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Manager and Editor

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8, 1909

The London Society for Woman Suffrage, at its annual meeting, wisely resolved, though by a narrow majority, that henceforth it will exact from its members a pledge to support only lawful and constitutional methods of agitation. Mrs. Fawcett, a former militant suffragette, declared that she had come to see how disastrous was the effect of the violent methods which had hitherto been adopted. The suffragettes will be far more likely to attain the object they have in view by lawful and reasonable methods.

There are heroes and heroines, and a Mrs. Drouillard, near Walkerville, deserves to be ranked among the number. Seeking to save her six-year-old boy, who was burned by a gasoline explosion, her clothing took fire. She rushed to the lake, plunged in, and then returned to the house which was on fire, and extinguished the flames by stamping them out. She saved both the boy and the house, but was severely burned herself. A sixteen-year-old Cornwall boy, named Herbert Yates, has been deservedly rewarded by receiving the Royal Humane Society's medal for rescuing four boys from drowning last summer. Peace has its heroes as well as war.

One of the greatest railway strikes in the history of the United States is threatened. The switchmen employed on the Northwestern railways have already made a move and other branches are likely to become involved. A million men may join in the strike. The purpose is to demand a ten per cent. increase in wages. Such an upheaval must cause untold inconvenience and suffering. Why cannot the matter be settled by arbitration? The prospect of the strike has already affected some lines of business which depend largely on transportation facilities and has caused 22 out of 23 flour mills in Minneapolis to shut down, throwing 5,000 men out of employment, whose wages amount to \$75,000 a week, and causing

a loss to the milling interests of \$700,000 a day. The golden rule does not appear to be operative among those leaders who have ordered the strike.

## INSTITUTE WORK IN TORONTO.

A very important and interesting part of the work in which St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, is engaged is that of St. Andrew's Church Institute. This work was commenced during the pastorate of the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, of blessed memory, and has been vigorously carried on ever since. It comprises Sunday school, night school, boys' and girls' clubs, cooking school, gymnasium, penny bank and other activities, and has accomplished much good in a part of the city where such work was needed. Now a similar work is to be undertaken in another part of the city, by Cooke's Church, also a down town congregation. A generous donor, who does not wish his name to be made public, has offered to bear all the expense of building and equipping a modern club building. The people of Cooke's Church have long been desirous of undertaking such a work, and this generous gift will enable them to carry out their wish. As for the donor such a use of wealth is to be commended.

## EVANGELISTIC WORK IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

We are pleased to see our church engaging in evangelistic work. Such means, if properly conducted, cannot fail to accomplish good results. The campaign in the Kootenay country was greatly blessed and its extension to other places must produce like satisfactory results. About twenty simultaneous campaigns are now in progress under the direction of the General Assembly's Evangelical Committee. In addition to arranging for meetings and missionaries the committee furnishes literature and printed hymns, and Prof. Kilpatrick, who took an active part in the Kootenay campaign, has prepared a very helpful little handbook for the use of those taking part in such work.

Never did the Assembly do better work for the church than when it authorized and arranged for the active prosecution of evangelistic work. By such a method will individuals be gathered in and the church built up and strengthened.

## AN ANTI-BETTING LAW.

A spirited debate took place in the Canadian House of Commons last week over the question of race track gambling. Mr. H. H. Miller introduced a bill to prohibit the practice, and the tone of the discussion was, we are glad to say, in favor of the bill, though several members opposed it. The bill was referred to a select committee. This is one of the greatest evils of the present day, and it is to be hoped that means will be found to suppress it by law.

There is a very drastic statute known as the Hart-Agnew Betting Law, in force in the State of New York, but as with all such laws, if people make up their minds to do so they will evade them. Recent decisions by the courts have been in favor of the gamblers, a system of "oral betting," to which they have resorted having been de-

clared not illegal. The special committee to which Mr. Miller's Bill has been referred will have to guard against all possible loop holes by which gamblers may see to escape. Moral conflicts of this kind are hard and long; but right generally triumphs. The Lord's Day Act is an instance. Though not absolutely perfect it accomplished much. We hope for similar good results from an anti-betting law.

The contractors for the new Parliament Buildings at Regina have caused offence by keeping their men at work on Sunday. Surely the completion of the building is not such a work of necessity as to justify a violation of the Fourth Commandment. Nor was it necessary that the formal opening of the Canadian Northern Railway line between Ottawa and Quebec should be made on Sunday, the first passenger trains being scheduled for Sunday last. Such glaring violations of the Sabbath should be frowned down.

## THE CRISIS IN ENGLAND.

Great Britain is now in the throes of a constitutional crisis. The House of Lords has, as was expected, rejected the budget, parliament will presently be dissolved, and a general election campaign is now on. There seems to be little question that the county will sustain the government and the budget, and the feeling is that the Lords, by their action in thus dealing with a financial question, which falls within the jurisdiction of the House of Commons, have sounded the death knell of their present constitutional powers.

The Lords did not, however, absolutely reject the budget. Lord Lansdowne's motion declared that it was not expedient to adopt the forms of taxation proposed without giving the country an opportunity to pronounce its opinion. There can be little doubt as to that opinion, for it has been expressed in no uncertain manner through the press and in other ways, and the Lords, if the verdict is for the government, will doubtless accept the situation, and pass the bill when it again comes up. But they have stirred up a strong feeling against themselves, and there is every prospect that constitutional changes will be the result.

The debate in the Lords occupied six days and was notable for the high standard of oratory it called forth. The division was not on strictly party lines, for some of the Conservative peers warned their colleagues of the dangerous course they proposed to follow and even questioned their constitutional right to reject the budget. But party feeling was intense and a number of peers, who never show their faces in the House, attended and recorded their votes against the budget. The vote stood 350 to 75. The result is that, in theory at least, it is illegal to collect taxes and carry on the King's Government. But the business of the country must go on, and taxes will be collected on the old scale, while revenue for navy expenditure and for the payment of old age pensions, for which the new taxes were required, will have to be provided by special warrant.

The budget, which has now been re-