

The Dominion Presbyterian

IS PUBLISHED AT

323 FRANK ST., - OTTAWA

AND AT

MONTREAL AND WINNIPEG

Terms: One year (50 issues) in advance, \$1.50.

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THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,
P. O. Drawer 563, Ottawa.

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OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24, 1909.

It is stated that the brewers of Quebec have organized a combine which shall include all the breweries in the province. Such combinations are generally organized to curtail production and keep up prices. If in this instance that is the effect it may be a good thing.

A Methodist minister, writing to the Christian Guardian, suggests as a name for the United Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregationalist Churches, "The Union Evangelical Church of Canada." The name is too long; and, besides, it is not likely to be wanted for some time.

The progress and development of Queen's University at Kingston go on apace. The number of students in attendance this session is over 1,400, which is 200 more than ever before. The only drawback is lack of funds. This is chronic with all universities in Canada, but the Presbyterian Church has not stood by Queen's as it should, nor as it is in honor bound, since it determined that the relations of the University to the Church should remain unaltered. We may have something further to say on this subject in a subsequent issue.

It is unfortunate when a church is as much divided against itself as the Church of England is over high and low church views. At Islington, London, there was recently held a convention of a thousand low church clergy, many of them of great influence—a visible protest against the assumptions of the high churchman. The same line of cleavage is in evidence in Canada over the election of a bishop for the diocese of Toronto. Every Christian must regret to see it, for it weakens the influence of that great church.

THE LORD'S DAY ACT.

It is satisfactory to see the Lord's Day Act being carried out so well in the province of Quebec, where the sentiment in favour of its passing was not so strong as in some of the other provinces. The Attorney-General, without whose sanction prosecutions cannot be entered, seems to have no hesitation in giving the necessary permission. The question whether Sunday work in bakeries is necessary was the cause of considerable difference of opinion in more than one place, and in Quebec city it has just been established that it is not. Two master bakers were each fined \$1 and costs, on an action taken by agreement on the part of their employees.

In connection with this question, the editor of the Lord's Day Advocate, published in Toronto, recently asked for an opinion from a number of prominent Canadians—Lieutenant-Governors and others in authority—and received in reply testimony from all the provinces that the act is working satisfactorily, and that its provisions are most beneficial. The obeying of a specific obligation such as that contained in the fourth commandment can result only in good to the nation as well as to the individual. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has done the country in finite service by placing the Lord's Day Act on the statute book.

The female suffragists are preparing for another campaign in England, and announce that when they next set forth some of them will be mounted on horses so as to ride down all physical opposition. Reforms are not brought about by physical force as a rule, and these strong minded women are going to work the wrong way. Mrs. Fawcett, at one time a stalwart suffragist, has parted company with them on account of their violent and law-breaking methods. Many a good cause has been lost by extreme methods. Though the principle of votes for women has many sympathisers in Canada we think better of our women than that they will extend any support to their violent sisters in the Mother Country.

While many of the priests who are leaving the Roman Catholic Church in France are returning to a secular life, some are anxious to continue as Christian workers among their countrymen. It is not proposed to ask these ex-priests to join any of the Protestant churches in France, but simply to preach the gospel without any attempt at proselytising. An organization has been formed, with a committee in London to help, for maintaining and sending out these former priests as evangelists to their Catholic and free-thinking countrymen. Such a movement has immense possibilities for good before it, and it seems to be operating on wise lines.

Prince Rupert, the Pacific coast terminus of the Grand Trunk Pacific, is to be a moderately so far as physical conditions are concerned. If the will of the people is respected it will also be a model from a moral point of view. At a joint meeting of all the churches held there recently a resolution was passed unanimously, requesting that no liquor licenses be issued in the new city. It will be easier to start right than to "abolish the bar" at a later time.

FALLING OFF IN HIS PREACHING.

How familiar we have all become with this expression! Nor is this wonderful, when we remember that we hear it at almost every day, in reference to our own and other ministers. The falling off, though it may be real, may, however, be only imaginary.

Let it be true that the minister is not preaching with so much power and eloquence as when he first became pastor of the congregation. There must be some reason for the change, and there are many that might, and ought to be considered, before that of actual unfaithfulness on his part. It must be borne in mind that he is only a man, subject to the same laws and conditions as other men. "None of us liveth to himself," the minister nor any other man. He, too, has need of sympathy and encouragement. A heart made hopeful and happy by continual appreciation and support is congenial to vigor of mind and flow of soul; but what of neglect and disappointment? Distracting cares as to what we shall eat and what we shall drink are not conducive to fertility of imagination, nor well fitted to inspire to patient toil. To dwell undisturbed in the higher realms of thought, to indulge the fancy in lofty flight, and to repose the soul in heavenly communion, while the butcher's and baker's bills remain unsettled upon the desk, is almost as uncongenial and hopeless toil as in Egyptian servitude to supply the accustomed tale of bricks deprived of straw.

Nor is this the only fruitful source of disappointment. Born with him into the world, and clinging unconsciously to him wherever he may go, there is an irresistible desire in man for the approbation and esteem of others, especially of those whose good he seeks. Conscious of its possession he can bear up bravely against misfortunes and prove himself strong in the hour of difficulty. With it even the weak are made strong, and without it the strongest are made weak indeed. Therefore, to ask any man to preach with heart and energy, while the majority of those pledged most solemnly before God and man to encourage and sustain him remain at home, through indifference, or attend the service of some other church to the neglect of their own, is to demand that which it is impossible to render. If the morning is cloudy or the evening cold, before deciding to remain from church the people ought to remember that the pastor will be expected there, cold or cloudy though it be, and that those present will expect him to preach with his accustomed eloquence and zeal to almost empty pews. Let him know that you appreciate his labors by kindly treatment, by constant attendance upon his ministry, and by honoring him for an uncompromising devotion to his Master's will, and it is not likely that there will be any falling off. Neglect these things, and the best and greatest man will disappoint you. Niagara is as little likely to run against the current as the smallest streamlet.

But there is not necessarily any falling off in the preaching in order that we may lose out interest in it. One may starve in the midst of plenty. We need exercise that we may have appetite, and