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NOTE AND COMMENT

The last Sunday in November is the World's Temperance Sunday. It is not too early to begin to think about this, and make plans for the day in both church and Sunday school.

Ireland is growing better. Returns published Sept. 1 show that there were 9,418 indictable offenses committed in the country in 1907, as against 9,400 in 1906. There were also 402 fewer cases of drunkenness.

Over thirty-seven per cent. of the British troops in India are total abstainers. This is a good record, but from even the low standpoint of military efficiency it would be vastly better if the whole army were enrolled in the total abstinence ranks.

The French Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is prosecuting a cinematograph company for cruelty to a horse. To secure a series of pictures in which a carriage drawn by a horse was seen to rush over a cliff and be dashed to pieces below, an old blind horse was harnessed to a carriage and driven over the cliffs near Boulogne.

More than two-thirds of the drunkards apprehended in London last year were women. An investigation of twenty-one public-houses in the same city showed that in four days they were entered by nearly 40,000 women, who had over 10,000 children with them. The man who says that times are not ripe for temperance reform in England does not know.

The cost of living in Paris has increased by 18 per cent. during the last three years. The price of rice has doubled, meat is 27 per cent. dearer, firewood and soap cost half as much again as they formerly did, and eggs, butter and cheese have risen by 5 per cent. The increased charges are regarded as resulting from the Weekly Rest Act, compulsory relief and other recent legislation.

The executors of the will of the late Mr. Russell Sage, the New York financier, have found their task a profitable one. They have been two years in settling the estate, and have received nearly £200,000 for their services—a rate of remuneration which, it is said, is almost enough to make the thrifty "Uncle Russell" turn in his grave. Mrs. Sage's share of the estate amounts to £12,000,000, out of which she has already applied about £3,000,000 to philanthropic purposes. She is reported to be "working diligently, conscientiously and intelligently" in the attempt to make the best possible use of the remaining millions.

Quite a number of almost unheard of parishes in Scotland possess ministers scholarly and ambitious enough to become candidates for the chair of Church History at Edinburgh. Among these parishes is Grathie, whose spiritual interests are guarded by Rev. S. J. R. Sibbald, 'the King's minister.' Another Aberdeenshire parish furnishes a candidate in Mr. Dickie, of Tarland. Newbattle, St. Madoe and Lesmahagow are also among the number. Their representatives have entered the field along with others from Glasgow, St. Andrews, Galashiels and Rothesay. The new Professor of Church History in Queen's University, Rev. E. F. Scott, M.A., also comes from a Scottish country charge.

It is proposed to hold a World's Prohibition Conference in London, July 18 to 24, 1909, during the sessions of the Twelfth International Anti-Alcoholic Congress. It is hoped that something may be done to organize a World's Prohibition Confederation, and to unify the efforts being made by various societies for the world-wide suppression of the drink traffic. The hon. sec. is Mr. Edward Page Gaston, 133 Salisbury Square, E.C.

The Queen of Holland is one of the earliest risers amongst the Old World royalty. Seven o'clock is the invariable hour at which she commences her day. She at once engages in a study of the foreign intelligence contained in the morning papers, and while doing so takes a single cup of tea. At 9 o'clock to the minute every member of her household, led by the lord chamberlain, assembles before her, and Her Majesty reads a passage from the Bible to them, and they pray together.

The messages which Sir Oliver Lodge believes came from the spirit world have now been made public; and they bear out abundantly what the "spirits" unitedly declare, that it is very hard to communicate with those who are still in the flesh. From all that we know to-day, says the Christian Guardian, even after the spirits have had thousands of years to perfect their methods of communication, it seems tolerably certain that it will take a good while before any communication of importance will come from thence; and meanwhile the great mass of sober-thinking humanity will be very chary of admitting that the spirits have been heard from at all.

The natives of British India in the Transvaal are pursuing the policy of passive resistance to the authorities. They decline to acquiesce in the recent law prohibiting new-comers from entering the Transvaal and insisting on old residents having certificates. Many have burnt their certificates, and several have gone to prison for re-entering after being deported. A mass meeting of Indians held at Johannesburg, decided to ask for Imperial intervention, but it is doubtful if it will take place. Some Indian ex-soldiers in the Transvaal have sent a petition protesting against the recent statute and asking that they may be shot on one of the battlefields where they served.

Last year 1,117 persons were killed, and 8,811 injured, on railways in the United Kingdom; a decrease of 52 in the number killed and an increase of 1,599 in the number injured, as compared with last year. Only 18 passengers were actually killed in train accidents, 11 of these being killed in the Shrewsbury disaster. There were 50 deaths at level crossings, 447 (including suicides) through trespassing on the line, 10 through crossing lines at stations; 31 were killed by falling out of carriages and 27 by falling between the train and the platform. There were 441 deaths of railway servants, 13 in train accidents. No fewer than 18 deaths and 757 cases of injury occurred in coupling accidents. Of these only one case of death and one of injury occurred where the vehicles had automatic couplings. During the year one passenger was killed in every 70,000,000, and one passenger injured in every 2,300,000. During the preceding thirty years, one passenger was killed in every 40,300,000, and one injured in every 1,300,000.

We see it stated that the "Indian" list in the city of Kingston numbers 71. Of these, 69 are men and two women. Both of the women are at present under summons for illegally securing liquor, and they will appear in the police court shortly.

Hafiz, the new Sultan of Morocco, has accepted the conditions imposed on his deposed predecessor by the Algeiras Convention. At the same time he states that he can not carry out these agreements until recognized by the powers as Sultan, and asks for such recognition in order to enable him to carry out these agreements. Whether the promises will be satisfactory to France and Spain is not certain, but France seems willing to accept them, and France and Spain have sent identical notes to the powers on the subject. The promises and recognition of the new Sultan have been delayed through the attempt of Germany to make trouble for France by suggesting premature recognition. The old Sultan is utterly defeated and is no longer a power to be reckoned with; and France must deal with the usurper or provide some other government for Morocco.

The fellowship of New Testament scholars in Canada is greatly enriched by a recent appointment at Queen's University, says the Christian Guardian. In the Rev. Ernest F. Scott, M.A., of Glasgow and Oxford, her theological staff gains one who has already achieved distinction. His volume on the Fourth Gospel is said to be the boldest interference which has come from the Scottish Churches, and must commend itself to Methodists by reason of its intense vitality. As Mr. Scott seeks with so much ability to reconstruct the whole life and thought and experience which found expression in that timeless gospel, he reveals himself as one to whom religion is at once personal and susceptible of philosophical interpretation. His subsequent issue of a work on the Analogies of the New Testament goes far to confirm the impression of former work. With the retention of George Jackson, this appointment will prove the solidarity of scholarship the world over and will make for the deepening and broadening of the ministry of the Canadian Church.

The Rev. W. H. Jordan, of Jerseyville, Ne., who is an occasional contributor to our columns, sends us his annual message to the congregation, in view of a vigorous campaign for the winter months, from which we give the following extract on "Church Attendance": See Heb. 10:25. Were you at church last Sabbath? Can some of our people tell when they were there last? If you are the head of the family, have you seen to it that the children were there with you? We are glad that the seating capacity of the church is sufficient for the membership, but if you are not there the minister must preach to the SPACE WHICH YOU SHOULD OCCUPY.—something you ask him to do but which the Lord never called him to do. It is an open secret that many of our people have become exceedingly careless as to church attendance, while others so far forget their pledges to the church and to their Master as to think that attendance at the Sabbath School is sufficient. Are you one of them? Will we not all help to remedy this very harmful condition? Will you not help to secure a larger and more regular attendance at all the stated services of the church?