

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

Among the results of the special services in the Wolfville, N. S., Baptist church, is in the conversion of thirty-four students in Acadia College and Seminary. Such work is far-reaching in its effects.

The National Council of Women at Washington, D. C., adjourned its triennial session after adopting a resolution of cooperation with Church and State to ascertain the chief causes of divorce, despite a bitter protest by Miss Susan B. Anthony.

George Mackenzie has just completed a four hundred mile walk through one of the roughest sections of northern British Columbia. He states that he discovered a coal area of remarkable richness within easy distance of the projected route of the Grand Trunk Pacific.

New Zealand is to have an international exhibition. It will be the first of the kind ever held in that progressive part of the British Empire, and, although the opening does not take place until December next year, the necessary arrangements are well in hand.

Official representatives of nearly twenty million of Christian communicants, on the North American continent, will gather in New York, November 15-20, for a conference upon federation of churches. It is predicted that this will be the most important religious gathering held in any country for many years past.

It seems that a law of Japan forbids the smoking of tobacco by a youth under twenty years of age, and forbids a tobaccoist to sell it to him. Query: Has this abstinence from the use of tobacco by the young men of Japan anything to do with the celerity of army movements, and the superior marksmanship of the Japanese over the Russian soldiers?

Of the revival in London and throughout England Dr. Torrey and Mr. Alexander declare that the secret of the success lies in prayer. Between thirty and forty thousand people throughout England have banded themselves together into prayer circles and thousands of them are daily praying for a world-wide revival and for God-blessing upon the evangelists.

Rev. James Blair Bonar, at one time pastor of the American Presbyterian Church, Montreal, and a well-known minister in Canada, died at the residence of his son, Dr. A. B. Bonar, of Louisville, Ky., on the 24th ult., aged 79 years. The deceased was a native of Dumfries, and arrived in Canada when a young man. Dr. Bonar was for a long time pastor of a Presbyterian church at Marquette, Mich. He was well-known in Presbyterian and Synodical councils, serving on the Home Mission Committee, and taking an active part in all Michigan church affairs.

The Roman Catholic papers have been publishing that Marconi, the wireless telegraph inventor, is a Romanist of Italy; that Miss O'Brien, whom he married in England, is a Romanist; that they were married in a Romanist Church, and that the Pope gave them a dispensation to be married in Lent. All this is false. Marconi is a Protestant, a member of the Waldensian Church of Italy. Miss O'Brien is a Protestant, a member of the Episcopal Church. The St. George's Church in which they were married is a Protestant Episcopal church, and as for a papal dispensation to be married in Lent, neither one of them cared whether the Pope approved or not of the date, place or fact of their marriage.

The Christian Globe: A conviction appears to be growing even among those who are entirely in sympathy with the revival in Wales that the strain which he has undergone for several months past has proved too much for Mr. Eban Roberts' strength, and that the earnest young missionary is in grave danger of a complete breakdown.

One of the English religious weeklies says that the dark side of London life seems to be growing still darker. A census report of the homeless men and women presented to the County Council showed that on a February night 2,181 persons were found in the streets of sixteen boroughs. These had no place to lay their heads; while in the common lodging houses and stations there were 23,600. Many of those in the lodging houses had been supplied with tickets of admission by Church Army and Salvation Army.

One of the great earthquakes of modern times shook Central Asia last week. The Commissioner at Lahore, India, estimates that the number of killed in the Kangra district was 10,000, and in the Palampur district 3,000. At Dharmasala, a small military point in Northern India, 424 were killed besides the Gurkhas who were crushed by the falling of stone barracks. Reports from distant places north of India are slow in coming in, and at this time it is not known how large an extent of country was affected. The worst record previously made in a quarter of a century was in the earthquake of Japan in 1801, when the total loss of life was put at 7,270.

Religious statistics for New York City, compiled by the Federation of Churches for 1904, show interesting features. The total population is placed at 3,945,007, an estimated increase of 508,705, as compared with the census of 1900. This population is distributed thus: Catholic, 1,300,000, or 32 per cent.; Jewish, 725,000 or 18.4 per cent.; Protestant communicants 331,698, or 8.4 per cent.; additional Protestant attendants, 497,547, or 12.6 per cent.; churchless Protestants, 1,087,762, or 27.6 per cent. The remainder is made up of Russian and Greek Orthodox and Armenian Apostolic. It is estimated by the American Hebrew that the Jews now number 750,000 and are rapidly increasing.

Few men are more widely known and more highly esteemed than General Booth, founder of the Salvation Army. The movement that General Booth and his lamented wife started many years ago, and which was organized into what is familiarly known as the Salvation Army, has spread into every land, and accomplished a mighty work, especially among the neglected masses. The General seems to be possessed of amazing vitality. Those who saw and heard him during his campaign in this country seven years ago, were impressed with his venerable appearance and apparent physical feebleness. But he is still indefatigable in his manifold labors, and only recently started on a tour of inspection of army work in Palestine, Australia and New Zealand. At a farewell meeting given him in England, presided over by a prominent civic official and attended by professional men in large numbers, he gave an account of the past and present of the Army taking a prophetic glance at its future. It is now sixty years since he entered upon his mission to the poor of his own land. That work has become a mission to the poor of the whole world. Its stations are found in forty-nine countries, and its soldiers preach the gospel in thirty-one languages.

A strange effect of the religious revival in the north of England is the increased activity of the Mormons. This is especially noticeable in Sunderland, where a Mormon community has existed for over 35 years.

Several remarkable measures were adopted by the recent Legislature in Maine, but the one which has caused most feeling establishes a lien on gravestones. The marble man may seize a gravestone unpaid for in whole or in part within two years after its erection.

The name of Grace Darling stands forth prominently among British heroines. The case she cast about her shoulders when she went to the rescue of the survivors of the Forfarshire is to be exhibited at the forthcoming Naval Exhibition in London.

The Ottawa and New York Railway company has moved its shops from Santa Clara, N. Y., to Ottawa, and has closed those at the former place. Hereafter all the cars and equipment needed to be repaired for the line will be attended to at Ottawa and a considerable staff is now engaged at that work.

The wonderful growth of Greater New York is indicated by a conservative estimate that the census of this year will show that the city has 4,000,000 persons living within its borders. This is one-half of the total population of the state.

The demand for copies of the Bible and the New Testament since the Bible began in Wales has been such that the British and Foreign Bible Society has decided to bring out several new editions of the Scriptures in the Welsh language.

Peculiar indignation has been felt in the north of Scotland at the eviction of Rev. Wm. Murray from his church at Bruan. Mr. Murray is the father of the Caithness Presbytery, and is held in honour for his faithful ministry of over forty years. On the 4th inst., his congregation, and a number of sympathizers from Wick, met in the church, where a short religious service was held of a touching description. A protest was then read against the injustice of the eviction, after which the congregation followed their minister to a commodious tent that had been erected in an adjoining field. Here a most inspiring meeting was held, in which many speakers took part. The U. F. Church has now been interdicted from the whole of its seven churches from Bruan to Golspie, a distance of some sixty miles.

The religious census taken in London Ont., records 33 distinct denominations. The nomenclature of Protestantism never appears more ludicrous than when such reports are issued. What with Latter Day Saints, Christians, Disciples, Church of God, whose names are enrolled in heaven, Church of Christ and the Brethren, the old-time names look somewhat modest. It is evident that the modern movement for the restoration of the ancient order has produced a form of sectarianism which is in principle opposed to sects, but which really fosters their increase. London, it was found, contained 36,623 people who were affiliated to some religious body, and only 4,000 were not accounted for, either because of their absence from home or a refusal to give information. That 4,000 are the elite of London for aggressive missionary work on the part of those within the fold. What would be the result of a similar census in Ottawa? Would it not be well worth a trial?