spirited mayoralty contest.

That a case involving the sale of a senatorship in Canada should come before the courts is a scandal, for most people will believe that there was some foundation for the charge. A son of the late Senator Merner sued Senator Ratz for \$1,400, and an annual payment of \$1,000, which he alleged the latter agreed to pay his father if he would resign his senatorship and the latter should be appointed. The case was to come up at the Berlin assizes last week, but it was settled out of court and withdrawn, Merner having admitted that he had not sufficient evidence to sustain his allegation. But it looks as if influences had been at work to prevent a trial which might have led to unpleasant exposures.

The Canadian Northern Railway is, it is stated, about to introduce a new system on its passenger trains, whereby there will be a ticket collector on each train, leaving the conductor free to attend to the running of the train and receiving orders. This is similar to the practice on steamers, where the captain does not collect the tickets, that duty falling to the purser. The system has been tried on some of the southern roads, and discarded in some cases, while retained in others. It will involve more expense, but will lessen the liability to accident. The railways have frequently had to place a third man—a "spotter"—on their trains, to watch the conductors. This will not now be necessary. Anything which will tend to preserve the safety of passengers should be adopted by all railways.

### THE CAMPAIGN IN BRITAIN.

The Conservative party in Great Britain has indicated the lines on which the coming election is to be fought by them. They have adopted tariff reform as their platform, and will advocate the raising of revenue by customs duties instead of the methods proposed in the budget bill of the Asquith Government. There are few disinterested onlookers who will believe that a return to the old corn laws and the imposing of a tax on the food of the people will be a popular move.

What is proposed is a general tariff, placing duties on practically everything that is not raw material. A few articles will be admitted free, partly manufactured goods will be taxed five per cent., articles nearly completed ten per cent., and completely manufactured goods fifteen per cent. There may be a slight preference to the colonies and a slight increase against countries which seek unduly to penalize British goods. Wheat will be subject to a duty of two shillings a quarter, with preference to the colonies, and flour will pay a still higher tax in proportion, to encourage home grinding. Bacon and corn will also pay duty.

These duties will be levied ostensibly to raise revenue, to assist the home producer against foreign competition, to give preference to the colonies, to secure better terms from other countries, and to mitigate the depression by encouraging home production.

It is estimated that such a tariff will produce a revenue of from £16,000,000 to £20,000,000. But it means just what the tariff means in Canada—an increase in the cost of living. It is extremely unlikely that the great mass of the voters will support any such proposition. England has greatly prospered under free trade, and though there is depression at present the remedy will scarcely be found in taxing the necessities of life. The much discussed budget will probably become law when parliament meets after the election, possibly in a somewhat modified form.

The Quebec bridge disaster is not forgotten, entailing as it did loss of life to so many workmen and loss of reputation to the engineers who planned it. Although it occurred several years ago, work has only just been commenced on clearing away the wreck, preparatory to re-building. Contracts have been let for the substructure, and the superstructure will follow on better considered plans, and with a better class of material. The main span will be shortened. It seems to us as if engineers have been overlooking the laws of nature in some of their undertakings, and in this case the attempt to build a bridge with the biggest span in the world resulted in disaster. Too much care cannot be taken to guard against another collapse. Human life should not be trifled with.

The Montreal Y.M.C.A. have made what appears to be a good deal. They have sold their central down town building to the Sun Life for \$250,000 and purchased an up town site for \$70,000. The difference will be sufficient to provide a handsome building in a better location. This is more satisfactory than having to appeal to the public for a building as was done in Ottawa, although a successful appeal was recently made in Montreal for funds for Y.M.C.A. work.